**Youngstown State University**

**College of Graduate Studies**

**Academic Policy Book**

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I. ADMINISTRATION OF THE COLLEGE OF GRADUATE STUDIES

**A. Dean of the College of Graduate Studies**

The Dean of the College of Graduate Studies is appointed by the Youngstown State University Board of Trustees upon recommendation of the President and is responsible to the President through the Provost. He or she holds office at the discretion of the President. He or she is the administrative head of the College of Graduate Studies and, with the cooperation of the deans of the various colleges, is responsible for the general supervision of the interests of the College of Graduate Studies in accordance with the policies and rules established by the Board, the President, and the College of Graduate Studies.

Among these duties are:

1. Encourage the development and maintenance of quality programs of graduate study;

2. Identify those faculty members who qualify for teaching courses that carry graduate credit;

3. Administer the procedures for admission to the College of Graduate Studies, the prerequisites for graduate study, the requirements for graduate work, and the counseling and registration of graduate students;

4. Assure that the candidates for graduate degrees are duly qualified for such degrees;

5. Supervise the graduate assistantship, fellowship, and scholarship programs;

6. Approve allocation of assistantships to the various graduate programs;

7. Stimulate, encourage, and coordinate faculty research and assist the faculty in developing grant proposals;

8. Develop an appropriate committee structure for the College of Graduate Studies;

9. Prepare and submit reports as requested by the President concerning the activities, affairs, and needs of the College of Graduate Studies; and perform such other duties as may be assigned;

10. Preside over Graduate Faculty meetings and attend Graduate Council meetings as a nonvoting *ex officio* member;

1. Serve as a liaison between the graduate faculty and the administration and keep the graduate faculty informed of the operations, policies, and progress of the College of Graduate Studies.

**B. Graduate Council**

1. Membership

Graduate Council consists of 15 members:

1 program director from each college

1 representative from each college's Graduate Studies Committee

1 at-large member from Education

1 graduate student member

the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies as a non-voting member

No department shall be represented by more than one faculty council member.

1. Elections

Only Category 1 members of the graduate faculty are eligible to be elected members of Graduate Council. Council members shall be elected to three-year staggered terms. The deans of the respective colleges are asked to run their respective elections for Graduate Council representatives the first week of class, and college graduate study committees are asked to select their representatives at their first meeting of the fall semester.

* + - * 1. College Representatives

An election will be conducted among the eligible program directors from each college that has a vacancy. An election will be conducted among the eligible members of the College Graduate Studies Committee from each college that has a vacancy.

* + - * 1. MemberAt-Large

A call for nominations will be circulated to all regular members of the graduate faculty when the College of Education has an at-large vacancy.

Elections are by secret ballot. All election results are to be retained for three years. Any ties occurring are settled by lot. Vacancies, if they occur, are filled by the nominee receiving the next highest number of votes in the election for that position on Council.

3. Organization

* 1. Graduate Council is convened by the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies and/or Council chair.
  2. The chair and secretary are elected from Council membership. Nominations and voting on positions of Graduate Council Chair, Secretary and Committee Chairs for the upcoming academic year will take place in the May meeting of each year. Any remaining open positions will be filled at the first fall meeting.
  3. Council establishes a regular schedule of meetings.
  4. A quorum is defined as a majority of Graduate Council members or representation from each college.
  5. The secretary of Graduate Council is also secretary of the Graduate Faculty.
  6. The Council chair consults the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies in preparing the agenda for each meeting.
  7. Council members chair Graduate Council Advisory Committees.
  8. In rare instances the Dean of College of Graduate Studies and/or the chair of the Graduate Council may need to convene Graduate Council during the summer term. The membership of the Graduate Council during the summer term will comprise Council members under summer contract when the meeting takes place and those Council members who volunteer their availability. A quorum will be defined as a majority of the Council members under summer contract or representation from each college.
     1. The E-vote procedure will improve efficiency by allowing the Graduate Council to conduct business including approvals at times when a quorum is not present for the Graduate Council meeting, or when deemed necessary to allow business to be conducted outside of the regularly scheduled Graduate Council meetings when appropriate.

The Graduate Council Chairperson (or a member serving in that capacity) may call for an e-vote when there are motions requiring a vote for approval and a quorum has not been met, or when synchronous close proximity interaction among members is not required to discuss matters to be approved. Adequate time will be allotted for e-vote responses to evaluate and respond to each motion. The call for an e-vote can be terminated upon the request of any council member.  A majority is required to pass/approve a motion.

The vote will be conducted using various technologies as appropriate. The Chair will call for an e-vote. The call will include supporting information and a time by which voting must be completed. The Senior Graduate Coordinator may facilitate the voting process. A tally of all votes (in favor, not in favor and abstentions will be reported to all members of Graduate Council.

1. Functions
   1. Review and make recommendations to the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies and/or the Graduate Faculty on policies and regulations of the College of Graduate Studies, including the composition, nature, and functions of Graduate Council;
   2. Review and approve/disapprove all new graduate courses and graduate programs, including changes in courses and programs;
   3. Review and make recommendations to the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies on nominations for membership in the graduate faculty;
   4. Make recommendations on specific problems the College of Graduate Studies operations properly brought before Council;
   5. Serve as a channel of communication between the graduate faculty and the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies;
   6. Serve as the executive committee of the College of Graduate Studies between meetings of the graduate faculty;
   7. Make such studies and take such actions as it deems necessary and proper to foster the development of graduate work of high quality at Youngstown State University.

**C. Graduate Council Advisory Committees**

1. Membership

Nominations and voting on positions of Graduate Council Chair, Secretary and Committee Chairs for the upcoming academic year will take place in the May meeting of each year. Any remaining open positions will be filled at the first fall meeting. College representatives to Council shall seek to identify individuals in their respective colleges who are interested in serving on the various advisory committees and shall recommend Category 1 or 2 full time faculty members of the graduate faculty to the various committees. Graduate Council Advisory Committee chairs shall have responsibility for appointing committee members from those who have expressed interest.

Final appointment of committee members shall rest with Council. The rotation of committee membership is recommended allowing for committee continuity and school-wide distribution. Unless there are special circumstances, the normal tenure of committee membership is three years.

2. Duties

Curriculum

This committee receives proposed curriculum and program changes from College Graduate Studies Committees and makes recommendations on changes to Graduate Council.

Graduate Student Recruitment and Retention

This committee provides advice to the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies on the recruitment and retention of graduate students.

Policy

This committee considers policy initiated by the Policy Committee, by the Graduate Council, by the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies, or by members of the Graduate Faculty; reviews existing policies; and recommends to Graduate Council both new policy and any necessary revisions in existing policies.

Assistantships Allocation

This committee provides advice to the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies for the allocation of graduate assistantships to departments.

Grievance

This Committee assists the University Grievance Committee.

f. Exceptions

This committee reviews and makes decisions on waiver requests. The committee is composed of the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies, Graduate Council chair, the Graduate Policy Committee chair, and the Graduate Curriculum Committee chair. The student may be required to present his or her case in person before the committee.

**D. Allocation of Graduate Assistants**

By January of each year college deans will be notified of the allocation for the year. The college dean will communicate the allocation to each graduate program director. **RENEWALS**: Appointments for Graduate Assistantships to be renewed for the summer, fall and spring should arrive at the College of Graduate Studies during January. Failure to renew the appointments at this time may result in a loss of funding for the assistantship. **NEW APPOINTMENTS**: Graduate Assistantship appointments received by May 1st will be processed by May 15th. Funding will be allocated to colleges based on the number of appointments received (up to each college’s maximum allocation). Note: The actual transfer of funds to departments will begin in July. Assistantships not yet appointed will be allocated by the Graduate Dean in consultation with the Assistantship Allocation Committee of the Graduate Council.

**E. College Graduate Studies Committees**

Each college will establish and operate a College Graduate Studies Committee to facilitate and oversee graduate programming. A quorum is defined as a majority of College Graduate Studies Committee members.

1. Membership

* 1. One graduate faculty representative, with Category 1 or 2 graduate faculty status, elected from each department/area offering graduate coursework. Faculty must be full time.
  2. The Dean of the college, who shall be a non-voting *ex-officio* member.
  3. One graduate student representative to be selected from within the college.
  4. The Dean of the College of Graduate Studies, who shall be a non-voting *ex-officio* member.

2. Duties

* + - * 1. To facilitate and represent the graduate faculty of the college in expressing and implementing policies and procedures of organized change in the furtherance of quality graduate education.
        2. To oversee conditions, requirements, procedures, programs, and policies involving graduate education within the particular college.
        3. To review all curriculum proposals and send approved proposals to the Graduate Council Curriculum Committee.
        4. To review all Regulargraduate faculty membership applications and send recommendations to Graduate Council.
        5. To carry out other functions assigned by the College of Graduate Studies through the policies in the *College of Graduate Studies* *Academic Policy Book.*
        6. To notify the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies of all Graduate Studies Committee meetings. (The Dean of the College of Graduate Studies is a non-voting *ex-officio* member of all College Graduate Studies Committees.)

**II. GRADUATE FACULTY**

**A. Functions**

The Graduate Faculty shall meet at stated times (usually once a year) or upon call of the President, Dean of the College of Graduate Studies, or chair of Graduate Council. Twenty-five members of the Graduate Faculty shall constitute a quorum. The Graduate Faculty shall recommend standards for admission to graduate studies, standards and requirements for the various graduate degrees, and rules and procedures to give uniformity to the quality of graduate instruction throughout the University. It shall make recommendations concerning curricular activities required for graduate degrees and make suggestions to the departments concerning courses for graduate credit. It shall encourage the development and improvement of graduate work and research.

