

# CGSR Motions to Revise Graduate Student Policies

Presented to the Faculty 5-9-17

# 6 Motions that affect graduate students

1. Modify the Academic Standards policy that applies to minimum GPA requirements for graduate students
2. Add detail to Financial Information section of the Graduate Catalog, regarding RA and TA appointments
3. Clarify TOEFL requirements for Graduate TAs
4. Modify the description of graduate internships/co-ops, and add “opt in” course designators for programs wishing to offer this option
5. Clarify and adjust limits on the number of credits non-degree students may take prior to applying for a degree/certificate program
6. Create a new 1-credit course “ID 700” that carries ½ credit tuition, I would say to allow students who have registered for all degree requirements but need to maintain active status in subsequent semesters to complete the work.

# Modify the Academic Standards policy that applies to minimum GPA requirements for graduate students

**Rationale:** Current policy doesn't provide an early warning system to students or give them a good way to fix critically low GPA

**Proposed:** Maintain GPA  $\geq 3.0$ . Evaluated after each semester of enrollment. If GPA  $< 3.0$ :

1. Academic Warning: have 1 semester to bring GPA back up, if not student goes on Academic Probation.
2. Academic Probation: have 1 semester to bring GPA back up, if not student is dismissed
3. Academic Dismissal: there is an appeal process (petition to Registrar who submits to CGSR)

# Add detail to Financial Information section of the Graduate Catalog, regarding RA and TA appointments

**Purpose:** Clarify the expected duration and amount of support offered to graduate TA and RAs.

## **Details:**

- Fellowships are defined as full support for 12 months, including 9 credits/semester of tuition
- RAs are *typically* for 9 or 12 months, including stipend and tuition of 9 credits/semester.
- TAs are *almost always* for a full academic year (9 months), including stipend and tuition of 9 credits/semester.
- Exceptions are made under special circumstances (e.g. student is graduating, or the appointment is ad hoc for the spring only due to another student leaving)

**Note:** Student support can only be made in semester-units due to administrative constraints

# Clarify TOEFL requirements for Graduate TAs

## **Rationale:**

- Current catalog text reads: “These [TOEFL 84 or IELTS 7.0] are the minimum scores for admission to WPI; higher scores are required for teaching assistants”

## **Proposed text:**

- Does not change admissions requirements
- Describes what is currently done (and has worked well for 15 years)
- Clarifies policy and procedure to help incoming students

# TOEFL and TAs: Proposed Policy

- TA minimum TOEFL is 100, with no subsection less than 20
- All new international TAs will be given the SPEAK test upon arrival at WPI
- Those students not scoring 54 will be given the opportunity to enroll in ESL class offered at the International House (and may still serve as a TA)
- Those TAs who do not meet minimum TOEFL and SPEAK test *and who do not enroll in ESL class* may not continue as TAs.
- Many years ago, 10-12 students/year in ESL. More recently, 2-6 per year.

Modify the description of graduate internships/co-ops, and add “opt in” course designators for programs wishing to offer this option

**Rationale:** Co-ops and internships at the graduate level benefit many students. The new description and course designators will facilitate student participation.

**Proposal:** Relocate and expand description of graduate internships and co-ops. Create two new course designators XXX 5900 and XXX 6900 that Departments/Programs can “opt in” to adopt if they wish to allow students to participate in co-ops/internships for credit (0 to 3 credits).

**Note:** The following sentence was deleted from the course descriptions after circulation of the two-week notice items: *“A final reflection piece describing the professional development resulting from the graduate internship experience is due to the faculty advisor-of-record via the CDC at the end of the internship. ”*

Clarify and adjust limits on the number of credits non-degree students may take prior to applying for a degree/certificate program

**Current Policy:** No more than 4 courses can be taken by students not enrolled in a degree or certificate program

**Proposed:** No more than 9 credits

**Rationale:** Courses is ambiguous, change to credits. Some certificates are only 12 credits. We want students to apply for something before they get too far in. Students who have applications pending may continue to take courses.



Create a new 1-credit course “ID 700” that carries ½ credit tuition, for students who have enrolled in all graduate degree credits to maintain full-time student status

### **Rationale:**

- Students must be registered for at least 1 credit during the semester they graduate. Currently students register for 1 credit of research, thesis, etc.
- This course allows a student to maintain “full time” status if they have otherwise enrolled/completed the required credits.
- The course also allows the Registrar to easily track those students who have registered for all required credits but are still actively working to complete them in subsequent semesters (not currently easy to do)