Unsatisfactory Academic Performance

2015/2016

Unsatisfactory Academic Progress Resulting in Probation or Discretionary Dismissal

A student’s progress toward successful completion of a graduate degree shall be deemed unsatisfactory if any of the following conditions occur:

- Failure to maintain a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or greater (see Grading System section);
- Receipt of an “Unsatisfactory Progress” grade for research; or
- Receipt of an “Unsatisfactory Progress” recommendation from:
  - the head or director of the student’s home department or division,
  - the student’s thesis committee, or
  - a departmental committee charged with the responsibility of monitoring the student’s progress.

Unsatisfactory academic progress on the part of a graduate student shall be reported to the Dean of Graduate Studies in a timely manner. Students making unsatisfactory progress by any of the measures listed above shall be placed on academic probation upon the first occurrence of such indication. Upon the second occurrence of an unsatisfactory progress indication, the Dean shall notify the student that he or she is subject to discretionary dismissal according to the procedure outlined below.

In addition, students in thesis-based degree programs who are not admitted to candidacy within the time limits specified in this Bulletin may be subject to immediate mandatory dismissal according to the procedure outlined below. Failure to fulfill this requirement must be reported to the Dean of Graduate Studies in a timely manner by the department head or division/program director.

Probation and Discretionary Dismissal Procedures

If a student is subject to academic probation as a result of an initial indication of unsatisfactory academic progress, the Dean of Graduate Studies shall notify the student of his or her probationary status in a timely manner.

If a student is subject to discretionary dismissal by one of the mechanisms defined above, the Dean shall notify the student and invite him or her to submit a written remedial plan, including performance milestones and deadlines, to correct the deficiencies that caused or contributed to the student’s unsatisfactory academic progress. The remedial plan, which must be approved by the student’s faculty advisor and the department head, division or program director, shall be submitted to the Dean no later than 10 business days from the date of official notification to the student of the potential discretionary dismissal. If the Dean concludes that the remedial plan is likely to lead to successful completion of all degree requirements within an acceptable time frame, the Dean may halt the discretionary dismissal process and allow the student to continue working toward his or her degree. If the Dean concludes that the remedial plan is inadequate, or that it is unlikely to lead to successful completion of all degree requirements within an acceptable time frame, the Dean shall notify the student of his or her discretionary dismissal and inform the student of his or her right to appeal the dismissal as outlined below.

Unsatisfactory Academic Performance Resulting in Mandatory Dismissal

Unsatisfactory performance as gauged by any of the following measures shall result in immediate, mandatory dismissal of a graduate student:

1. Failure to successfully defend the thesis after two attempts;
2. Failure to be admitted to candidacy; or
3. Failure by a student subject to discretionary dismissal to achieve a performance milestone or meet a deadline contained in his or her remedial plan.

The Dean of Graduate Studies shall be notified promptly of any situation that may subject a student to mandatory dismissal. In this event, the Dean shall notify the student of his or her dismissal and inform the student of his or her right to appeal the dismissal as outlined below.

Students who have been notified of mandatory dismissal will be placed in non-degree status. They may request re-admission to either the same or a different degree program by submitting a full application for admission to the Graduate Office. The application will be reviewed through the normal admission process.

If a student who has been reinstated or readmitted to his or her former degree program and is subsequently found to be making unsatisfactory progress, the student will immediately be subject to mandatory dismissal.

Appeal Procedures

Both mandatory and discretionary dismissals may be appealed by a graduate student pursuant to this procedure. To trigger review hereunder, an appeal must:

1. Be in writing;
2. Contain a succinct description of the matter being appealed; and
3. Be filed with the Office of the Dean of Graduate Studies no later than 10 business days from the date upon which the student received official notification from the Dean regarding his or her dismissal.

Upon receipt of a timely appeal of a discretionary or mandatory dismissal, the Faculty Senate shall appoint a review committee composed of three tenured faculty members who are not members of the student’s home or minor department or division. The review committee shall review the student’s appeal and issue a written recommendation thereon to the Dean within 10 business days. During the course of performing this function, the committee may:

1. Interview the student, the student’s advisor, and, if appropriate, the student’s thesis committee;
2. Review all documentation related to the appeal under consideration;
3. Secure the assistance of outside expertise, if needed; and
4. Obtain any other relevant information necessary to properly consider the appeal.

The authority to render a final decision regarding all graduate student appeals filed hereunder shall rest with the Dean of Graduate Studies.
Exceptions and Appeals

Academic Policies and Requirements

Academic policies and requirements are included in the Bulletin on the authority of the Mines Board of Trustees as delegated to the Faculty Senate. These include matters such as degree requirements, grading systems, thesis and dissertation standards, admission standards and new and modified degree programs, certificates, minors and courses. No Mines administrator, faculty or staff member may change, waive or grant exceptions to such academic policies and requirements without approval of the Graduate Council, the Senate and/or the Board of Trustees as appropriate.

Administrative Policies and Procedures

Administrative Policies and Procedures are included in this Bulletin on the authority of the Mines Board of Trustees as delegated to the appropriate administrative office. These include (but are not limited to) matters such as student record keeping, thesis and dissertation formats and deadlines, registration requirements and procedures, assessment of tuition and fees, and allocation of financial aid. The Dean of Graduate Studies may waive or grant exceptions to such administrative policies and procedures as warranted by the circumstances of individual cases.

Any graduate student may request a waiver or exception by the following process:

1. Contact the Graduate Office to determine whether a standard form exists. If so, complete the form. If a standard form does not exist, prepare a memo with a statement of the request and a discussion of the reasons why a waiver or exception would be justified.

2. Have the memo or the form approved by the student’s advisor and department head or division director, then submit it to the Dean of Graduate Studies.

3. If the request involves academic policies or requirements, the Dean of Graduate Studies will request Graduate Council approval at the Council’s next regularly scheduled meeting.

4. The Dean of Graduate Studies will notify the student of the decision. The student may file a written appeal with the Provost within 10 business days of being notified of the decision. The Provost will investigate as appropriate to the issue under consideration and render a decision. The decision of the Provost is final.

5. At the next graduate Council meeting, the Dean will notify the Graduate Council of the request, the decision and the reasons for the decision. If the Graduate Council endorses the decision, then any other student in the same situation having the same justification can expect the same decision.