**B. Membership**

The Graduate Faculty shall consist of those faculty and administrators who have met the College of Graduate Studies requirements for Category I, Category II and Category III. The President of the University, the Provost, the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies, and the Deans of the academic colleges shall be granted nonvoting *ex officio* graduate faculty status.

Administrators who wish to have voting privileges may apply for membership through the appropriate department at YSU following membership procedures.

Retirement, Resignation and Faculty Emeriti

Any full-time faculty member who retires from service and is, at the time of retirement, a Category 1 member in good standing of the College of Graduate Studies, shall be granted Category 3 Graduate Faculty status, if that individual is rehired by his/her department as Emeritus/Emerita to perform duties involving graduate students. This is contingent upon a letter of recommendation from the Department Chair to the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies. At the time of first renewal of the Category 3 Status, it will then fall upon the faculty member to apply to renew his/her membership in the College of Graduate Studies. Faculty who held graduate faculty status at the time they retired from Youngstown State University and were granted emeritus status by YSU who may be invited to serve as members of thesis and dissertation committees are eligible to serve as committee members without the need to obtain current graduate faculty status. It will be the responsibility of the dissertation or thesis chairperson to ensure that these invited members have appropriate education and skills to contribute to the committee and the scholarly work being conducted. Completion of the intent to complete a thesis or dissertation form indicating this person as a committee member submitted to the College of Graduate Studies is required.

Upon early retirement, retirement or resignation from the University, a Graduate Faculty member serving as the thesis or dissertation advisor for one or more students may remain the advisor for up to two (2) years after his or her change of employment status.

Graduate Faculty from Other Institutions and Experts

Graduate faculty from another institution or experts in the field of student inquiry who may be invited to serve as members of a dissertation or thesis committee need not be approved as YSU graduate faculty to serve as committee members. It will be the responsibility of the dissertation or thesis chairperson to ensure that these invited members have appropriate education and skills to contribute to the committee and the scholarly work being conducted. Completion of the intent to complete a thesis or dissertation form indicating this person as a committee member along with a copy of the faculty member’s curriculum vitae submitted to the College of Graduate Studies is required.

There are three types of membership affiliations with the College of Graduate Studies. They are:

Category I

Category II

Category III

1. Category I

For those full-service faculty who meet the specified criteria including faculty who may not have direct graduate program involvement but by virtue of research, scholarship, or grant activity serve to further the mission and goals of the College of Graduate Studies. New faculty may be eligible and should discuss with his or her chair eligibility to apply.

* + - * 1. Basic Requirements

Evidence of scholarship and professional development in the field or discipline appropriate to graduate faculty membership requirements established by the College Graduate Studies Committee. Effective November 1, 2016 all Category 1 are required to complete Responsible Conduct of Research Training to maintain their Graduate Faculty status. Submission of the certificate of completion to the College of Graduate Studies is required to verify completion of the training. Training is required to be completed every five years and will be required for renewal of graduate faculty status. Although RCR training is highly recommended for all graduate faculty members, Human Subjects training provided by CITI (current within two years) or Using Animal Subjects in Research will also be accepted as meeting this training requirement. The CITI training is available online through the Office of Research at: [**https://www.citiprogram.org/**](https://www.citiprogram.org/)**. Instructions to access the training are available at:** [**http://web.ysu.edu/gen/ysu/Compliance\_Human\_Subjects\_Research\_m971.html**](http://web.ysu.edu/gen/ysu/Compliance_Human_Subjects_Research_m971.html)**.**

b. Voting Rights and Committee Privileges

Full rights and privileges to serve in any designated area of graduate governance including, but not limited to, Graduate Council, graduate committees, and College Graduate Studies Committees.

c. Term

Five years and renewable.

d. Appointment

By Graduate Council (See II-D, Procedures to Acquire Category I Membership Status)

e. Academic Entitlements

1. To teach and supervise master's-level graduate students and to serve on or chair master's committees.

2. To teach and supervise doctoral-level graduate students and to serve on doctoral committees.

f. Standards for Category I Membership

1. Each College Graduate Studies Committee shall establish a Membership Standards Document for **Category I** Membership for faculty in their college. The College Graduate Studies Committees may use subcommittees to develop requirements when significant differences exist across the college relative to the nature of research/scholarship activities. Any revisions or amendments to the Membership Standards Documents must be approved by Graduate Council.

2. Each College Graduate Studies Committee shall place the Membership Standards Document on file with the College of Graduate Studies and with all departments in the college.

1. Advanced requirements for chairing doctoral committees shall be developed by faculty housing the program and approved by the College Graduate Studies Committee. Doctoral Committee chairs must meet these advanced requirements and be Category I graduate faculty members. Faculty members meeting these three criteria shall be eligible to chair doctoral committees when:

1. Recommended by the doctoral program department chairperson to the College Graduate Studies Committee.

2. Recommended by the College Graduate Studies Committee to the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies.

3. Approved by the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies.

2. Category II For full-service and part-timefaculty who have an area of expertise and are current in a specific area of graduate level teaching.

* + - * 1. Basic Requirements

Demonstrate evidence of scholarship and professional development path. Graduate Faculty may be approved with a master's degree plus 3 years of significant and relevant professional experience in lieu of terminal degree.

* + - * 1. Voting Rights and Committee Privileges

May participate fully in activities of College Graduate Studies Committees, Graduate Council committees, and vote in graduate faculty meetings. Part time faculty members are excluded/restricted from participation in college graduate committees as well as Graduate Council.

* + - * 1. Term

Five years and renewable.

* + - * 1. Appointment

By the Dean of College of Graduate Studies upon recommendation of the chair of the department and Dean of the college.

* + - * 1. Academic Entitlements

To teach and serve on master’s level graduate. Note: Category 1 is required to chair master’s committees and chair or serve on doctoral committees.

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3.Category III

For faculty of other universities or individuals from the community whose expertise may be appropriate to graduate program needs and who are working pro bono for YSU. Please see information under Graduate Faculty from Other Institutions and Experts for thesis and dissertation committee requirements

* + - * 1. Basic Requirements

Demonstrate evidence of expertise in the particular area they are to serve. Graduate Faculty may be approved with a master's degree plus 3 years of significant and relevant professional experience in lieu of terminal degree.

* + - * 1. Voting Rights and Committee Privileges

None.

c. Term

Five years (or less depending on duties/rule) and renewable.

d. Appointment

By the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies upon recommendation of the chair of the department and the dean of the college.

e. Academic Entitlements

As determined by the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies in consultation with Graduate Council.

**C. Procedures to Acquire Category I Membership Status**

The faculty member submits the application and supporting documents to the department chairperson via process maker.

a. In listing data justifying Category I membership, faculty must follow a standard format that meets their College’s guidelines. In regard to publications and other scholarly works, complete citation should be given following a bibliographic practice standard to the discipline. Each item should be identified as refereed or not refereed.

* 1. Data submitted must be pertinent to the discipline in which the faculty member is seeking Category I membership and pertinent only to the time since any previous application (usually five years).
  2. Faculty bear the responsibility for explicitly justifying the relevance of submitted data whenever that relevance would not be obvious to any colleague outside their college and/or discipline.
  3. Departmental chairs are strongly encouraged to explicitly link the standards of the college and discipline to the data submitted in making evaluations of faculty for category I membership.

2. The department chairperson submits the application and a recommendation for **Category I** Membership via process maker to the College of Graduate Studies Committee .

3. The College Graduate Studies Committee makes a recommendation based upon the Membership Standards Document of the college as filed with the College of Graduate Studies. The applicant shall be entitled to appear before the College Graduate Studies Committee. College Graduate Studies Committees are strongly encouraged to strictly enforce existing standards in evaluating faculty for category I membership.

4. The College of Graduate Studies will record the College Graduate Studies Committee action and forward approved applications to the Graduate Council members.

5. Graduate Council will review each application based on the Membership Standards Documents established by the College Graduate Studies Committees.

6. Graduate Council approves or disapproves the recommendation of the College Graduate Studies Committee. The Dean of the College of Graduate Studies notifies the applicant of the decision of Council. Faculty members may appeal decisions directly to Graduate Council.

**D. Procedures to Acquire Category II and Category III Status**

The faculty member submits the application and supporting documents to the department chairperson via process maker. The department chairperson approves the Request for **Category II and Category III** Faculty Status form along with all required documentation to the college dean via processmaker.

2. The college dean signs the request and forwards it to the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies.

3. The Dean of the College of Graduate Studies acts on the request and notifies the faculty member, the department chairperson, and the college dean.

**E. Reciprocity Policy**

Youngstown State University has entered into an agreement with the Northeast Ohio Medical University, University of Akron, Cleveland State University, and Kent State University regarding reciprocal recognition of Graduate Faculty and appointment policies.

**III. STUDENT POLICIES, PROCEDURES, AND INFORMATION**

**A. Admission**

1. Application

Admission the College of Graduate Studies is granted by the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies upon recommendation of the department in which the applicant wishes to do major work. Students in combined baccalaureate/master’s programs must follow standard procedures for admission to the College of Graduate Studies . Admission is required before registration in any course for graduate credit (also see Graduate Courses for Undergradu­ates, III-C-9).

The complete application for admission, including supporting materials, should be received by the College of Graduate Studies at least four weeks before the beginning of the term in which the applicant plans to register, or as required by the program the student wishes to enter.

International students must fulfill additional requirements for admission and meet an earlier deadline (See III-A-7).

