Graduate School Policy on Academic & Professional Progress

Effective: September 3, 2014 (revised)

Responsible Executive: Dean of the Graduate School

Applicability: Graduate Students

Review By: September 2022

Monitoring the academic progress of graduate student and graduate teaching assistants on a regular basis is important to their success and to the success of Auburn’s graduate programs. The Graduate School requires that each department conduct—at least on an annual basis—an evaluation of the progress of each graduate student enrolled in a doctoral program and each Graduate Teaching Assistant (GTA). Departments are also encouraged to monitor the progress of all other degree-seeking students. Annually, each department will report to the Graduate School, confirming that the evaluation of all doctoral students and GTAs has been completed.

The student’s advisory committee monitors each graduate student’s progress toward a degree, and issues of professional and personal development may be considered. While failure to maintain academic standards is reason for dismissal, a student also may be dismissed from the Graduate School if progress is unsatisfactory in other areas.

In such cases, the advisory committee will prepare a statement of grievance and discuss it in a meeting with the student. The statement must have the unanimous support of all members of the committee. The student will be warned that corrective measures must be taken within a specified time to avoid action that might result in dismissal. The committee determines the period allowed for correction. Copies of the statement of grievance and summary of the meeting will be provided to the student, the department head/chair, and the academic dean.

If the deficiency is not corrected within the time allowed by the committee, a statement reiterating the grievance and recommending dismissal should be sent to the graduate dean with copies to the student, the department head/chair, and the academic dean.

The graduate dean will give the student an opportunity to respond and will make a final determination. The student and the advisory committee will be notified.

The action taken will not appear on the student’s official transcript, and release of information is restricted under the University’s policy on the confidentiality of student records.