

MEMORANDUM

TO: Deans; Associate Deans; Chairs; Chairs, Committees on Graduate Studies; Graduate Advisors; Graduate School Staff

FROM: Philip Cohen, Dean, Graduate School

RE: Academic Probation and Assistantship Policies

DATE: 11 November 2005

cc: Dana Dunn, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost

Recently, the Graduate Student Committee of the Graduate Assembly revised our current policy on academic probation and graduate assistantships. These changes will give both international and US graduate students on academic probation a chance to retain their assistantships for one additional semester. These changes are effective immediately.

1. Current policy on continuing or renewing a graduate assistantship appointment:

Our current policy on academic probation in the Graduate Catalog is as follows:
“To continue or renew an appointment the student must be in good standing in the University. A student on academic probation is not in good standing, and therefore, will automatically lose their assistantship. However, Graduate Advisors, with the written endorsement of their department’s or program’s Graduate Studies Committee, may petition the Dean of Graduate Studies to allow a student on probation one additional semester of support. This request can only be made for students who have been admitted unconditionally or on probation and who have subsequently fallen into academic difficulties leading to academic probation. A student placed on academic probation is allowed an additional semester of support and must improve his or her UTA graduate grade-point average and return to good academic standing before receiving support in subsequent semesters. No extensions to this one semester of additional support will be granted. No additional exceptions will be granted for a student who once received an additional semester of support should he or she go back on academic probation at some future time.”

2. New policy on continuing or renewing a graduate assistantship appointment:

Our new policy on academic probation in the Graduate Catalog is as follows:
“To continue or renew an appointment, the student must be in good standing in the University. A student on academic probation is not in good standing, and therefore, will automatically lose his or her assistantship. However, Graduate Advisors, with the written endorsement of their department’s or program’s Graduate Studies Committee, may petition the Dean of Graduate Studies to allow a one-time exception, granting one additional semester of assistantship support in the next semester of enrollment if they judge the student is capable of raising his or her GPA to the required minimum by the end of that semester and believe that the student is making satisfactory progress in all other aspects of their studies. If granted, the student will be considered to be in good

academic standing for one semester for purposes of continuing their assistantship. This broadened definition of academic good standing for a student with a GPA below 3.00 applies only in cases where a program wishes to continue or renew a student's teaching or research assistantship during the semester of enrollment following the one in which his or her GPA dropped below 3.00. Programs may not request this exception on behalf of students who will hold any other type of employment.

A student granted one semester of good academic standing for purposes of continuing their assistantship must improve his or her UTA graduate grade-point average to 3.00 and return to good academic standing as normally defined in the next semester of enrollment in order to qualify for assistantship support in subsequent semesters. Requests to extend this form of good standing beyond one semester will not be approved. Further, students who have previously received a one-semester extension of academic good standing for purposes of continuing their assistantship will not be eligible for this exception again.”