2. Application Procedure

The Application for Graduate Program Admission is available in the College of Graduate Studies office. Prospective applicants should visit <http://www.ysu.edu/gradcollege> for more information about these options.

International students must apply for admission on the Application for Graduate Admission for International Students. It is currently available in hard copy form by contacting the College of Graduate Studies at (330) 941-3091 or graduatecollege@ysu.edu. Online applications are also available on the College of Graduate Studies website.

Students utilizing the online application are required to pay the admission fee by credit card or electronic check as part of the process. Paper applications are submitted with the application fee to the University Bursar. Applicants must send one transcript from every college or university attended, except YSU, to the College of Graduate Studies. Official transcripts must be sent directly from the institution to the College of Graduate Studies. Personal or unofficial transcripts issued to the student or those delivered or sent by the applicant instead of the institution will not be accepted.

Applications for admission cannot be reviewed until official transcripts of all previous college or university work are received. The applicant must see that the transcripts reach the College of Graduate Studies at the earliest possible date. The applicant should provide all the information requested in the first submission of materials. Omission of information on the application form will necessitate requests for additional information and therefore delay processing of the application. International applicants must fulfill additional requirements and meet an earlier deadline. As soon as possible after receipt of application materials, the graduate dean will notify the student of the action taken on the application and, if the student is admitted, will provide information on registration procedures.

3. Admission Requirements:

Requirements for admission to the College of Graduate Studies are:

* + - * 1. A bachelor’s degree from a college or university certified by a regional accrediting agency (e.g., North Central Association of Colleges and Schools) approved by the U.S. Department of Education
        2. A cumulative grade point average in undergraduate work of at least 2.7 (on a 4.0 scale).
        3. Satisfactory preparation for the graduate program in which the student wishes to enroll, as specified by the department of the program.
        4. A test of written/spoken English, which the University reserves the right to request, of any entering graduate student whose primary language is not English.
        5. Degree-seeking students having a cumulative undergraduate GPA below 2.7 must present a satisfactory score on the general test of the Graduate Record Exam, the Miller Analogies Test, or graduate-level subject specific exam as specified by the department of the major.
        6. Nine semester hours of graduate work at a 3.0 GPA from an accredited institution may be substituted for the GRE requirement for provisional admission status. *NOTE:* *Individual programs may have additional requirements.*

Once accepted for admission to the College of Graduate Studies, an applicant may defer admission one time within one year at no cost. The one year will be from the term and year initially selected. Additional deferral of admission or deferral beyond one year will require the applicant to apply for readmission and pay the current application fee.

4. Types of Admission

a. Regular

Regular admission will be granted to students who satisfy the admission requirements for the graduate program in which they wish to enroll.

* 1. Provisional

Upon recommendation of the program director and/or chair and subject to the approval of the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies, a student may be accepted with provisional admission if his or her undergraduate record shows slight deficiencies compared to the admission requirements of the program to which the student seeks entrance. Students who are admitted with provisional status because of undergraduate course deficiencies will be required to make up the deficiencies by taking the appropriate undergraduate courses. It is recommended that any applicant whose cumulative GPA is below 3.00 and also has repeated undergraduate courses take the GRE in order that the processing of the application is not delayed. Nine semester hours of graduate work at a 3.0 GPA from an accredited institution may be substituted for the GRE requirement for provisional admission status. Students admitted in provisional status may have no more than 9 s.h. of undergraduate course deficiencies. Students who are admitted with provisional status because of low test score(s) or low undergraduate grade point averages will be reviewed by the program director and/or chair when nine semester hours of degree-credit coursework are completed. The program director and/or chair will file an Action on Provisional Status form the College of Graduate Studies to request a change from provisional to regular if the deficiencies have been met and/or the student’s record justifies such a change.

c. Non-Degree

Non-degree status provides an opportunity for individuals who hold a baccalaureate or higher degree to enroll in graduate classes for professional or personal development, personal enrichment, or to explore the possibility of entering a graduate degree program without completion of the regular graduate admission process. Departments may require prior approval for non-degree student registration in departmental courses.

Non-degree applicants must meet all requirements for admission the College of Graduate Studies (minimum GPA of 2.7 at the undergraduate level, baccalaureate degree, and submission of all academic transcripts). Status as a non-degree student is not an admission to the College of Graduate Studies degree or certificate program. Non-degree students not seeking a graduate certificate must complete a non-degree application for graduate studies that indicates their academic area of choice. Non-degree students are required to pay the regular application fee. If non-degree students subsequently decide to seek admission to a graduate program, no further application fees will be assessed, but all required credentials must be submitted and the normal application procedures followed.

Non-degree students are not eligible for any financial aid (including assistantships awarded by the College of Graduate Studies). Non-degree students may seek advisement from the chairperson or program director in the academic area in which they have been permitted to take courses.

Students may only complete nine semester hours as non-degree seeking students. A maximum of nine semester hours taken as a non-degree student may be applied toward a degree program if accepted by the department in which the student wishes to earn a degree and if the department’s recommendation is approved by the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies. This transfer limit may not be appealed. Any additional coursework beyond nine semester hours in non-degree status will not carry credit toward a graduate degree. However, all graduate courses taken as part of a graduate certificate may be counted toward a degree program, if the student is subsequently accepted into the program and the certificate courses are applicable.

Students enrolled in certificate programs may not deviate from the courses required for the certificate. If they do, the additional courses will not carry credit toward a graduate degree. Non-degree students who are enrolled in or who complete certificate programs and subsequently decide to enroll in a graduate degree program must meet all admission criteria for the program in which admission is sought.

NOTE: Students who need to take more than nine semester hours in non-degree status (for licensure, certification, or to earn a graduate certificate, etc.), may reapply to the College of Graduate Studies for up to an additional nine semester hours in non-degree status.

f. Transient

Transient admission may be granted to a degree-seeking student who attends any accredited graduate college and who submits a Graduate Transient Student form, signed by the dean of the student’s home graduate college, showing that he or she is a graduate student in good standing. The form to be used in such cases may be secured from the YSU the College of Graduate Studies office. Under some circumstances, transient admission may be renewed for a second semester, but the graduate deans of both universities must approve the renewal. If a transient student later wishes to become a regular graduate student, he or she must be admitted to a degree program by following the usual admission procedures. An admitted transient student must meet all prerequisite requirements for any course taken at Youngstown State University.

5. Transfer Credits

Transfer hours from an accredited institution will be considered for acceptance at the time of application/acceptance to the College of Graduate Studies. After admission to a program of study, a student who wishes to attend another university to complete coursework toward a YSU graduate degree must complete the Request for Transient Status form available from the College of Graduate Studies in order to transfer credits to a YSU degree. The forms can also be found on the Graduate Studies website. Every transfer course must either replace a required course of the program or, if not a direct replacement, integrate satisfactorily into the student’s program. While transfer of a quarter-based course may generate excess semester hours, such hours may not count toward degree requirements unless they replace a complete course in the program.

An accredited institution is one that is approved or accredited by the appropriate regional accrediting agency (e.g., North Central Association of Colleges and Schools) for graduate-level work.

Credits for courses in which grades of S or CR were received will not be transferred. The num­ber of transfer credits to be accepted in each case will be determined by the graduate dean upon evaluation and recommendation by the department of the student’s major. It is the responsibility of the student to initiate a request for the approval of transfer credits. Transfer hours are not in­cluded in the calculation of the student’s cumulative grade point average.

**Military Credit**

Graduate courses approved by the American Council of Education to be equivalent to a graduate level course will be considered by the graduate program to determine if transfer credit will be granted.

**MBA transfer of credit**

The MBA program was approved to accept up to 14 hours of transfer credit from the Chinese University of Petroleum.

a. Workshops

In general, workshop format courses are not acceptable for transfer. Professional development workshops are not acceptable. However, if the workshop fulfills the following requirements, credit may be considered for transfer to Youngstown State University:

1. The workshop must be taught as part of a master’s degree curriculum of the university at which the course was taken.
2. The workshop should consist of a minimum of 12.5 contact hours per semester hour.
3. The workshop must include exposure to the disciplinary research literature appropriate to the course.
4. The workshop must include the opportunity for outside work, such as term or research papers or other major assignments appropriate to a graduate course.
5. Credits for courses in which grades of S or CR were received will not be transferred.

b. The following guidelines indicate the maximum credit hours of graduate work completed at other accredited institutions that may be applied toward a graduate certificate or degree at YSU, provided the student earned a grade of A or B in such courses:

* Up to 3 semester hours (4 quarter hours) for programs requiring 12-15 semester hours
* Up to 6 semester hours (8 quarter hours) for programs requiring 16-29 semester hours
* Up to 9 semester hours (12 quarter hours) for programs requiring 30 – 44 semester hours
* Up to 12 semester hours (16 quarter hours) for programs requiring 45-59 semester hours
* Up to 15 semester hours (20 quarter hours) for programs requiring 60-89 semester hours
* Up to 18 semester hours (24 quarter hours) for programs requiring 90 or more semester hours

6. Test Information

In certain master’s programs, test results must be submitted as part of the admission proce­dure. The Graduate Record Examination is available at Sylvan Learning Center locations. The Graduate Management Admission Test is available at Pearson VUE test centers; see www.mba.com/mba for more information. Arrangements for taking the Miller Analogies Test on campus may be made directly with the Testing Office, (330) 941-3175. Test scores are valid for five years.

