GRADUATE SCHOOL POLICIES

The Graduate School’s Academic Policies and Procedures (https://grad.wisc.edu/acadpolicy/) provide essential information regarding general university policies. Program authority to set degree policies beyond the minimum required by the Graduate School lies with the degree program faculty. Policies set by the academic degree program can be found below.

MAJOR-SPECIFIC POLICIES

PRIORITY COURSEWORK

Graduate Credits Earned at Other Institutions

With program approval, students are allowed to transfer no more than 21 credits of graduate coursework from other institutions. Coursework earned four or more years prior to admission to the doctoral program is not allowed to satisfy requirements.

Undergraduate Credits Earned at Other Institutions or UW-Madison

No credits from another institution or UW-Madison undergraduate degree are allowed to transfer toward the degree.

Credits Earned as a Professional Student at UW-Madison (Law, Medicine, Pharmacy, and Veterinary careers)

Refer to the Graduate School: Transfer Credits for Prior Coursework (https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1216/) policy.

Credits Earned as a University Special Student at UW-Madison

With program approval, students are allowed to transfer no more than 9 credits of coursework numbered 300 or above taken as a UW-Madison University Special student. Coursework earned four or more years prior to admission to the doctoral program is not allowed to satisfy requirements.

PROBATION

Placement on probation indicates a very serious faculty concern about a student’s performance. Students are placed on probation, as opposed to being dismissed from the program, when the faculty determines that the student likely will be able to address the difficulty that led to the probation if appropriate remediation is provided. If a recommendation for probation and remediation is adopted by the faculty, the student and advisor work with the Doctoral Training Committee (or a subset of this committee) to formulate a remediation plan including explicit goals and deadlines for evaluation of their attainment.

Students on probation cannot be approved as ready for the next level of clinical training (i.e., for foundational practicum; for internship) until they have successfully remediated the identified concern(s). This can have a substantial impact on time to degree, as practicum applications begin in the fall semester for the following academic year.

ADVISOR / COMMITTEE

Upon admission to the doctoral program, all students are assigned a faculty advisor. The doctoral student may select a major professor from the Department of Counseling Psychology who is not the original faculty advisor. In view of the important role that the major professor plays in the student’s dissertation research, students are advised to allow themselves sufficient time to get acquainted with all faculty, so that they can select a major professor with whom they share similar research interests, career goals, or other interests. The doctoral student’s faculty advisor plays an important role in monitoring and assisting the student with program planning.

Reviews of student progress are an agenda item for departmental faculty meeting in November (1st-year students only) and in April or May (all active PhD students). All students are required to conduct a yearly progress report meeting with their advisor. Student perspectives are taken into account in these reviews, and all students complete the Doctoral Student Report on Progress, in conjunction with their advisors.

CREDITS PER TERM ALLOWED

15 credits

TIME LIMITS

Students have eight years from the date of admission to complete all of the necessary courses. Courses that are more than eight years old will not fulfill program completion requirements for admission to candidacy. Admission to candidacy occurs when students successfully complete all required coursework and pass their doctoral preliminary examinations. Students must be admitted to candidacy within ten years of admission to the department. Once admitted to candidacy (dissertator status) the student has five years to complete the dissertation and pass the final oral examination.

Once students are admitted they are expected to maintain continuous enrollment and make satisfactory progress toward their degree. Failure to maintain continuous enrollment may result in lengthy reentry process or possible termination from the program.

Prior to reentry into the program, the student should contact the department and petition the faculty for reentry. The full faculty will determine whether the student is granted reentry without conditions, granted reentry conditionally (e.g., require additional coursework or adherence to timelines for completion of degree requirements) or denied reentry.

GRIEVANCES AND APPEALS

These resources may be helpful in addressing your concerns:

- Bias or Hate Reporting (https://dosu.students.wisc.edu/bias-or-hate-reporting/)
- Graduate Assistantship Policies and Procedures (https://hr.wisc.edu/policies/gapp/#grievance-procedure)
- Hostile and Intimidating Behavior Policies and Procedures (https://hr.wisc.edu/hib/)
- Office of the Provost for Faculty and Staff Affairs (https://facstaff.provost.wisc.edu/)
- Employee Assistance (http://www.eao.wisc.edu/) (for personal counseling and workplace consultation around communication and conflict involving graduate assistants and other employees, post-doctoral students, faculty and staff)
For grievances regarding discrimination based on protected bases (https://compliance.wisc.edu/eo-complaint/) (i.e., race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, etc.), contact the Office of Compliance (https://compliance.wisc.edu/eo-complaint/).

For grievances or concerns regarding sexual harassment or sexual violence (including sexual assault, dating/domestic violence, stalking, and sexual exploitation), contact the Sexual Misconduct Resource and Response Program (https://compliance.wisc.edu/titleix/) within the Office of Compliance.

For grievances that involve the behavior of a student, contact the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards in the Dean of Students Office at https://conduct.students.wisc.edu/).

For grievances about, or directed at, faculty or staff in a School of Education department, unit, or program, students should follow these steps:

1. Students are strongly encouraged to first talk with the person against whom the concern is directed. Many issues can be settled informally at this level. If students are unable to resolve concerns directly or without additional support, step 2 or 3 should be pursued.

