Graduate Students
Academics & Research – Academics & Instruction

Academic Policy 303-22
Effective: May 22, 2012

Authority: University President
Proponent: Academic Senate

Summary: This policy prescribes requirements and standards for graduate students of Eastern Washington University.

History: This policy was adopted by the Academic Senate on May 14, 2012 and approved by the University President on May 22, 2012. This policy supersedes topics 5 through 17 and appendices C, E, and F of the Graduate Affairs Council Policy Manual (May 2011 version).

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CHAPTER 1 – GENERAL

All applicants for graduate admission, enrollment, and/or attendance at Eastern Washington University must meet minimum education and character requirements.

1-1. Education
Graduate degree specializations must be built upon adequate undergraduate preparation. A baccalaureate degree (or equivalent) from a regionally accredited college or university is required for admission to a graduate program and/or enrollment in any graduate level classes at Eastern. Exceptions for certain senior students are provided under section 2-4. International applications are reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

1-2. Character
All applicants must demonstrate sufficient maturity and discipline as are considered necessary for attending and participating in a collegiate environment. The appropriate Vice Provost or designee shall make final determinations as to whether an applicant meets these requirements. To meet character eligibility requirements, each applicant must:

a. display competence to profit from the curricular offerings of the university; and,

b. demonstrate sufficient maturity such that his or her presence or conduct will not create a disruptive atmosphere within the university.

c. demonstrate the ability to comply with the requirements of the Student Conduct Code.

Applicants/students who exhibit a pattern of behavior or conduct that is contrary to EWU’s Student Conduct Code may be denied admission, enrollment, and/or attendance.

1-3. Appeals
Student appeals involving graduate regulations may be addressed to the Graduate Studies Office. The written appeal should be initiated by the student and supported by the appropriate graduate program advisor or director. The appeal document must contain adequate justification which demonstrates that the student possesses sufficient outstanding qualities to balance identified weaknesses.

1-4. Graduate Studies Office
The Graduate Studies Office oversees all policies and procedures for graduate education and is the clearinghouse for admissions, candidacy, degree completion and academic appeals.
CHAPTER 2 – ADMISSION AND REGISTRATION

2-1. General

The Graduate Studies Office coordinates admission for all graduate student applicants. General admission requirements are provided in this policy; however, individual programs may establish individual requirements. The Graduate Studies Office is the final authority for information related to graduate admission and graduate studies.

2-2. Admission Requirements

Admission to a graduate program requires the following:

a. Evidence of scholarly ability as indicated by a minimum grade point average of 3.0 in the last 90 quarter or 60 semester graded credits of postsecondary academic course work. Applicants with earned graduate or professional degrees from appropriately accredited institutions are judged, by their academic accomplishments, to show evidence of student preparedness generally equivalent to these minimum admission standards.

b. A cumulative minimum GPA of 3.0 in all post-baccalaureate course work, if any.

c. English language proficiency (see §2-5).

d. Recommendation of admission by the appropriate graduate program.

e. Approval by the appropriate Vice Provost.

f. If required by the program, acceptable scores from the Graduate Record Examination (GRE), the Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT), or other standard test.

2-3. Scholarly Ability Exceptions

a. 10% Exception Admission: Up to 10% of the qualified applicants for admission to graduate study may be admitted as exceptions to the requirements listed in §2.2. A degree-offering unit may take into account the following factors as alternative admission criteria for recommendation of admission as a 10% exception:

   (1) An applicant’s performance in proceeding through an undergraduate degree program:

      • An applicant’s demonstrated improvement, over time, of his or her grade point average, even though the calculated average might remain below 3.0

      • An applicant’s satisfactory completion of upper division courses that provide necessary background for graduate study in the discipline.

   (2) Interview(s) of the applicant by the departmental admission committee:

      • An applicant’s demonstration of qualities such as maturity, motivation and commitment to graduate study

      • An applicant’s description of additional qualifications for programs which seek to attract students with professional experience as well as academic credentials.

   (3) Written and oral recommendations from persons who are qualified to evaluate the applicant’s academic record, relevant experience or academic potential.

   (4) A portfolio of the applicant’s work which demonstrates productivity and expertise relevant to the discipline.

   (5) Scores on relevant standardized tests.

b. Weights given to the various factors under section 2-3a as justifications for recommending 10% exception admission may vary among academic units.

c. Special Clientele: Upon approval of the Student Achievement Council, programs serving special clienteles may be exempted from the GPA requirement defined in section 2-2a. Alternative and demanding admission standards will be established for the exempted programs.

d. Professional Experience: Applicants with at least 10 years of increasingly responsible professional experience in a field directly related to the graduate program to which they seek admission may be considered for regular admission to Graduate Studies. These applicants must have a baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited university and must meet the following requirements:

   (1) Submit transcripts showing a minimum grade point average of 3.0 in the last 90 quarter or 60 semester graded credits of
postsecondary academic course work; or submit satisfactory scores on the GRE, GMAT or other approved test.