7. International Student Admission

International applicants must complete an application for admission and provide all materials required at least four months prior to the semester they wish to be considered for admission. In addition to the regular admission requirements, the following must also be submitted:

a. A minimum score of 550 on the paper-based, 213 on the computer-based, or 79-80 on the internet-based (iBT) Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) administered by the Educational Testing Service (ETS) by graduates of foreign universities who are nonnative English speakers. (Scores over two years old at the date of the original application are not acceptable.) The College of Graduate Studies will accept the academic version of the IELTS (International English Language Testing System) as an al­ternative to the TOEFL exam for international students. (A score of 6.5 on the IELTS test equates to a 550 on the TOEFL. Proficiency may also be demonstrated by a minimum score of 77 on the Michigan English Language Assessment Battery (MELAB) administered by the English Language Institute, Ann Arbor, Michigan, or a letter of certification, as specified by the College of Graduate Studies, from the Youngstown State University English Language Institute stating that the applicant has completed the program of study and is proficient in English at a level appropriate to pursue a graduate degree and present an English language thesis if one is necessary as a degree requirement. Prior to full admission to graduate study, students may be tested and placed in special English classes, if necessary, to ensure an adequate level of English proficiency. (Note: Evidence of proficiency is waived for applicants educated in English-speaking coun­tries as defined in the YSU *Undergraduate Catalog* or for applicants holding U.S. Legal Permanent Residence for one year.)

b. Any applicant (including U.S. citizens) who attended a non-U.S. educational institution for 24 semester hours or less must provide a sealed certified/attested official transcript to the College of Graduate Studies.**\***

**c.** Any applicant (including U.S. citizens) who attended non-U.S. educational institutions for more than 24 semester hours or who earned a Bachelor’s degree (or its equivalent) or Master’s degree (or its equivalent) from a non-U.S. institution or where English was not the language of instruction is required to submit to YSU:

* an official course-by-course evaluation of each certified/attested non-U.S. transcript with Grade Point Average (GPA) equated to a 4.0 scale
* an official English translation of the transcript if the transcript is not in English via an approved evaluation agency

*International students attending a non-U.S. institution who apply for admission to the College of Graduate Studies prior to the completion of all bachelor’s degree coursework and the awarding of the bachelor’s degree will also need to request an evaluation of the final transcript as soon as all grades are posted. Proof of degree is required for admission to the College of Graduate Studies.*

The official transcript evaluation with a copy of the certified/attested transcript must be sent directly from a National Association of Credential Evaluation Services (NACES) approved agency to:

Youngstown State University

College of Graduate Studies

1 University Plaza

Youngstown, OH 44555

Preferred evaluation agencies are:

􏰁 Educational Credentials Evaluators (ECE) ([www.ece.org](http://www.ece.org))

􏰁 Josef Silny & Associates, Inc., International Education Consultants ([www.jsilny.org](http://www.jsilny.org))

􏰁 World Education Services (WES) ([www.wes.org](http://www.wes.org))

YSU will accept an evaluation from another NACES approved evaluator if that evaluator requires a certified/attested official transcript from the institution attended for the evaluation. For a list of NACES members, please visit [www.naces.org](http://www.naces.org).

Youngstown State University has no affiliation with the preferred evaluators. However, these evaluators are known to provide fast and accurate services to applicants.

\*If a study abroad student provides an official transcript from a regionally accredited U.S. school of record that documents the study abroad courses, no additional transcript is required.

For F-1 or J-1 visa certification:

c. For F-1 or J-1 Visa certification: evidence of financial support and sponsorship during the period of study at YSU, including documents of verification.

d. An international applicant who has attended another United States academic or language school must also provide a Visa Clearance Form from the last school attended.

While doing graduate work at Youngstown State University, all foreign students must enroll in a group insurance plan to cover hospital and/or surgical care. A plan is available to students at the University, but other comparable plans may be accepted.

YSU enrolls students in accordance with the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services.

**ELI Guaranteed Admission**

The application and supporting materials of an applicant whose language score is unknown, or less than that required for admission will be reviewed for admission by the appropriate academic program. Upon recommendation of the program director, academic dean and approval of the graduate dean, an offer of admission to the English Language Institute and future admission to a graduate degree program will be made. When appropriate, the admission letter will indicate that in addition to being admitted to the ELI program, the applicant will be admitted to the graduate degree program and the College of Graduate Studies upon satisfactory completion of the English Language Institute at Youngstown State University.

**Change in Requirements of Original Documents for International Applicants**

International applicants can be conditionally admitted to the College of Graduate Studies, based on scanned documents. Sealed originals will be required for regular admission.

**Change in Requirements of Final Certificates for International Applicants**

Provisional Certificates will be accepted **in lieu of Final Certificates** for international applicants in South Asian, and African markets

**Change in Requirements of semesters completed for International Applicants**

International applicants may be conditionally admitted to the graduate college based on (7) seven semesters of undergraduate study. The conditional admission is contingent on students finishing the degree, and providing us with a Provisional Certificate.

**B. Registration**

1. Advisement

Before initial registration, the student would be well advised to consult with the faculty member in charge of the program to which the student has been admitted or with an assigned advisor for advice in devel­oping a program of study that leads to the desired degree. The ultimate responsibility for selection of graduate courses, based upon the requirements of the student’s program as set forth in the *Catalog*, remains with the student. Continued consultation with the advisor is encouraged. Because of the nature of certain programs, an advisor may require consultation before each registration.

2. Registration Procedure

All Youngstown State University class registration takes place online through the MyYSU Portal (http://my.ysu.edu). Registration day and time are determined by the student classification and hours completed. Registration dates and appointment times for current students are avail­able on the MyYSU Portal.

Registration requires that the student agrees to pay all tuition and fees associated with the registration. Failure to withdraw does not release the student from his or her financial obligation incurred by registration, nor does withdrawal after the last date permitted by the *Schedule of Classes.* All significant dates are listed in the catalog and in the *Schedule of Classes* for each specific semester.

3. Change of Registration

Students may change their registration up to the last day to add a class. All dates are available on the MyYSU Portal.

Withdrawal from a course must be accomplished through the online registration system. Fail­ure to attend class or notification to an instructor is insufficient. A grade of F will be recorded unless a student officially withdraws.

4. Cancellation of Registration

The student who wishes to withdraw from all classes in a particular semester must also pro­cess this through the MyYSU portal (http://my.ysu.edu). If a student withdraws from all classes during the first two weeks of the semester, the academic record will contain the statement, “Student completely withdrew during the first two weeks of the semester.”

5. Minimum Registration Requirements

a. Students who have finished required thesis hours and have completed all course requirements but have not finished the master's or doctoral thesis are required to maintain current student status (enroll for at least 1 credit hour) in order to utilize University services such as computers, laboratory facilities, library, advisory assistance, etc.

6. Cross-Registration of Courses among Northeast Ohio Public Universities

Under specific circumstances, a graduate student may take one or more graduate courses at Cleveland State University, Kent State University, The University of Akron, Ohio University, or Youngstown State University without registering as a transient student at the university delivering instruction. The course should contribute to the student’s program of study and be unavailable when needed to complete the student’s program at the student’s home institution. The student must be in good standing (GPA > 3.0) and be within the time limits for completion of the program. The graduate program unit at the student’s home institution will establish a graduate special topics or independent study course identification capable of being tagged by the home university with a title that will correspond to the course title at the host university and with the initials of that university (i.e., CSU, KSU, UA, or OU). Registration for such a course is controlled by the home department and will be permitted only upon receipt of the Approval for Acceptance of Course Work at Northeast Ohio Public Universities form, which is available from the Office College of Graduate Studies. The form is also available on the Graduate Studies website. Any department that has no established special topics or independent study course may not participate in this cross-registration program.

**C**. **Other Regulations**

1. Time Limit

a. Master's Degree

All coursework (including transfer credits) offered in fulfillment of the minimum credit hour requirement for the degree, all comprehensive exams, and thesis (if required) must have been taken within the six-year period immediately preceding the date on which the last requirement is completed.

b. Doctoral Degree

All post-master's coursework, including transfer credit, must be taken within an eleven-year period.

c. Matriculation to Doctoral Candidacy

Doctoral students shall be granted a six-year period to successfully complete a general examination and acquire candidacy status.

d. Doctoral Candidacy to Final Dissertation Copy

Doctoral candidates will have five years from the acquisition of candidacy status to file the final dissertation copy. Failure to meet this time frame will result in cancellation of the candidacy. With the approval of the dissertation advisor and the College Graduate Studies Committee, the student may take a supplemental general examination to reacquire candidacy. If the supplemental general examination is passed, the student is readmitted to candidacy and must complete the dissertation within two years. The supplemental general exam may be repeated once.

* + - * 1. Extension of Time Limit

In special cases, the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies may grant an extension of the coursework time limit upon the written request of the chair or program director of the department of the master's or doctoral study.

2. Second Master's Degree

A student who has a master’s degree from Youngstown State University and desires a second master's degree must earn a minimum of 12 semester hours of credit in addition to the total that the student had when the requirements for the first degree were completed and must complete the requirements for another graduate program. Students with a master's degree from another university will be limited to a maximum of 9 semester hours of transfer credit.

3. Interrupted Enrollment

Students who interrupt their attendance for three or more consecutive semesters must apply for readmission as former students at least two weeks before the start of the semester.

Graduate students who fail to take courses or otherwise to pursue their graduate education for a period of one year will be readmitted only under regulations in force at the time of reapplication and after review by the department for approval of the readmission.

4. Academic Standards

A cumulative grade-point average of at least 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) is required for graduation. All graduate credit courses taken at YSU are included in the grade-point average calculation. (See III-C-10a). Good academic standing for graduate students is a cumulative grade-point average of at least 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) for all graduate credit courses taken at YSU.

