Graduate Council Meeting: Consent Agenda

October 3, 2019

1. Discussion
   a. Student Rule 10.4.2 Revisions

2. Consent Agenda
   a. MSCI 601: Contemporary Topics in Advanced Cell Biology I
   b. PHEB 621: Foundations of Maternal and Child Health
   c. RPTS 614: Research Methods in Tourism, Hospitality, Park and Event Management
   d. SCSC 628: Soil Mineralogy Lab
   e. WFSC 631: Ecological Applications in R

3. Programs
   a. CERT-MACH: Maternal and Child Health - Certificate
   b. DEN-ENGR: Doctor of Engineering in Engineering
   c. MS-HRMT: Master of Science in Human Resource Management

4. Special Consideration Items
   a. Biochemistry and Biophysics GRE Waiver
PROPOSAL TO REVISE  
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY  
STUDENT RULES

Instructions: One copy of this form is to be completed and submitted by the individual or unit representative proposing a change in the Texas A&M University Student Rules. Please use a separate form for each proposed change. If additional copies are needed, feel free to duplicate.

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY USING AN INK PEN.

A. PROPOSAL TO EDIT/CHANGE AN EXISTING RULE:
Rule Title: Grading ______________________________ Section # (example 27.1.7) 10.4.2 ______________
Proposed New Wording:
See attached

B. PROPOSAL TO ADD A NEW RULE:
Rule Title: ______________________________________ Section # (example 27.1.7) __________________
Proposed Wording:

C. PROPOSAL TO REMOVE AN EXISTING RULE:
Rule Title: ______________________________________ Section # (example 27.1.7) __________________

D. JUSTIFICATION FOR A, B OR C ABOVE:

Language is being added to 10.4.2 to articulate what happens when a graduate student repeats a course for a higher grade. The processes described are currently in practice, but not documented clearly for students to understand.

Per discussions held at recent Rules and Regulations meetings, language has been added regarding financial aid practices (provided by Delisa Falks) and F* grade policies (in consultation with Tim Powers)

PROPOSED BY:
Name Dr. Karen Butler-Purry ________________________ Phone # 979-845-3631 ___________________
E-Mail Address: klbutler@tamu.edu __________________ Department OGAPS ________________________
Department Mail Stop: 1113 ______________________ Date __9/26/19____________________

Committee Use Only:
Date of Action __________
Action: 
_____ Pass 
_____ Fail 
_____ Table 
Effective Date __________

Return to Dr. Anne Reber at anne@studentlife.tamu.edu
Chair, Rules and Regulations Committee
1256 TAMU
Or fax: (979) 845-3320
10.4 Passing grades for graduate students are A, B, C and S.

10.4.1 Grades of S or U may be assigned in certain officially designated courses. Graduate courses on the degree plan may not be taken on an S/U basis, except for courses bearing the numbers 681, 684, 690, 691, 692, 693, 695, 697, 791, or unless otherwise noted in the catalog. Graduate courses not on the degree plan may be taken on an S/U basis.

10.4.2 Only grades of A, B, C and S are acceptable for graduate credit. Grades of D, F or Unsatisfactory (U) for courses on the degree plan must be absolved by repeating the courses and achieving grades of C or above or Satisfactory (S). If a course has been taken more than once and a grade of D or F was earned and then repeated for a grade of C or higher, the original grades of D or F will be excluded from the GPA calculation for the degree plan (if applicable) and cumulative GPA, but remain on the student’s permanent record.

A course in which the final grade is C may be repeated for a higher grade. If the second grade is higher, the original grade will be excluded from the GPA calculation for the degree plan (if applicable) and cumulative GPA, but remain on the student’s permanent record.

Repeat grades and cumulative GPA for financial aid programs may differ from those listed above, based on the type of aid.

Rules related to F* grades and repeat courses may be found in Student Rule 20 under Sanctions.

10.4.3 Graduate students must maintain a grade point (GPA) of 3.00 (B average based on a 4.00 scale) for all courses which are listed on the degree plan and for all graded graduate and advanced undergraduate coursework (300- and 400-level) completed at Texas A&M and eligible to be applied toward a graduate degree. Those involving grades of W-drop (W), Satisfactory (S), Unsatisfactory (U) and Q-drop (Q) shall be excluded.