(2) Submit to the academic unit offering the program an essay demonstrating critical thinking skills; or submit a statement of intent demonstrating a level of knowledge and intellectual maturity appropriate to the proposed field of graduate study; or submit to the academic unit offering the program evidence of professional success in a field relevant to the proposed area of study.

e. Applicants for admission under the professional experience provision must work closely with the program advisor or director to ensure that all required materials are received and reviewed. Any recommendation for admission under this provision must come from the academic department or program to the Graduate Studies Office. Additional details related to this program may be provided in the Annual Catalog.

2-4. Undergraduate Enrollment / Admissions

a. Undergraduate students with senior standing may enroll in 500-level graduate courses subject to the following provisions:

(1) A minimum cumulative GPA of 3.25

(2) Permission of the chair or designee of the department offering the course

(3) Permission of the appropriate Vice Provost or designee

b. Applying Credits to a Graduate Program:

Graduate courses taken as an undergraduate may be applied to a graduate degree program at Eastern subject to the following provisions:

(1) Such courses cannot be applied to the student's undergraduate education.

(2) Prior permission of the appropriate Vice Provost or designee

(3) Applying such courses to a graduate program is subject to all other graduate regulations, including a limitation of 12 credits which may be applied toward a degree program before admission to the program.

(4) Courses similarly taken for “graduate credit” at other institutions may also be applied to graduate degree programs at Eastern, subject to all other graduate regulations.

c. Admission to Graduate Program:

Undergraduate students in their senior year may, with the approval of the appropriate Vice Provost, be admitted to a graduate program in coordination with their undergraduate program. All of the usual requirements of the graduate program apply. Only courses completed before baccalaureate degree completion that have been previously designated as for 'graduate credit' may be applied to a graduate degree program.

2-5. English Language Proficiency

All students who are citizens of countries where English is not the native language must provide evidence of adequate proficiency in the English language before being admitted to graduate study. All applicants must meet all other admission requirements in addition to the English language proficiency requirement in order to be admitted.

a. The English language proficiency requirement may be satisfied by submitting an official score report showing any of the following English language test scores.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test</th>
<th>TOEFL PBT</th>
<th>TOEFL iBT</th>
<th>PTE Academic</th>
<th>IELTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Minimum Score</td>
<td>580</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>7.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

b. Otherwise admissible applicants who submit an official score report showing any of the following English language test scores may be admitted conditionally, upon recommendation of the academic program.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test</th>
<th>TOEFL PBT</th>
<th>TOEFL iBT</th>
<th>PTE Academic</th>
<th>IELTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Score</td>
<td>550-579</td>
<td>79-91</td>
<td>53-62</td>
<td>6.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In such cases, registration for classes is conditional upon having a program of English language study approved by the director of the English as a Second Language Program. A student with conditional admission may be granted full admission upon presentation of a new official score report showing any of the test scores identified in section 2-5a as satisfying the English language proficiency requirement or upon
recommendation of the director of the English as a Second Language Program.

c. Applicants who submit an official score report showing any of the following English language test scores may be admitted to the University as post-baccalaureate students and may take up to 12 pre-admission credits to be counted toward a graduate degree after graduate admission and with program approval.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test</th>
<th>TOEFL PBT</th>
<th>TOEFL iBT</th>
<th>PTE Academic</th>
<th>IELTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Score</td>
<td>525-549</td>
<td>71-78</td>
<td>48-52</td>
<td>6.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These applicants may be granted full admission upon presentation of a new official score report showing any of the test scores identified in section 2-5a as satisfying the English language proficiency requirement or may be granted conditional admission for scores in the range identified in section 2-5b.

d. Alternative to submitting test scores to meet the English language proficiency admission requirement: Otherwise admissible applicants may, with the written approval of the academic program, be admitted upon successful completion of a prescribed program of appropriate content course work and English Language Institute course work. This course work will be agreed upon in advance by both the program and ELI. Successful completion is defined by the academic program for the content courses and by ELI in the advanced language level by achieving linguistic proficiency with a "good" rating on the ELI scale of fair/good/excellent. Up to 12 credits of content course work completed before admission may be applied to the appropriate graduate program after admission with the program’s written approval. Note: This policy is not to be construed as replacing the evaluation of an applicant by the director of the MA in TESL program for students who submit an English language test score in the range identified in section 2-5b, nor should it be construed as a policy on conditional admission to Graduate Studies.

e. Exceptions to the minimum English language test scores identified in section 2-5b may be made for students entering specially designated programs of graduate study for non-native speakers that include a provision for English language instruction support and that have been approved by the Graduate Affairs Council. These students must submit a test score that meets the established minimum requirement approved by the Graduate Affairs Council for the designated program. Approval for programs under this section is for two years. During the second year, the program must reapply for Graduate Affairs Council approval, and the program must provide data on the effectiveness of the English language instruction support for program participants. The type of data the program will provide must be identified in the original proposal.