5. Satisfactory Academic Progress

Satisfactory academic progress at the graduate level is maintained by satisfying the following criteria:

a. A degree-seeking graduate student must maintain a minimum grade-point average of at least 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale). Any course grade of D or F must be repeated and passed with a grade of a grade of C or better.

b. A degree-seeking graduate student must successfully meet the requirements, including the time requirement, of all comprehensive examinations of the degree program.

c. A degree-seeking graduate student must complete with a passing grade any thesis requirements (or the equivalent) of the degree program.

d. A non-degree graduate student must maintain a minimum grade-point average of 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale).

For degree programs requiring up to 39 s.h. for completion, a student may count no more than 6 s.h. of coursework with a grade of C toward the minimum graduation hour requirements. For students in programs requiring 40 or more s.h. for completion, no more than 9 s.h. of coursework with a grade of C may count toward the minimum graduation hour requirement.

6. Academic Suspension

A graduate student who is not maintaining satisfactory academic progress as determined by the graduate academic program director or department chairperson and graduate dean may be excluded from registration and dropped from the program in which he or she is enrolled. Such action constitutes academic dismissal from the College of Graduate Studies.

Academic suspension for a student with regular admission is automatic if

a. the cumulative grade point average is below the minimum after two semesters during which the student registered “not in good standing”;

b. the student fails to pass a comprehensive exam after three tries.

A provisionally admitted graduate student must maintain a minimum grade-point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale. A provisional student whose GPA falls below 3.0 will immediately be dismissed.

Any student in non-degree status whose cumulative grade point average drops below the minimum (3.0) will be prohibited from enrolling in further graduate coursework.

Registration for any session or continuous registration during a full summer counts as one semester for these purposes.

A graduate program may utilize additional academic standards to determine satisfactory academic progress and/or standards for academic suspension; however, such standards must be distributed in writing to all graduate students in the program and must be filed and approved by the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies.

*Readmission Procedures*

a. Under exceptional circumstances and with the approval of the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies, a program may readmit a suspended student. In such cases, the normal six-year limit on coursework shall be applied.

b. Graduate students suspended for failing to maintain satisfactory academic progress may appeal their suspensions within one year in writing to the Graduate Council. The decision of the council is final.

c. After a period of one calendar year, a graduate student who has been suspended for academic reasons may reapply to the College of Graduate Studies in order to begin a new degree program or to pursue studies in non-degree status. A readmitted graduate student is not permitted to register for any courses offered by the program from which he or she was academically suspended.

7. Full-Time Status

A full-time student is one carrying 9 or more semester hours for credit. Graduate students who com­plete less than nine hours per semester may lose eligibility for federal financial aid as a full-time student.

8. Reduced Load for Employed Students

The College of Graduate Studies recommends that the employed student carry less than a full academic load as determined in consultation with his/her academic advisor.

9. Graduate Courses for Undergraduates

The Application by Undergraduate to Enroll in a Graduate Course form is available in the College of Graduate Studies office or on the Graduate Studies website. Eligible students may choose to take such courses for graduate credit. Undergraduate students with a 2.7 may enroll in 5800-, 6900- and 7000- level graduate courses, provided the total schedule for the semester (including undergraduate courses) does not exceed 15 semester hours. Before registering for courses, the student must have the approval of the Graduate Program Director in the program where the credit will be applied, the course instructor, and the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies. The credit earned may be used for graduate credit at YSU only after the student is admitted to the College of Graduate Studies and the credit is accepted by the department in which the student continues graduate work. (Such coursework intended for graduate credit cannot count toward fulfillment of the requirements for a bachelor's degree at Youngstown State University.) The maximum amount of such credit that will be accepted at Youngstown State University is 9 semester hours.

Students in accelerated programs will be accommodated to allow completion of degree requirements as specified in the program curriculum.

10. Grading System

The following grading system is used in reporting a final evaluation of the work of graduate students in courses or thesis research: A, B, C, D, F. The grade point equivalents are 4, 3, 2, 1, and 0, respectively. A graduate student may not elect to take a course under the credit/no credit option.

a. D and F Grades

Grades of D and F carry no graduate credit but will be used to determine the student’s grade point average. Failure will normally be indicated by a D; a grade of F indicates that the student has not achieved even a minimum grasp of the essentials of the course. A grade of F can also result from failure to withdraw officially from a course. A student has the privilege of repeating a course once, but the repetition is treated merely as another course, along with the first, in calculating the student’s grade point average. Any course grade of D or F must be repeated and passed with a grade of A, B or C.

Upon transfer to a new graduate program, a student with concurrence of the advisor, program director and department chair, may petition to the dean of Graduate Studies for the exclusion from the calculation of the student's grade point average previous courses that do not apply to the new degree program. The grades will be removed from the GPA calculation but will remain on the transcript. In no case may courses be excluded from the calculation of the grade point average once a graduate degree has been conferred.

b. S/U Grades

Graduate workshops are graded on an S/U (satisfactory/unsatisfactory) basis.

c. I Grade

An incomplete grade of Imay be given to a student who has been doing satisfactory work in a course but, for reasons beyond the control of the student and deemed justifiable by the instructor, had not completed all requirements for a course when grades were submitted. A letter grade may not be changed to an I (Incomplete) after the term has ended and grades have been recorded. A written explanation of the reason for the I and a date by which all course requirements will be completed must be forwarded by the instructor to the Office of Records. This explanation will be included in the student’s permanent record, with copies to the student and department chairperson. For fall term courses, the final date to complete an I will be March 1 of the following term; for the spring term courses, September 1; for all summer term courses, October 1. With approval by the instructor and the dean of the college in which the course is taught, the completion date may be extended. Courses not completed by the appropriate date will be converted to an F. Department chairs are granted authority to convert grades of Iinto final grades in cases where instructors may have severed connections with the University or have been otherwise unable to convert the grades.

d. W Grade

The grade of W represents a withdrawal properly processed at any time from the end of the full-refund period through the last day to withdraw with a W (as published in the Academic Calendar for each semester). A grade of W does not appear on the student’s academic record if with­drawal occurs before the end of the full-refund period. A withdrawal made after the last day to withdraw with a W will be recorded as an F unless the withdrawal was the result of circumstances over which the student had no control as shown by evidence presented by the student in a petition to the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies. Any grade of F assigned because of absence may be reviewed upon petition to the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies. Where withdrawals change the student’s status from full-time to part-time, the student immediately forfeits any privileges contingent upon full-time status, and all interested parties will be notified by the appropriate university officials.

* 1. PR Grade

In the case of thesis work, independent study, and other courses where research or scholarship is still in progress at the time grades are to be reported, a PR may be reported in place of a con­ventional grade. The PR grade is intended to indicate that it is the nature of the scholarship rather than the student’s ability to complete the work that is preventing the issuance of a conventional grade. A PR grade must be converted to a regular grade prior to graduation. However, a PR grade can remain on the student’s permanent record if the course is not needed. A PR grade in and of itself will not prevent a student from graduating.

f. AU

AU signifies that the student was enrolled in the class as an auditor.

11. Grade Changes

Applications for grade changes may be secured from the Office of Records, must be completed by the instructor, and must contain the signature of the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies. All grade changes must be submitted by the college dean or instructor; they will not be accepted from the student. In no case may a grade be changed for the purpose of changing the grade point average of the completed degree after a student has received a graduate degree.

12. Intra-University Transfer

A student must request in writing a transfer from one graduate program to another. (A transfer is not complete until an advisor in the program to which the student is transferring has been appointed and has accepted the student as an advisee, and when the change has been reported to and approved by the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies.) In such cases of transfer, courses taken in the original curriculum that also apply toward the degree in the new curriculum will be accepted. The student's academic record and grade-point average will reflect all graduate courses taken.

13. Auditing Courses

A graduate student may register for and attend any course as an auditor. An auditor is not held responsible for the regular coursework, class attendance, and preparation of assignments and receives no credit for the course. The student pays the regular tuition, as well as any other applicable fees, for the course(s) audited. Assistantships and scholarships do not cover audited courses. Audited courses are carried in a student's load only for fee purposes. A student who has registered for a course for audit may not change that status to credit after the last day to add a class. An "AU" may be given only to a student who has begun a course as an auditor or who has changed status to that of auditor before the last day to add a class.

14. Foreign Language Proficiency Examinations

The Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures administers proficiency examinations in the following languages: French, German, Italian, Latin, Russian, and Spanish. The graduate student should consult the major department to learn specific degree requirements.

A grade of "pass" or "fail" on the proficiency examination will be registered with the College of Graduate Studies.

It is the responsibility of neither the University nor the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures to tutor students or to recommend tutors for these examinations.

15. Posthumous Graduate Degrees

A deceased student who was enrolled in an undergraduate, graduate or doctoral degree program at the University at the time of his/her death may be recommended for a posthumous degree by a faculty member, department chairperson, or dean of the appropriate college or academic unit. A recommendation must be in writing and proceed, respectively, for approval as follows: faculty member to chairperson, chairperson to Dean, Dean to Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs. The Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs will notify the Registrar if the recommendation is approved.

In order for a posthumous degree to be awarded, a student must be in good academic standing and have substantially completed the applicable degree requirements. Substantial completion means:

* For master degrees without a thesis requirement, the student must be within one semester of completing all coursework and degree requirements.
* For doctoral programs and master degree programs with a thesis requirement, the student must be within one semester of completing all coursework and degree requirements; and the student must have completed a full draft of his/her thesis to the satisfaction of his/her thesis chairperson.

If approved, the appropriate Dean will notify the immediate family of the student who may choose to have the diploma presented at commencement or in a private ceremony. If the diploma will be presented at commencement, it will occur at the next feasible commencement.