2. If unresolved after talking or considering step 1:
   a. If the concern is directed against a teaching assistant (TA), and the student is not satisfied, the student should contact the TA’s supervisor, who is usually the course professor. The course professor will attempt to resolve the concern informally.
   b. If the concern involves a non-TA instructor, staff member, professor, academic department, or School of Education office or unit, the student should contact the chair of the department or the director of the office or unit, or their designee. The chair or, with the mutual consent of the parties involved.

3. If the concern remains unresolved after step 2, the student may submit a formal grievance to the chair or director in writing within 30 business days of the alleged unfair treatment. To the fullest extent possible, a formal written grievance shall contain a clear and concise statement of the issue(s) involved and the relief sought.

4. On receipt of a written grievance, the chair or director will notify the person at whom the grievance is directed with a copy of the written grievance. The person at whom the complaint is directed may submit a written response, which would be shared with the student.

5. On receipt of a written grievance, the chair or director will refer the matter to a department, office, or unit committee comprised of at least two members. The committee may be an existing committee or one constituted for this purpose. The committee, or delegates from the committee, may meet with the parties involved and/or review any material either party shares with the committee.

6. The committee will provide a written description of the facts of the grievance and communicate recommendations to the department chair or office/unit head regarding how the grievance should be handled.

7. The chair or director will offer to meet with the student who made the grievance and also will provide a written decision to the student, including a description of any related action taken by the committee, within 30 business days of receiving the formal grievance.

1 For the purpose of this policy, business days refers to those days when the University Offices are open and shall not include weekends, university holidays, spring recess, or the period from the last day of exams of fall semester instruction to the first day of spring semester instruction. All time limits may be modified by mutual consent of the parties involved.

If the grievance concerns an undergraduate course grade, the decision of the department chair after reviewing the committee’s recommendations is final.

Other types of grievances may be appealed using the following procedures:

1. Both the student who filed the grievance or the person at whom the grievance was directed, if unsatisfied with the decision of the department, office or unit, have five (5) business days from receipt of the decision to contact the Senior Associate Dean, indicating the intention to appeal.

2. A written appeal must be filed with the Senior Associate Dean within 10 business days of the time the appealing party was notified of the initial resolution of the complaint.

3. On receipt of a written appeal, the Senior Associate Dean will convene a sub-committee of the School of Education’s Academic Planning Council. This subcommittee may ask for additional information from the parties involved and/or may hold a meeting at which both parties
will be asked to speak separately (i.e., not in the room at the same time).

4. The subcommittee will then make a written recommendation to the
Dean of the School of Education, or their designee, who will render a
decision. The dean or designee's written decision shall be made within
30 business days from the date when the written appeal was filed with
the Senior Associate Dean. For undergraduate students, the dean or
designee's decision is final.

Further appealing a School of Education decision – graduate students only

Graduate students have the option to appeal decisions by the
School of Education dean or designee by using the process
detailed on the Graduate School's website (https://grad.wisc.edu/
documents/grievances-and-appeals/).

Questions about these procedures can be directed to the School of
Education Dean's Office, 377 Education Building, 1000 Bascom Mall,
608-262-1763.

Resources

- Office of Compliance (https://compliance.wisc.edu/) (for
discrimination based on protected classes, including misconduct) 179A
Bascom Hall, 608-262-2378
- Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards (https://
conduct.students.wisc.edu/) (for conflicts between students, or
academic integrity violations) 70 Bascom Hall, 608-263-5700
- Bias or Hate Reporting (https://doso.students.wisc.edu/bias-or-hate-
reporting/) (for students who experience or observe bias or hate
incidents) 70 Bascom Hall, 608-263-5700
- Graduate School (https://grad.wisc.edu/) (for graduate students
who need informal advice at any level of review; for official appeals
of program/departmental or school/college grievance decisions, see
Graduate Assistant Policies and Procedures (https://hr.wisc.edu/
policies/gapp/)) 217 Bascom Hall, 608-262-2433
- Ombuds Office for Faculty and Staff (http://www.ombuds.wisc.edu/
) (for UW-Madison employees, including graduate students) 523-524
Lowell Center, 608-265-9992
- Employee Assistance (http://www.eao.wisc.edu/) (for conflicts
involving graduate assistants and other employees) 256 Lowell Hall,
608-263-2987
- Office of Human Resources (https://kb.wisc.edu/ohr/policies/
search.php?cat=4506) for policies and procedures to address
workplace conflict) 21 N Park Street Suite 5101, 608-265-2257
- Office of Student Assistance and Support (https://osas.wisc.edu/
) (OSAS) (for any students needing advice or support) 70 Bascom Hall,
608-263-5700
- School of Education, Office of Student Services (https://
education.wisc.edu/about/student-services/) (for students,
particularly undergraduates, in the School of Education) 139 Education
Building, 608-262-1651
- School of Education, Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (https://
education.wisc.edu/about/diversity-inclusion/) (OEDI) 145 Education
Building, 608-262-8427

OTHER

n/a