2-6. Graduate Certificate Programs

The prerequisites and general criteria of eligibility for admission to any graduate certificate program include:

a. An earned baccalaureate degree or its equivalent from a regionally accredited college or university is required. International applications are reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

b. Each program sets the minimum grade point average, minimum TOEFL scores, standardized test scores, whether or not certificate courses may be counted towards the related master’s degree program and other similar criteria as part of the application. Greater flexibility than that found in graduate degree admission requirements is intentionally built into graduate certificate programs so that the needs of the target student population may be met.

c. Graduate students who are currently enrolled in a graduate program of study leading to a degree, and who wish to pursue a simultaneous graduate certificate within Graduate Studies must inform the certificate program coordinator and the Graduate Studies Office of their intent to seek the graduate certificate. An application for Graduate Studies is required but no additional Graduate Application fee is charged.

d. Students who are currently enrolled in Graduate Studies and who wish to pursue approved graduate certificate programs must apply for admission to such programs before one-half of the required credits are completed. The appropriate Vice Provost, upon request by the certificate program coordinator, may grant exceptions to this policy.
Certificate-seeking graduate students who are not currently enrolled in a master’s program will be admitted into a separate classification within the Graduate Studies, as “Certificate Graduate” students, as defined by the Graduate Affairs Council. This separate classification will permit keeping of University-wide statistical and enrollment data for certificate programs, and will allow inclusion of such efforts in the annual reports and academic planning. The Graduate Studies Office will note successful completion of a certificate program on the student’s transcript upon completion.

e. A maximum of 40% of the credit hours towards any certificate program may be accepted as transfer credit per the approval of the certificate program director.

f. Students pursuing a graduate certificate will be required to meet the same academic requirements as those defined for degree-seeking students.

A Certificate Graduate student may enroll on either a part-time or a full-time basis, as determined by the certificate program coordinator. Students enrolled on a full-time basis will have access to many of the same campus services as other full-time graduate students.

They also may be considered for merit-based financial aid by the department or program, as well as for need-based financial aid by the Financial Aid Office pursuant to Federal regulations, but at a reduced priority compared to degree-seeking students.

2-7. Registration

Requirements for class registration may vary between classes and between students.

2-8. Non-matriculated Students

Students who have earned a bachelor’s degree or higher from an accredited institution may apply for non-degree (non-matriculated) graduate enrollment. The following restrictions apply:

a. Enrollment is restricted to 500 level courses, or below, subject to both program and instructor approval. Enrollment is also subject to any course or program pre-requisite requirements.

b. Non-degree students are eligible to enroll for up to one year (renewable), and are not eligible for financial aid.

c. Non-degree seeking graduate students pay graduate tuition.

d. Non-degree status is not available for anyone holding an F-1 visa status nor will non-degree applicants be issued an I-20 by the EWU Graduate Studies Office.

Non-degree graduate status is intended for students who do not wish to pursue a graduate degree, or a graduate certificate, and is not to be used for probationary status for those seeking admission to graduate studies. However, students may apply at any time for an advanced degree by following the requirements for admission to graduate studies.

The restriction on 12 pre-admission credits and the six-year time-limit to complete a degree apply to any credits earned before admission to a graduate degree program.

Enrollment as a non-degree-seeking student does not guarantee admission to graduate studies. Anyone seeking undergraduate non-degree enrollment must apply separately through the Undergraduate Admissions Office.

CHAPTER 3 – ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

3-1. Program Requirements

Each graduate program at the University has specific requirements related to curriculum, course levels, credits, exams, thesis and similar items. Many of these program requirements are outlined in the annual Catalog. Additional and/or revised program requirements may be found in quarterly announcements or other publications, or through Eaglenet, Records and Registration, or the university website. Each academic department, however, should be considered the definitive source of specific program requirements.

3-2. Exceptions

Students may request exceptions to program requirements through the academic department chair, the graduate program director, the Academic Appeals Board, or the appropriate Vice Provost –
depending on the nature of the exception requested.

a. The Academic Appeals Board will consider graduate student requests for exceptions related to previous graduate credit (see section 3-3).

b. The appropriate Vice Provost will consider student appeals of graduate policies and procedures (also see section 1-3).

c. All appeals of academic requirements must be brought first to the department chair or program director.

3-3. Transfer Credits

a. Students may include in a graduate degree program, from any regionally accredited college or university, a maximum of 12 quarter or nine semester department- or program-approved pre-admission credits not used toward an undergraduate degree.

b. Exceptions to this policy can be made by the Academic Appeals Board in rare and special circumstances. Request for exceptions must be made in writing by the student and the program advisor to the Academic Appeals Board. However, in no case may credit be granted for experiential learning which occurred before the student’s matriculation into the graduate degree program.

(1) To request a reconsideration of a denial, an interview with the Academic Appeals Board must be scheduled at which the student and program advisor appear together to present their case.

(2) Permanent exceptions which have previously been granted by the Graduate Affairs Council include:

(a) With program approval, Master of Social Work degree students completing their first year of graduate study elsewhere may be admitted directly into the second year of the two-year MSW program with the stipulation they complete at least 50% of the required total program credit requirements at Eastern Washington University.

(b) Students admitted to the Master of Education degree program in French (Nice program only) may apply 15 pre-admission quarter credits toward the required 48 quarter credits.