Diplomas for posthumous degrees will be identified as “Awarded Posthumously.”

16. Visiting Graduate Students

A visiting graduate student is defined as one who is completing graduate academic work at YSU for credit at another university. All visiting students shall be required to be granted visiting student status while engaged in academic work at Youngstown State University. Applications for visiting student status are available from the College of Graduate Studies office or on the website. Visiting student status shall provide access to the following campus resources (fees may be required): (1) a YSU identification card; (2) access to campus buildings and laboratories, including computer labs; (3) use of library facilities; and, (4) campus parking.

**D. Financial Assistance**

1. Scholarships and Grants-in-Aid

Graduate scholarships are available from the College of Graduate Studies for new graduate students accepted into a YSU graduate degree program.  To be considered, new students must have a cumulative undergraduate GPA of 3.5 or above.  All undergraduate coursework for the earned bachelor’s degree will be included in determining the GPA.

Each scholarship is renewable for up to 6 semesters if the student maintains a 3.0 graduate GPA and completes a minimum of 6 semester hours of graduate courses each fall and spring semester. Students receiving graduate assistantships or the College Credit Plus Instructor scholarship are ineligible for the Graduate Scholarship.

No scholarship application is required; however, this scholarship is competitive and will be distributed according to GPA until the allocation for each program is met.  Students should apply for admission early as funds are limited.  The award process begins in April for the following academic year.

2. Assistantships

Applications for assistantships must be accompanied or preceded by application for admis­sion to the College of Graduate Studies. All applicants and current students with superior credentials including first-year international graduate students may apply for gradu­ate assistantships.

a. General

The assistantship program is predicated on the idea that graduate students, given an oppor­tunity to assist the faculty, provide a service to the institution and also gain valuable experience through this work in association with the faculty. Appointments to assistantships are made by the dean of The College of Graduate Studies only upon recommendation by the student’s academic department. In those instances, in which the student indicates acceptance of an assistantship award after April 15, the student may not accept another appointment without first obtaining formal release for this purpose.

b. Eligibility

(1) Only students with regular status may hold assistantships.

(2) Normally, assistantships are awarded for a period of two semesters beginning with the fall semester.

(3) To remain eligible for the assistantship, an appointee must discharge his/her duties satisfactorily and maintain good academic standing.

(4) Graduate students who are in provisional status because of undergraduate coursework deficiencies cannot be appointed as teaching assistants until the deficiencies are completed. Such students can be considered for research appointments.

(5) International graduate students, who have been granted teaching assistants, including graduate assistants who are assisting with teaching duties, are required to demonstrate oral proficiency in English.  A minimum of 23 on the TOEFL or score of 7 on IBT will be considered satisfactory.   Students who do not achieve a satisfactory rating will not be permitted to teach, and will be assigned non-teaching duties (research, grading, etc.)  They must attend non-credit ELS tutorials designed to improve their oral proficiency.  The cost of the sessions ($25 each) will be charged to the TA’s home department.

Exceptions to this policy may be considered and must be reviewed and approved by the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies.

c. Procedure for allocation of assistantships

**RATIONALE**: To encourage early recruiting of graduate students at times when it may be more likely to recruit higher quality graduate students. An additional benefit may be to distribute graduate assistant processing to more appropriate times. This procedure encourages the allocation of assistantships to be more in line with the April 15 date specified in the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) Resolution Regarding Graduate Scholars, Fellows, Trainees and Assistants (see <http://www.cgsnet.org/april-15-resolution>, <http://www.cgsnet.org/ckfinder/userfiles/files/CGSResolution_Rev2014.pdf> for details).

**PROCEDURE OVERVIEW**: Assistantship allocations for Graduate Assistant (GA) and Teaching Assistant (TA) positions will be provided to each college in January. This procedure does not apply to grant-funded assistantships. The proposed changes are also not designed to inhibit colleges or departments from funding additional assistantships from funds not initially designated for assistantships.

**RENEWALS**: Appointments for Graduate Assistantships to be renewed for the following academic year should arrive at the College of Graduate Studies during January. Failure to renew the appointments at this time may result in a loss of funding for the assistantship.

Rationale: This will make processing more efficient. There is not a compelling reason for processing these during peak work times near the beginning of the summer and fall terms.

**NEW APPOINTMENTS**: Graduate Assistantship appointments received by May 1st will be processed by May 15th. Funding will be allocated to colleges based on the number of appointments received (up to each college’s maximum allocation). Note: The actual transfer of funds to departments will begin in July.

**The College of Graduate Studies supports the April 15th Resolution Regarding Graduate Scholars, Fellows, Trainees and Assistants of the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS)**:

Students are under no obligation to respond to offers of financial support prior to April 15; earlier deadlines for acceptance of such offers violate the intent of this Resolution. In those instances in which a student accepts an offer before April 15, and subsequently desires to withdraw that acceptance, the student may submit in writing a resignation of the appointment at any time through April 15. However, an acceptance given or left in force after April 15 commits the student not to accept another offer without first obtaining a written release from the institution to which a commitment has been made. Similarly, an offer by an institution after April 15 is conditional on presentation by the student of the written release from any previously accepted offer. It is further agreed by the institutions and organizations subscribing to the above Resolution that a copy of this Resolution or a link to the URL should accompany every scholarship, fellowship, traineeship, and assistantship offer. (2014)  
 [<http://www.cgsnet.org/april-15-resolution>]

*Note: That offers may be made prior to April 15th and students may choose to accept prior to April 15th. Students should not be required to accept an offer of an assistantship prior to the April 15th deadline.*

**REDISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS**: Requests for funding of assistantships will continue to be received by the College of Graduate Studies. After May 1st the funding for the remaining assistantships may be at some risk for redistribution. After May 15th funds for assistantships not yet appointed will be allocated by the Graduate Dean. Consultation with the Assistantship Allocation Committee of the Graduate Council will be utilized as needed. Note: The actual transfer of funds to departments will begin in July.

d. Duties, Requirements, and Remuneration

Graduate assistants may be assigned to instructional, research, and/or other academic duties as determined by the department in which the assistant is appointed and as approved by the dean of The College of Graduate Studies.

1. **Graduate Assistant (GA)** A GA is normally be assigned duties primarily focused on the conduct of research/scholarly activity.  A GA may be assigned teaching duties, but should not be the instructor of record.  Appointment is typically for the Fall and Spring semesters of an academic year.
2. **Graduate Research Assistant (GRA)** A GRA is only be assigned duties focused on the conduct of research/scholarly activity and will typically receive a twelve-month appointment.
3. **Graduate Assistant/Intern (GA/I)** A GA/I is a special category of graduate assistant designated to provide opportunities for university offices or departments, community companies or agencies, or other appropriate external sponsors to involve graduate students as academic assistants/interns in real life experiences related to their fields of study.
4. **Teaching Assistant (TA)** A TA will only be assigned duties focused on instruction and may be the instructor of record for a regularly scheduled lower division undergraduate class.

Note: Additional academic services to the academic program in which the student is enrolled may be appropriate for all assistantship appointments.

International graduate students, who have been appointed as teaching assistants, including graduate assistants who are assisting with teaching duties, are required to demonstrate oral proficiency in English. Students will be assessed using the speaking subsection of a standardized test.  For a TA, a minimum of 23 on the TOEFL is considered satisfactory;  a score of  7 is considered satisfactory on the IBT.

The Chair of the department will be responsible for assessing the oral proficiency in English. Students who do not achieve a satisfactory rating will not be permitted to teach, and will be assigned non-teaching duties (research, grading, etc.)  They must complete an English course or non-credit ELI tutorials designed to improve their oral proficiency.  The cost of the ELI tutorial sessions ($25 each) will be charged to the TA’s home department.

Hours: To remain eligible for the assistantship, an appointee must discharge his or her duties satisfactorily and maintain good academic standing. An appointee must maintain full-time enrollment (9 semester hours of degree-credit coursework per term for the regular academic year. In addition, students appointed as Graduate Research Assistants must also enroll in at least 6 semester hours during the summer term. With the advisor’s approval, graduate coursework that is not part of the graduate assistant’s degree program may be counted toward the 18-semester-hour minimum for the assistantship. Approval to carry more than 18 semester hours or fewer than nine semester hours in any semester may be granted by the dean of The College of Graduate Studies only upon clear justification from the student’s academic program department. (For a TA who is the instructor of record and has a teaching load of five to six semester hours, the minimum required enrollment is six semester hours, but the College of Graduate Studies must be notified of this). For a teaching assistant who is the instructor of record and has a teaching load of four semester hours or less, the minimum required enrollment remains at nine semester hours.)

Employment: Graduate assistants shall not hold other full-time employment but may accept occasional or temporary employment outside the University during the term of the assistantship, subject to the approval of the department chair or the program director of the department. Other employment on the YSU campus requires the approval of the dean of The College of Graduate Studies. No students are permitted to work more than 25 hours/week.

Faculty Supervisors: A faculty member within the department to which the graduate assistant is assigned will be designated to be directly responsible for the supervision of the assistant. The faculty supervisor will:

(1) Direct the activities of the graduate assistant.

(2) Evaluate the performance of the graduate assistant.

(3) Coordinate the graduate assistant's working time with his/her class schedule.

(4) Make every effort to assign duties that will provide valuable learning experience related to the student’s program of study.

(5) Provide the department chair or program director with an evaluation of the graduate assistant's progress and the quality of his/her work at the end of each semester, to serve as a basis for determining the desirability of continuing the appointment.

Stipends: Each assistantship provides a stipend. Graduate assistants may also be awarded a Graduate College Premiere Scholarship 36.0..

