

Dismissals

Proposed Amendment

There are several grounds for dismissal from a graduate program, including poor performance, poor progress, and unprofessional behavior. Following are details of each:

Poor Performance Graduate students must demonstrate successful performance through grades, exams, and other program requirements (such as practica/internships). There are several ways in which poor performance may result in dismissal, including:

- Graduate students admitted in Regular status will be placed on academic probation if their Program GPA falls below 3.0. Failure to remedy a low GPA while on probation will result in dismissal by the College of Graduate Studies. Refer to the Probation policy for more details.
- Graduate students admitted in Provisional status will be dismissed if they do not earn a 3.0 Program GPA in their first 9 hours of enrollment in the graduate program. Provisionally admitted students who meet the 3.0 criterion in their first 9 hours will be changed to Regular status and eligible for probation hours (per the Probation policy), should their GPA later fall below 3.0.
- Graduate students admitted in Restricted status after previously being dismissed for low grades will be dismissed if they do not remedy their Program GPA in the first 9 hours.
- Graduate students may also be dismissed for earning more than 6 hours of unsatisfactory grades (i.e., any grade below a B- or a U grade in an S/U course). Graduate programs will submit a Dismissal Recommendation Form to the College of Graduate Studies if they wish to dismiss a student with these grades.
- Graduate programs may have a stricter policy on low grades (e.g., one D or F grade will result in dismissal). Such policies will be written in the Graduate Program Handbook and shared with all students.
- Students may also be dismissed through a Dismissal Recommendation Form for failing Qualifying Exams, Candidacy Exams, or Practicum/Internship requirements, if such policies are listed in the Graduate Program Handbook and distributed to students.

Poor Progress Graduate students who do not make adequate progress to degree, as measured by the 7-year rule, will be dismissed. The 7-year rule counts every semester (Fall, Spring, Summer) starting with initial admit term, up to 21 semesters, unless the student has an approved Special Leave of Absence on file for up to 3 extra semesters. Graduate Students who do not meet the 7-year rule requirement will be dismissed by the College of Graduate Studies, unless they receive approval for additional time through a petition to the Graduate Appeals Committee.

Unprofessional Behavior Graduate students are expected to behave professionally, adhering to UCF's Golden Rule and other behavioral and ethical standards/codes of conduct for the profession.

- Students found "~~in violation~~" "responsible" for Academic Misconduct by Student Conduct and Academic Integrity (see Academic Misconduct policy) may be dismissed by the College of Graduate Studies.
- Students found in violation of professional behavior standards by their Graduate Program Committee may be dismissed. Professional behavior policies and practica/internship requirements are written in the Graduate Program Handbook and distributed to all students. Graduate programs will submit a Dismissal Recommendation Form to the College of Graduate Studies to dismiss a student for violating a graduate program policy.

Dismissal Process

Students will be informed by email of dismissal for low GPA, Academic Misconduct, or lack of progress (7-year rule). Such dismissals may not be appealed. Dismissals that occur for other reasons require that the graduate program director submit a Dismissal Recommendation Form to the College of Graduate Studies. ~~Once approved,~~ The Graduate Program Director (in conjunction with the student's advisor and/or College Associate Dean, if desired) requests a face-to-face or Zoom/Teams meeting with the student to discuss the reason for the dismissal, offer the student career advice for the future, and alert the student to available support services. After the meeting, the College of Graduate Studies will email the student about the dismissal. Dismissal appeals may be filed under ~~UCF Regulation 5.017~~ University Policy 4-412 Student Academic Appeals – B. Academic Program Appeals.

After dismissal, a student may not enroll in any course in the graduate program unless readmitted. Students may request readmission by submitting a new application to the program to start at least 3 semesters following dismissal. Readmission is not guaranteed but may be possible, depending on the reason for the dismissal, the student's GPA, and other factors assessed by the graduate program. Students may apply to other UCF graduate programs at any time (the transfer credit policy applies).

Appeals

Students may appeal certain dismissal decisions if they meet criteria as outlined in ~~UCF Regulation 5.017: Appeals of Graduate Program Actions or Decisions~~ University Policy 4-412 Student Academic Appeals – B. Academic Program Appeals. Details about the appeal process can be found at: <http://regulations.ucf.edu/chapter5.asp> <https://policies.ucf.edu/documents/4-412.pdf>.

Effective Term: Fall 2025

Rationale: Align with recent changes to Golden Rule 5.015 Student Academic Misconduct Review Process.

UCF Regulation Golden Rule 5.017 was repealed as of September 22, 2025. Align policy with University Policy 4-412 Student Academic Appeals that became effective September 8, 2025.