(c) With program approval, Master of Arts in International Business and Economics degree students at the University of Applied Sciences Schmalkalden (FhS) in Schmalkalden, Germany will transfer into Eastern Washington University (EWU) 24 quarter credits from this MA program into the Master of Business Administration (MBA) program at EWU. These students will complete 24 quarter credits at EWU to complete the requirements for the EWU MBA degree.

c. Graduate credit may be granted for internships, field experiences and clinical practices that are an integral part of the graduate degree program. Credit may not be granted for experiential learning which occurred before the student’s matriculation into the graduate degree program. Unless the graduate student’s faculty advisor structures the current learning experience and monitors and assesses the learning and its outcomes, no graduate credit is granted for current learning experiences external to the student’s formal graduate program.

3-4. Minimum Credit Requirements

The minimum credits needed to complete a graduate degree are as follows:

Educational Specialist 107
Master of Science 48
Master of Education 48
Master of Business Administration 48
Master of Arts 48
Master of Public Administration 60
Advanced Standing 46
Master of Fine Arts 72
Master of Urban & Regional Planning 72
Master of Social Work 90
Advanced Standing 51
Master of Occupational Therapy 131
Advanced Standing 73
Doctor of Physical Therapy 161

3-5. Multiple Master’s Degrees

Students who have earned one master’s degree may be awarded another master’s degree when
they have completed the requirements for the second degree as set forth in the Graduate Catalog. Students must meet all of the requirements of the second master’s degree including course work, tests, thesis, foreign language, experience, age of credits, departmental recommendations, and other requirements as specified. Students may apply a maximum of 12 department/program credits from one master’s degree or degree program to a second or additional master’s degree.

3-6. Dual Master's Degrees

Students who enroll in the Master of Public Administration degree program may choose the dual degree option with any one of three other programs: the Master of Business Administration, Master of Urban and Regional Planning or Master of Social Work. Upon the completion of specified requirements for each of the degree programs, the student will be granted two master’s degrees.

CHAPTER 4 – SATISFACTORY PROGRESS

4-1. Academic Standards, Probation & Dismissal

a. Graduate students must maintain a 3.0 GPA in all courses completed since admission to graduate studies at EWU.

b. Students who fall below a 3.0 GPA will be placed on probation.

c. The Graduate Studies Office shall provide written notification of placement on probationary status to both the student and the student’s graduate program director.

d. The student has the right to appeal to the department program advisor on any action taken with respect to this probationary process.

e. One quarter is allowed to restore the cumulative GPA to the minimum 3.0.

f. Faculty of the department offering the degree, with the approval of the Graduate Studies Office, may extend the probationary period by one quarter, when warranted by special circumstances.

g. Students on probation may not be advanced to candidacy or schedule their comprehensive exams.

h. Students unable to restore their cumulative GPA to 3.0 or above in the additional quarter of probation shall be terminated from the program.

i. Individual departments/programs may have requirements that are more restrictive. Such requirements supersede those stated here.

j. Students who have been academically dismissed from a graduate program may reapply for admission. In addition to the application for readmission to graduate studies and meeting all admission requirements specified by the program, applicants who have been dismissed must also submit a written petition to the program stating their readiness to pursue the degree and addressing the circumstances that led to dismissal. Applicants who are then readmitted will be allowed to register for one quarter only. At the end of the initial quarter, continuation is contingent upon recommendation from the program and the approval of the appropriate Vice Provost. Students who have been readmitted will have up to two quarters to return to good academic standing with a cumulative graduate GPA of at least 3.0. Extensions of probationary status may be approved on the written recommendation of the program and with the approval of the appropriate Vice Provost. Students who are not recommended for continuation are not eligible for one year to reapply for admission to graduate studies. [§ 6.5 verbatim]

4-2. Coursework Requirements

a. Program requirements shall not be satisfied with any course credit in which a grade below 2.0 is earned. Only two courses in a student’s degree program may be below a grade of 2.5. Repeating courses for which a grade of less than 2.5 was received does not negate this rule. Individual departments/programs may have requirements that are more restrictive; such requirements would supersede those stated here.

b. Students are expected to successfully complete courses for which they register. The record of any student with more than two no-credit (NC) grades in their program will be reviewed by the program advisor with possible termination of the program as a consequence.

c. Pass/No Credit grades are utilized only in designated graduate level courses. The P/NC grade is mandatory for all students enrolled in courses so
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designated by departments. Students may count P/NC graded courses in their graduate degree work, but they must complete at least 75% of the quarter credits required for the program as graded work. Upper division courses (300-400) with P/NC grades cannot be included as part of a graduate degree program.

d. At least 75% of the total credits for a graduate degree must be at the 500 level or above. No 300-level courses may be included in a graduate degree program without prior approval of the appropriate Vice Provost. No more than one 300-level course (a maximum of five quarter credits) shall be included in any graduate degree program. Two types of 300-level courses will be considered for approval: (a.) support courses from outside of the major discipline, or (b.) support courses not available through Eastern Washington University. In either case, such exceptions must be justified, in writing, by the degree program director to the appropriate Vice Provost. Doubtful cases may be referred to the Graduate Affairs Council by the vice provost. (See appendix A for Interdisciplinary Studies program)

e. Three-fourths of the minimum credits required for the specific degree program must be earned in approved courses offered by EWU. The remaining credits may consist of approved credits from other accredited institutions.

f. No more than one-half of the minimum number of credits required for the degree may be counted toward the graduate degree program before the total program is planned and the Application for Degree Candidacy form submitted (also see chapter 5).

g. Distance-delivered courses numbered 400 or above and offered by accredited institutions as graded courses and part of a graduate program of study may be included in a graduate degree program at the discretion of the program department.

h. No more than one 597 workshop course may be included in a graduate degree program, for a maximum of three credits.