**Graduate College Premiere Scholarship:** Graduate College Premiere Scholarship is typically provided for 36.0 semester hours

The Graduate College Premiere Scholarship 36.0 provides:

* Up to 36sh of instructional fees during the combined fall and spring semesters and may cover up to 12sh for the summer term (for graduate courses required to complete a single degree program)
* Nonresident tuition surcharge
* Music performance fees (if applicable)

Criteria for Initial Award:

* Acceptance for regular admission to the College of Graduate Studies (Exceptions may be granted by the graduate dean)
* Cumulative undergraduate GPA of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale.
* Recommendation by the appropriate academic dean
* Approval by the dean of graduate studies

To Maintain the Scholarship:

* Student must remain in good standing
* Student must maintain a minimum 3.0 GPA on a 4.0-point scale for all graduate coursework
* Student must maintain enrollment of at least 18 semester hours of degree-credit coursework for the academic year and no fewer than 9 semester hours in each of the fall and spring semesters (Exceptions may be granted by the graduate dean)
* Making good progress towards degree completion, as determined by the department chair

Notes:

* Awards are subject to availability of funds
* This compensation may be subject to taxation
* Typically, the initial scholarship will cover Fall and Spring terms and the renewal of scholarship will include Summer, Fall and Spring.

Failure to meet any of the criteria to maintain this scholarship will result in termination of the scholarship.

Graduate assistants who have been admitted with undergraduate course deficiencies will make up course deficiencies by taking the appropriate courses at their own expense.

**Guidelines for YSU Graduate Assistant Leave (12/5/2016)**

**Effective Fall 2017**

Circumstances occasionally occur that prevent graduate assistants (including GAs, TAs, and GAIs) from performing the duties of their appointment. Consistent with Youngstown State University’s effort to support all members of our community, these guidelines seek to reduce the professional and personal stresses that can develop when graduate assistants encounter extenuating circumstances that warrant a temporary absence from their assistantship duties. The purpose of these guidelines is to outline how instances of personal and/or family illness, injury, childbirth or adoption, and other agreed upon and valid reasons for absence should be addressed by the unit funding the assistantship. These guidelines are intended to ensure that the graduate assistant support be maintained to the extent possible during an approved absence. In the cases of foreseeable events, the graduate assistant should inform his/her direct assistantship supervisor as soon as the circumstances and dates of needed leave are known. For unforeseeable events, notification should be made as soon as possible once the need arises. It should be noted that leave requests may be jeopardized or denied for reasons including, but not limited to, multiple leave requests, unsatisfactory performance levels, evidence of dishonesty, and insufficient documentation. Furthermore, these guidelines pertain only to issues related to the individual as a graduate assistant. There are separate attendance policies for the individual as a graduate assistant at YSU.

Short-term graduate assistant absences may be requested for valid periods of absences which typically span less than two weeks in duration. In these instances, the graduate assistant should make the request to his/her direct assistantship supervisor as promptly as possible, so that coverage of duties during the requested short-term absence can be addressed. Reasonable requests for short-term absences can typically be approved with all graduate assistant benefits maintained. The graduate assistant should work with the direct assistantship supervisor and the department chair to ensure that the time can be made up in a reasonable manner through creative ways such as working up to an extra five hours per week, working over university breaks, etc. The graduate assistants, the direct assistantship supervisor, and the department chair should agree to this plan in writing through the Short Term/Extended Leave Form (See Attached).

For needed absences from graduate assistant duties of longer than two weeks, a graduate assistant must formally request an extended leave. Long-term absences may be requested for a variety of valid reasons as previously noted. These types of requests should be reasonable and include written documentation related to the reason for absence (such as a letter from a medical doctor, legal documentation, etc.). The request for extended leave must be made to the chair of the department providing the assistantship in consultation with the direct assistantship supervisor. Whenever possible, the department chair should not reassign workload to another graduate assistant. Graduate assistants who are formally approved through the Short Term/Extended Leave Form will be excused from their regular graduate assistant activities for the duration of their approved leave. Although tuition remission will continue during the extended absence, graduate assistants will no longer receive the monthly stipend for the duration of their approved leave. The graduate assistant’s monthly stipend resume upon successful return to the graduate assistant position within the particular appointment period. Should the graduate assistant require additional leave time beyond the original agreement, this must be formally approved by the department chair in consultation with the direct graduate assistant supervisor through the Short Term/Extended Leave Form. Shouldthe graduate assistants be unable to return until after the original appointment ending date, there is no guarantee of the availability of a continued graduate assistantship. However, the graduate student would be considered for future graduate assistant appointments in a manner consistent with all other graduate students.

**E. Graduation**

The Application for Graduation must be completed by the deadline stated for each term. Instructions for the application process can be found at the following link: <http://www.ysu.edu/sites/default/files/2017/01/Apply_for_Graduation_Instructions.pdf> Submission of the graduation application is the student’s responsi­bility. There are two graduation ceremonies each year: fall commencement at the end of the first semester in December, spring commencement at the end of the second semester in May.

**F. The Code, A Handbook of Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Conduct**

Youngstown State University is an academic community dedicated to the advancement of learning and development of its students. The University supports the right of all students to be treated with respect and dignity so they can pursue their academic goals in a positive learning community. In support of this goal, the University is committed to a campus environment that values all individuals and groups, and to non-discrimination and equal opportunity for all persons without regard to sex, race, religion, color, age, national origin, sexual orientation, handicap/dis­ability, or identification as a disabled and/or Vietnam era veteran. The University is also commit­ted to the principles of affirmative action and acts in accordance with state and federal laws.

As a member of a higher education community, students have an obligation to conduct them­selves in a manner that is compatible with the University’s purposes as an institution of higher education. Each student is expected to be fully acquainted with all published policies, procedures, and regulations of the University and is held responsible for compliance with them. Furthermore, all members of the University community are expected to assume responsibility for creating an environment conducive to the educational mission and purpose of the University.

The policies and regulations as outlined in The Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Conduct (hereafter referred to as The Code) have been established to ensure a positive educational experi­ence for every student. As such, The Code serves as an official University document that outlines conditions and regulations considered essential to the effective functioning of the University.

The student conduct process at Youngstown State University adheres to procedural due pro­cess and is intended to be part of the educational process at the University. This student conduct process provides a forum for the impartial and expedient resolution of misconduct in the Univer­sity community and encourages students to live responsibly and be accountable for their actions. The student conduct process is based on the University’s commitment to developing integrity, respect, and responsibility among all students. The Code is available online at the YSU website or in hard copy from the Office of Student Life.

**IV. GRADUATE STUDENT GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE**

The Student Grievance Procedure provides the students at YSU with a formal channel through which complaints concerning academic matters may be heard. It creates a system whereby the student may receive assistance in a claim within the organization of the University.

Informal discussions between persons directly involved in a grievance are essential in the early stages of a dispute and should be encouraged at all stages. An equitable solution to the problem should be sought before the respective persons directly involved in the case have assumed official or public positions that might tend to polarize the dispute and make resolution more difficult. If a problem still exists after discussion, the student should bring the complaint to the attention of the Graduate Program Director and Department Chair. If the problem remains unresolved, students wishing to file a grievance should contact the Provost Office.

**V. GRADUATE CURRICULUM**

**A. Graduate Courses**

1. Types of Courses in which Graduate Credit May be Earned

a. 6000-7000 level courses, which are open to graduate students (also see Graduate Courses for Undergraduates, III-C-9). At least half of the credits applied toward the degree must be earned in 6000-7000 level courses.

b. 8000-level courses, which are doctoral-level courses.

c. Upper-division undergraduate swing courses (5800-level) in which the student may enroll for graduate credit. Those that are in this swing category are listed in the Courses section of the *Graduate Catalog*. Graduate students in undergraduate swing courses will be required to pursue the subject matter in greater depth than the undergraduate students. Only courses listed in the *Graduate Catalog* may be credited toward the requirements for a graduate degree.

2. Special Regulations

a. YSU graduate program administrators, faculty, and staff are dedicated to educational accountability. In order to promote such accountability and comply with accreditation requirements of the Higher Learning Commission and other accrediting bodies, all graduate courses offered at Youngstown State University will delineate knowledge, skills, diversity, and technology competencies to be acquired by students. Competencies will be aligned with internal standards (elements of college mission statements or conceptual frameworks) and external standards (professional specialty associations [SPAs] or accreditation bodies) in order to insure that course content is consistent with professional standards and best educational practices. In addition, select course content will be aligned with course assessments in order to insure that students are able to demonstrate abilities to acquire specified competencies. Faculty will collect and report assessment data to department and college administrators for analysis and evaluation. College of Graduate Studies administrators and staff will use findings to make evidence-based decisions for improving student performance and program/unit operations.

b. There shall be four tiers of graduate courses:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Category | Grading | Degree Credit | Course Approval Process | Typical Minimum Graduate Faculty Membership Status of Instructor |
| Regular Courses | A-F | Yes | Regular | Category 1 Status |
| Professional Development Seminars | S/U | Yes, with Advisor’s Permission as defensibly appropriate to the student’s degree program | Graduate Dean1 | Category 1 Status |
| Restricted Workshops | S/U | Yes, with Advisor’s Permission. Workshop degree credit not to exceed 6 SH total2 | Graduate Dean1 | Category 1, 2 or 3 Status |
| Inservice Workshops | S/U | No | Graduate Dean1 | Category 1, 2 or 3 Status |

1Upon formal request by the faculty member, approved by the department chair and the college dean prior to submission to the graduate dean.