If either of a student’s cumulative GPA or the GPA for courses listed on the degree plan falls below the minimum of 3.00, he or she will be considered to be scholastically deficient. If the minimum GPA is not attained in a reasonable length of time, the student may be dropped from graduate studies. The procedures for dismissal are explained in the Texas A&M University Student Rules, Scholastic Deficiency/Probation, rule 12. Departments or colleges may adopt specific guidelines pertaining to scholastic deficiency or dismissal.
20.1.4.5 THE "F*" GRADE DESIGNATION

A student who is assessed a grade of “F*” shall have it documented on his/her transcript with the notation “FAILURE DUE TO ACADEMIC DISHONESTY” or other similar language approved by the Director for the Aggie Honor System Office. It is recorded by the Office of the Registrar immediately upon a finding of academic dishonesty. The grade of F* is intended to denote that the student has been penalized for failing to uphold the values of academic integrity at Texas A&M University. It shall be treated in the same way as an F for the purposes of calculating the Grade Point Ratio and determination of academic standing. A student with an F* is automatically on Honor Violation Probation.

20.1.4.7 REMOVAL OF THE F* GRADE AND/OR HONOR VIOLATION PROBATION

The student may file a written petition to the AHSO to have the grade of F* removed and permanently replaced with the grade of F. The decision to remove the grade of F* shall rest with the Director of the AHSO and is contingent upon the successful completion of the Academic Integrity Development Program (AIDP). The Director’s decision is final.

A student will remain on Honor Violation Probation until the F* is removed from the transcript. Additionally, the F* grade, or the F that remains when the “*” designation is removed, will not be eligible for any grade forgiveness or replacement action, and it must be considered in the calculation of a student’s Grade Point Ratio. An undergraduate student who receives an “F*” grade will not be allowed to remove the course from his/her degree plan until the successful completion the AIDP. Graduate students are not allowed to remove an “F” from a degree program, regardless of whether it was imposed for cheating or academic failure. A student who wishes to re-take the course may do so concurrently with the AIDP.

The student may file a written petition to the AHSO to have the Honor Violation Probation removed. The decision to remove the Honor Violation Probation shall rest with the Director of the AHSO and is contingent upon the successful completion of the Academic Integrity Development Program. The Director’s Decision is final.

There is a one-year time limit to complete the Academic Integrity Development Program. The one-year limit shall be calculated from the time that the sanction was applied, and will be the longer of one year past the original sanction date or one year past the date that the appeal is exhausted or finalized. In unusual circumstances, the Director of the AHSO may grant an extension of time.
Count of GR-Level Course C Grades Repeated & Excluded for a Better Grade 1987-2018
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<td>RPTS 614</td>
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# Graduate Council
**October 3, 2019**

**Program Report (New, Changes, Withdrawals)**

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MEMORANDUM

To: Graduate Admissions

THROUGH: Graduate Council

THROUGH: Dr. Karen Butler-Purry
Associate Provost, Office of Graduate and Professional Studies

THROUGH: Dr. A. Joshua Wand
Professor & Head
Department of Biochemistry and Biophysics

FROM: Dr. Tatyana I. Igumenova
Associate Professor
Chair of Graduate Admissions Committee
Department of Biochemistry and Biophysics

SUBJECT: Waiver of GRE requirement for applicants to the Biochemistry and Biophysics graduate program

The Department of Biochemistry and Biophysics would like to eliminate the GRE requirement for the admission to the graduate programs in Biochemistry and Biophysics. This request applies to the PhD and Master’s programs. The Graduate Admissions Committee voted unanimously to support this request.

It has become clear over the last several years that GRE scores are not predictive of future success in graduate school. Specifically, a recently published study concluded that GRE scores are poor predictors of time to degree or students’ overall success in completion of their PhD programs [Sandra L. Petersen, Evelyn S. Erenrich, Dovev L. Levine, Jim Vigoreaux, and Krista Gile. Multi-institutional study of GRE scores as predictors of STEM PhD degree completion: GRE gets a low mark. PLOS ONE, https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0206570]. In addition, taking the GRE represents a significant cost barrier for applicants from disadvantaged economic backgrounds, many of whom belong to groups under-represented in biological and chemical sciences. Several of our aspiration peer programs that have already dropped the GRE requirement are seeing significant increases in the number of applicants. Therefore, waiving the GRE requirement will enable the Department of Biochemistry and Biophysics to successfully compete with peer institutions for qualified applicants and increase the diversity within the applicant pool.