4-3. Program Time Limits

a. Time limit: All academic requirements, including course work, thesis and final examinations, must be completed within a six-year time period. The six-year period is based on academic terms.

The start term for the six-year period is the EWU academic term corresponding to the completion date of the earliest course being included as part of the degree program. If the student completed the first course between EWU academic terms, the next term will be considered the start term (e.g. for a first course completed in late August, the start term would be fall). The student's admission status at the time the first course was taken is irrelevant in determining the start term. A student's start term may be a Summer Term.

The end term is the corresponding term six years after the start term (e.g., for a start term of fall 2004, the end term is fall 2010).

b. Readmission

Admitted students who fail to complete the degree within the six-year period will be dropped from the program. Dropped students must apply for readmission to the degree program with evaluation of all credits taken to date and must pay the application fee.

The six-year time period applies equally to readmitted students; courses falling outside the six-year time relative to a readmitted student's new intended end term are expired and may not be counted toward the degree.

4-4. Degree Progress

Graduate students are expected to make efficient progress toward their degree. Those with attempted credits on their record at or above 150% of the minimum number of credits required for their program—excluding independent study, thesis or research report credits—will be prevented from registering until they have met with their academic advisor and established a revised plan for program completion, specifying a new graduation term. This plan must be submitted with the written support of the student's academic advisor and approved by the appropriate Vice Provost in order for the student to register.

4-5. Degree Completion, Minimum Enrollment, and Use of University Resources

During the six-year period allowed for degree completion, students who are using University
resources (e.g., faculty consultation, laboratories, some library resources, scheduling and completing final oral examinations and so on) must register for a minimum of two (2) credits. If summer is the final term, the student must register for a minimum of one (1) credit.

In the term of the final oral examination, students must be enrolled for a minimum of two (2) credits.

4-6. Research Requirement
Proof of competence in research is required of all graduate degree candidates.

CHAPTER 5 – GRADUATE DEGREE CANDIDACY

5-1. Candidacy
The program specified on the candidacy form constitutes the graduation requirements for the student.

Advancement to graduate degree candidacy requires the following:

a. Admission to a graduate program.

b. Completion of at least 15 credits of graded graduate course work, at least 10 of which must be at the 500 level, but no more than 50% of the course work required for the degree.

c. Maintenance of at least a 3.0 cumulative post-baccalaureate GPA.

d. Submission of the Application for Degree Candidacy form to the Graduate Studies Office, specifying a graduate degree study program approved by the major department. This program, at the student's option, may be based on either current requirements or those in effect at the time of admission. The form must be submitted before the student has completed one-half of the minimum credits unless program requirements allow submission after the mid-point of the student's program. All applications for graduate degree candidacy must be submitted no later than the first Friday of the term before anticipated graduation unless special permission is granted by the appropriate Vice Provost.

If any changes to the list of courses identified on the candidacy form occur after advancement to candidacy, students must submit a Candidacy Contract Change form to the Graduate Studies Office that has been signed by their advisor(s).

e. Successful field experience as required by specific degree programs.

f. Approval of the appropriate Vice Provost.

g. No application for degree candidacy that includes courses in a proposed substantive program revision will be approved until the Graduate Affairs Council has reviewed and approved the substantive program revision. Substantive here means a change in any core requirements, changes affecting an entire cohort or group of students or changes to more than 20% of the minimum credits for the degree program.

5-2. Graduate Degree Committee
As part of the candidacy process, a graduate degree committee is appointed. The primary responsibilities of graduate committees are:

a. Counsel candidates in their study program;

b. Direct and supervise candidates' research;

c. Direct candidates in preparing for the comprehensive examination; and

d. Arrange, conduct and appraise the comprehensive examination.

If the chair or internal member of a graduate degree committee is changed after a student has been advanced to candidacy, the individual initiating the request for change must submit a Change of Graduate Committee form to the Graduate Studies Office, including a brief explanation of the rationale for the change and bearing the signatures of (1) the student, (2) the original chair and/or internal member of the graduate degree committee, (3) the replacement chair and/or internal member of the graduate degree committee, (4) the department's graduate program director and (5) the department chair. If any person whose approval is required objects to the proposed change(s) and refuses to sign, he or she must explain the rationale for the objection in a memo to the appropriate Vice Provost, who is responsible for making the final decision.
CHAPTER 6 – COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION

The candidate must complete a comprehensive examination.

Each department or interdepartmental program is expected to organize comprehensive examination experiences that best reflect the discipline. Each department or interdepartmental program must have written policies and procedures describing the comprehensive examination requirements, approved in advance by the Graduate Affairs Council and appropriate Vice Provost and published in the catalog. Approved plans may become effective in the term after approval, pending catalog publication. Total time for a graduate program’s comprehensive examinations in whatever combination should not exceed six hours.

Departments must have on file with the appropriate Vice Provost an updated list of faculty eligible to serve on graduate committees for comprehensive examination purposes.

a. Each academic unit is required to provide the appropriate Vice Provost with a list of graduate faculty qualified to serve as chairs and internal members of graduate committees by October 1 of each academic year. Corrections and additions can be made each term to keep the list current. (see appendix D of Academic Policy 303-35 for graduate faculty specifications)

b. The third member of the graduate student’s final comprehensive examination committee is the GACR (chapter 10) who shall be appointed as described in the department’s or program’s comprehensive examination requirements as approved by the Graduate Affairs Council and the appropriate Vice Provost. By October 1st of each year, each department will submit to the appropriate Vice Provost a list of the entire faculty in the department who are recommended to serve as third members of a graduate committee. Graduate faculty status is not a prerequisite for faculty members to serve as a third member of a graduate committee; however, a master’s degree is required.

Regardless of the examination experience, the committee will be chaired by a faculty member from the student’s academic specialization and normally will consist of two other members, one of whom will be from an area outside the student’s discipline. The role of this latter person is to assure, to the best of his or her ability, that an examination commensurate with the awarding of a graduate degree is being administered. It is the responsibility of each academic department to assure that adequate numbers of its faculty are available to serve in this important task. (see chapter 10)

Comprehensive examinations must include one or more of the following: an oral examination, a written examination, a thesis defense, a portfolio, or a research report defense. An oral examination, a thesis defense or a research report defense is normally conducted in a face-to-face setting. Exceptions must be approved by the appropriate Vice Provost. Except in the case of a written examination, all comprehensive examinations are open to the public and must be announced to the student’s academic unit(s) at least one week before the exam and must occur during the final term of the student’s program. Only the members of the graduate degree committee decide the outcome of the examination.

Comprehensive examinations must be completed by the dates designated in the University calendar.

If a thesis, research report or other terminal document is part of a student’s graduate program, that requirement must be completed before the comprehensive examination. The Terminal Research Approval form must be signed by the student’s committee chair and internal member to indicate that the thesis, research report or other terminal document has progressed to the point that it can easily be completed within 10 working days or the end of the term, whichever comes first. The Terminal Research Approval form must be received by the Graduate Studies Office before the candidate may schedule a final comprehensive examination.

A comprehensive examination cannot be scheduled for students with an incomplete (X) grade in any course in their degree program, current course work excepted. Student and faculty signatures on the Terminal Research Approval Form indicate their confirmation that there are no X grades.

Students who successfully complete their comprehensive examination must meet any outstanding degree requirements within one term of
the exam or be assessed a late completion fee equal to the cost of one-half of one resident graduate credit for purposes of degree checkout and degree posting. Post-examination internships required for degree completion are excluded. If the student does not complete outstanding degree requirements by the end of one term, the late completion fee will be assessed for each term in which the pending course work remains incomplete.

It is the candidate’s responsibility to schedule the comprehensive examination at a time agreeable to committee members and to notify the Graduate Studies Office at least ten working days before the examination date.

The Graduate Studies Office and/or the graduate program director of the relevant department notifies all participants of the time and place of the examination.

The comprehensive examination is conducted by the chair of the candidate’s committee. Written examinations may be conducted by the departmental graduate director for the student’s program.

Questions in the comprehensive examination will be based upon the candidate’s research, internship experience and/or areas of study.

The time for an oral examination should not exceed two hours, and written exams should not last more than six hours. The total time for all elements of the comprehensive examination experience should not exceed six hours. The nature of further examination, if required, is determined by the committee.

Whether the candidate is successful, unsuccessful or not yet fully qualified is the decision of the committee.

All comprehensive examination decisions must be communicated in writing by the committee chair to the student, the graduate program director of the department(s) involved and the Graduate Studies Office.

Criteria for retaking comprehensive examinations:

a. Students may not schedule a second comprehensive examination in the same term in which they failed the first scheduled examination.

b. A second comprehensive examination will be scheduled only on the recommendation of the major department after departmental consultation with the original examination committee.

c. Failure to complete satisfactorily the second examination will terminate the student’s program, subject to appeal to the appropriate Vice Provost.

CHAPTER 7 – THESIS REGULATIONS

7-1. Form and style requirements:

a. Any academic unit offering a graduate degree program will designate the manual of style recommended by the relevant discipline(s). Students should be certain that they are using the manual approved by their department.

b. Supervision in matters of style for theses, as well as in matters of research quality, is the responsibility of the candidate’s committee chair.

c. The paper for the thesis must be 8-1/2- x 11-inch, 16- to 20-pound weight and 100% cotton (rag) content.

d. Margin widths must be carefully observed to provide adequate binding space. The left margin must be 1.5 inches and the right, top and bottom margins 1 inch.

e. Three high-quality printed copies and one digital copy of the thesis must be submitted for the university files, plus a fourth printed copy for the student’s own file, if he or she wishes. The digital copy must be in compliance with the guidelines set forth by the Graduate Studies Office. The second, third and fourth copies may be reproduced by printing or by photocopy. If photocopy reproductions are used, these must be of high quality and must be on paper specified above. Either good quality offset printing or photocopy copies are acceptable.

f. In the case of illustrations and supplementary materials, if there is to be any variation in the quality of paper, page size or reproductive process, approval should be obtained from the candidate’s committee chair. If photographs or other non-printed illustrative materials are to be included, they should be permanently mounted.

7-2. Procedures for submitting theses:
a. Candidates must obtain the approval of their graduate committee. Approval is indicated by the signatures of the graduate committee members.

b. Candidates must pay a thesis binding fee.

c. Candidates must submit the required copies to the Graduate Studies Office within 10 working days after successfully defending the thesis or by the last day of the term, whichever comes first.

7-3. Standards

The quality of research and standards of form and style for research reports should be equal to those required in theses. Research reports are submitted to the department or graduate degree unit requiring them.

CHAPTER 8 – COMMENCEMENT

Graduate students who are advanced to degree candidacy and who have completed an application to graduate for the current academic year, or the summer term immediately following June commencement, will be included in the June commencement announcement and invited to be recognized in the ceremony.

Written appeals of this policy will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the appropriate Vice Provost.

CHAPTER 9 – GRADUATE SERVICE APPOINTMENTS


Graduate service appointments are offered by an academic or administrative unit on a competitive basis to students of outstanding promise pursuing their first graduate degree from EWU. Terms of these awards vary but usually include a waiver of tuition and a stipend. These appointments are intended to support students toward degree completion in a timely manner. Graduate service appointments are offered for at most one academic year at a time and will normally not be offered to any student for more than a total of two academic years or the equivalent number of terms.

Students who resign or withdraw from a graduate service appointment must submit a written resignation or withdrawal notice to their immediate supervisor. Repayment of all or part of the award may be required for failing to provide timely notification of resignation or withdrawal.

9-2. Categories of graduate service appointments

a. Graduate assistantships are awarded by an instructional or administrative unit (through the unit dean and the appropriate Vice Provost) to students of outstanding promise who are given, under faculty direction, work experiences that engage them in instruction or are in support of scholarly/creative activities. The terms of the award and recommendation of recipients are made by the department or program which supports the award.

b. Graduate instructorships are awarded by an instructional or administrative unit (through the unit dean and the appropriate Vice Provost) to students with an appropriate background who are given, under faculty direction, responsibility for instruction. Normally, these students will have heavier teaching responsibilities, be compensated at a higher rate, and will carry a lighter academic load than graduate assistants. The terms of the award and recommendation of recipients are made by the department or program which supports the award.

9-3. Eligibility

a. Candidates must be admitted to or be admissible to a graduate program.

b. Candidates must have received a bachelor’s degree before the beginning of the graduate service appointment.

9-4. Duties

a. Graduate Assistants: The department/program will provide quality work experiences that further the professional development of the graduate student (not work involving the student’s own research or clerical work). Graduate assistants can be given, under faculty direction, principal responsibility for instruction of the equivalent of one four- or five-quarter credit hour lower division course each term of their appointment. Other assignment possibilities include leading classroom discussion groups and teaching laboratory sections. Graduate assistants
given principal responsibility for instruction must receive instruction in teaching

b. Graduate instructors will be given, under faculty direction, principal responsibility for instruction of the equivalent of two four- or five-quarter credit hour courses each term of their appointment. This assignment will constitute the full workload for the graduate instructor. Graduate instructors must receive instruction in teaching.

9-5. Work / Course Loads

a. A graduate service appointment which includes any portion of a graduate tuition waiver represents a 20-hour workweek.

b. Work and study loads are to be arranged to allow normal progress toward completion of the graduate degree.

c. Graduate assistants are expected to carry course loads of 10 to 12 credits per quarter for students on a quarter calendar or 15 to 18 quarter credits for students on a semester calendar.

d. A full course load for graduate instructors is eight to 10 credits per quarter for students on a quarter calendar or 12 to 15 quarter credits for students on a semester calendar.

9-6. Compensation

a. All graduate service appointees with a 100% appointment will usually be compensated at the standard rate as identified in the university’s base budget.

b. Graduate service appointees with less than 100% appointments who receive a stipend will be compensated at a percentage of the standard rate commensurate with the percentage of that appointment.

c. Legislatively approved and funded salary increases will also be applied to the standard compensation rate for graduate service appointees.

d. The standard rate for Graduate Instructors is higher than the rate for graduate assistants. Graduate instructors in the second year of their appointment receive a higher standard rate of compensation than first-year graduate instructors.

e. Graduate service appointees may not accept other, simultaneous university employment or receive additional compensation from the university at any time during the regular academic year, excepting the periods between quarters.

9-7. Termination

a. Graduate Service Appointees may be terminated for adequate cause.

b. Adequate cause for termination of a graduate service appointment includes failing to meet the academic probation policy or failing to satisfactorily perform duties.

c. A person terminated for adequate cause may be required to repay all or part of the award he/she has received.

9-8. Record Keeping

Graduate service appointees must have on record in the Graduate Studies Office a signed copy of the award letter accepting the terms of the appointment/award.

CHAPTER 10 – GAC REPRESENTATIVE

Graduate Degree Committees consist of three voting members including the Graduate Affairs Council Representative.

1. The Graduate Affairs Council Representative (GACR) should be familiar with examination procedures as described in the Graduate Catalog and the Graduate Affairs Council Policies.

2. The GACR represents the Graduate Affairs Council (GAC) and the Faculty in maintaining the tradition of the “open examination.” The product (the candidate, along with thesis, research report or special area knowledge) is on display for all to see. The GACR’s presence on the committee insures that various departments can see what other departments are doing to the mutual benefit of all.

3. The GACR is a full member of the Graduate Degree Committee. As such, the GACR needs to receive the terminal research document two weeks before the comprehensive examination and needs to be included when the time and date for the comprehensive examination is set. The GACR may delay scheduling of the comprehensive examination if not given two-week notice.

4. In those instances when the GACR finds that he/she is unable to keep the commitment to a
scheduled final comprehensive examination, we ask that the person assist in identifying a replacement.

5. If the research conducted by the graduate candidate appears to involve human or animal subjects, it is the responsibility of the GACR to verify that the candidate has obtained Institution Review Board approval of the research protocol. If unable to verify, the GACR is to inform the chair of the candidate’s committee.

6. The GACR acts in behalf of the GAC to assure that the examination is conducted seriously and fairly. It is the responsibility of the GACR to report irregularities or concerns about the examination to the Vice Provost of Graduate Education and Research.

7. In case there is strong disagreement between the other two members on whether the student passes or fails the examination, or on what should be done for further evaluation, the GACR shall work to resolve the issue. A decision about passing or failing the examination can be delayed until agreement can be reached. Reports of serious conflicts within committees should be conveyed to the appropriate Vice Provost, who can usually cite precedents and provide assistance.

**APPENDIX A – INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES PROGRAM**

Interdisciplinary programs using existing offerings from qualified departments may be arranged with the approval of the appropriate Vice Provost and a committee representing the fields of study involved. This committee, under the vice provost, provides the student with program advice and supervision.

**Admission**

Students applying for admission to a Master of Arts or Master of Science interdisciplinary degree program must follow the procedures for general admission to Graduate Studies. In addition, admission to an interdisciplinary graduate degree program requires an approved program proposal with signatures of the faculty who have agreed to serve as advisors. The proposal form can be found at the Graduate Studies website, www.ewu.edu/grad.

**Program Requirements**

a. Minimum of 50 quarter credits

b. No more than 12 credits at the 400 level

c. No more than 12 credits of directed or independent study (499 or 599)

d. Minimum of 20 credits in the major field and minimum of 15 credits in at least one minor field

e. Submission of the proposal to the appropriate Vice Provost or designee, listing the courses in the program of study and signed for approval by the department chair in the major field and each minor field (or graduate program director for fields not located within a single department)

f. Inclusion in the proposal of a statement written by the student explaining how the proposed combination of courses comprises an interdisciplinary degree program and is not simply a combination of courses from multiple disciplines

g. Inclusion within the program of a project (variable credit) that integrates the various disciplines represented

h. Inclusion in the proposal of a research component

Approval of the program by the appropriate Vice Provost or designee shall be forthcoming only after a meeting of the vice provost or designee and the student’s interdisciplinary faculty committee. The primary purpose of the meeting will be to clarify how the program is interdisciplinary and not simply a combination of courses from multiple disciplines.

The Interdisciplinary Program Review Committee (IPRC), a Committee to the Graduate Affairs Council, serves as the designee for the vice provost responsible for graduate studies and provides oversight and approval for graduate students submitting interdisciplinary program proposals.

The membership of the IPRC shall consist of three graduate faculty members appointed by the Graduate Affairs Council. At least one of the three Committee members must be a member of the Graduate Affairs Council.

The IPRC shall:
a) Review interdisciplinary program proposals distributed to them by the Graduate Studies Office;

b) Meet with the student's interdisciplinary faculty committee as required above;

c) Request and review any additional information or materials from the student or the student's interdisciplinary faculty committee members that is deemed necessary for assessing the general academic rigor of the proposed program of study; and

d) Notify, in writing, the student, the student's interdisciplinary faculty committee members, the Graduate Studies Office, the appropriate vice provost, and the Graduate Affairs Council of all Committee decisions regarding interdisciplinary program proposals.

The student’s interdisciplinary faculty committee will consist of two or three graduate faculty members representing the disciplines with at least 15 credits in the program and will be chaired by a graduate faculty member from one of the fields represented who has the appropriate background to advise the student on the proposed interdisciplinary research. An oral comprehensive examination is required to complete an interdisciplinary graduate degree program.