2Departments may further restrict this below the maximum allowable as given here.

c. All graduate courses are to be offered on campus unless approved by the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies for offering off-campus.

d. All courses that a graduate student takes for graduate credit shall be taught by a member of the Graduate Faculty.

e. Workshop courses are those specifically designated as such in the *Graduate Catalog* or by Graduate Council and, upon approval of the graduate advisor, may be applied to degree work at a later date if regular admission to the College of Graduate Studies is obtained and if those courses are part of the degree program. Applications for the approval of workshops offered for graduate credit are available in the College of Graduate Studies office.

f. Conference courses at the graduate level may be offered, following the same regulations as those applying to undergraduate conference courses.

g. Graduate courses that have not been taught within the preceding five-year period will be dropped from the course inventory unless justification by the department to retain the course is submitted to and approved by the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies. The Dean of the College of Graduate Studies will report decisions to Graduate Council.

**B. Curriculum Changes**

1. Procedures

a. The program director or chair of the department desiring the curriculum change completes the Request for Curriculum Action form detailing the proposed change after appropriate departmental review. A course prospectus and sample syllabus must accompany the Request for Curriculum Action. Note: The Graduate Faculty cannot initiate undergraduate courses even if such courses are to be allowed for graduate credit. All such courses to be considered for graduate credit must be previously listed in the *Undergraduate Catalog* or approved previously by the Academic Senate or the appropriate curriculum committee.

b. The Request for Curriculum Action form and the course syllabus are sent to the Dean of the collegefor approval and then to the College Graduate Studies Committee**.** (In some colleges, the Dean may prefer to sign after the College Graduate Studies Committee has approved the curriculum request.) The forms are then forwarded to the College of Graduate Studies, which circulates proposed course or program changes to departments offering graduate courses and to the Graduate Curriculum Committee.

c. The Graduate Curriculum Committee will review the request form and the associated syllabus, address any and all questions or objections, and forward its recommendation to Graduate Council for final disposition.

* + 1. Graduate Council will consider the comments and recommendations of the Curriculum Committee and accept or reject the proposal. If the recommendation is ratified by Graduate Council, the proposed curricular change will take effect.
  1. Expedited approval process for technical or editorial changes in the graduate curriculum:

A college Graduate Studies Committee may, through its Chairperson, request “expedited” approval of a curriculum action that is principally editorial or administrative in nature. A request may be sent in writing to the Dean of Graduate Studies. Upon obtaining the advice and consent of the Chairpersons of the Graduate Curriculum Committee and the Graduate Council, the Dean is authorized to institute such changes. The normal curricular forms are completed and signed by the respective committee chairs. The circulation period and approval of Graduate Council is not required for such changes; however, the Council shall be informed of all such actions *ex post facto*. Any curriculum action that requires a change in the course description may not be considered for expedited action.

The following changes are included in the category “Technical/Editorial”:

* Any course-numbering change, except one that would move a course from one numbering series to another.
* Any grammatical error in course descriptions.
* The addition of additional sections requiring additional assignment of course numbers.
  1. All approved curricular changes will be submitted to the Graduate Faculty for information.

g. The Board of Regents must be informed of all approved curricular changes so that they may be included in the Regents Information System for subsidy purposes.

h. New graduate programs must be approved by the YSU Board of Trustees prior to submission to the Board of Regents.

2. Guidelines

Guidelines for the consideration of certain courses by the Graduate Curriculum Committee:

a. Departments not having a graduate program may propose graduate or swing courses.

b. Departments having a graduate program may propose graduate or swing courses that do not carry graduate credit in that department's own graduate program**.**

**VI. THESES/DISSERTATIONS**

1. **Oral Defense**

The oral defense is a public presentation and must be advertised within the college.

1. **Presentation**

When writing a thesis or dissertation, students follow the style manual used by the field, as determined by the department. It is the student's responsibility to edit the manuscript. The Dean of Graduate Studies shall reject manuscripts that fail to follow the rules of the appropriate style manual or that require further editing. The student must submit at least one copy of the thesis or dissertation and appropriate fees for binding. (The bound copy will be placed in Maag Library.) Students are responsible for meeting the requirements in the Thesis Guidelines available on the College of Graduate Studies website. Students must complete and submit the Originality of Thesis/Dissertation form after using iThenticate software at the time of submission to the College of Graduate Studies

All theses and dissertations will be submitted to OhioLINK.

1. Committee

The thesis or dissertation committee is composed of three or more members of the graduate faculty. The committee is responsible for approving the quality of the scholarly work, adherence to the particular style manual, and the quality of grammar, syntax, spelling, and punctuation used in the thesis or dissertation. The student should seek departmental approval of the thesis, including its format, as early as possible to allow ample time for revision. Students whose manuscripts require editing are encouraged to seek professional editorial assistance.

2. Committee Selection and Composition

Graduate faculty members in each program in which a thesis or dissertation is part of the degree program will develop guidelines for the selection of a thesis or dissertation advisor and the composition of the thesis or dissertation committee for that program. The guidelines will be submitted to the Graduate Studies Committee for review. The results of advisor and committee selection for a given student will be reported to the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies on a form located the Graduate Studies website.

**B. Deadlines**

It is the responsibility of the student and the student's advisor (or committee) to complete the thesis or dissertation requirements, including the defense, and to submit the approved document to the Dean of the College Graduate Studies. Effective fall term 2016, the deadline for presenting **one copy on regular paper and all signed signature pages on acid-free cotton bond paper** and the Originality of Thesis/Dissertation Verification form for approval to the Dean of College of Graduate Studies is:

**Fall and Spring semesters: Dissertations submitted by the Monday of the 14th week of class. Theses submitted by the Monday of the 15th week of class.**   
**Summer semester:** **Dissertations submitted by the Monday of the 10th week of the full term. Theses submitted by the Monday of the 11th week of the full term.**

**C. Multiple Authors**

A master's thesis or doctoral dissertation may carry no more than one author, unless multiple authorship has the prior approval of the graduate program director and/or department chair and the Dean of the College Graduate Studies.

**D. Musical Scores**

Music scores written by Theory and Composition majors are printed on 9 1/2" x 12" paper for ensembles with 4-12 instruments, and 12" x 15" for orchestral or band scores. The binding is such that the page will remain open when the score is placed on a music stand.

**E. Research Using Human or Animal Subjects**

Research using human or animal subjects requires prior approval by the appropriate committee (YSU Human Subjects Research Committee or YSU Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee). Assistance with the process of obtaining approval may be obtained from the Office of Grants and Sponsored Programs.

**VII. Graduate Program Review**

The College of Graduate Studies has a long history of program review and review of graduate programs remains a requirement of the Ohio Board of Regents and Higher Learning Commission. Most importantly this process provides a mechanism for assessment and continuous improvement for our graduate programs. In the fall of 2014, a task force (See Appendix) was assembled to focus on the program review process, and revise procedures to make the process as useful, effective and efficient as possible. The new format and procedures for review of graduate programs is a result of this faculty-driven work.

Evaluation and improvement of graduate programs is expected to be ongoing and continuous. The program review is a scheduled opportunity to review each program. Programs will be scheduled for review approximately every seven years (see program review matrix) unless more frequent review is determined to be necessary by the graduate program review committee. There are two main parts to the scheduled review process: 1) Self-Study and 2) Review of the self-study and evidence provided by a team of reviewers. In concluding the scheduled review process, a meeting of the review team with key program personnel is held to discuss the evaluation and clarify any part of the evaluation or evaluation process and issue a composite review of their evaluation.

Each department shall conduct a self-study of its graduate program(s) and prepare a Graduate Program Review Rubric. The Rubric should be submitted as a Word File or PDF to the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies. The purpose of the self-study is for the department to set forth its objectives, means and resources and to utilize appropriate data to appraise them. Items which are not mentioned but that are appropriate for a better understanding of the program under review should be added. Responsibility for the self-study and the report shall rest with the chair and/or program director, who should work in consultation with the graduate faculty in the department. The report should contain quantitative data to amplify responses, with specificity and self-evaluation recognizable as important characteristics.

If this self-study coincides with a self-study for external accreditation, those segments of the latter that are applicable may be presented as part of the graduate program review.

The self-study and a summary of the review and results will be maintained by the College of Graduate Studies. The self-study and review summary will be shared with the Program Director, Department Chair and Provost and other stakeholders..

A summary of the program review results will be shared with the Regents’ Advisory Committee on Graduate Study (CCGS).

Program Directors, faculty and other key personnel play an important role in the continuous assessment and improvement of graduate programs. Program directors and key personnel should complete the self-study by reflecting on and responding to the items in the Graduate Program Review Rubric and providing the evidence, or evidence and plan as indicated for each graduate program being reviewed. Completion of the self-study will meet the need of a graduate program review process for the Ohio Board of Regents (OBR), while providing opportunity to reflect on and strengthen graduate programs. The Examples of Evidence section that follows will support your efforts in completing this self-study.

**Self-Study**

1. **QUALITY of Program**
2. **Faculty level of productivity and professional commitment** is adequate given theirqualifications, scholarship, and other creative activity as determined by their discipline.
3. **Program graduates** since the most recent review are satisfied with the program and have demonstrated accomplishments in their field.
4. **Program Vitality** is evident through a professional learning community that reviews its curriculum on a regular basis and meets the degreed requirements of the profession.
5. **Program collaboration** is seen between the graduate program in my department and other graduate programs within the university and/or across the state and nation to support program effectiveness and contributions to the field.
6. **Continuous assessment of learning outcomes** **and analysis of data linked to these outcomes** is done for program quality and student learning, through both ongoing and aggregate review processes.

**B. NEED of the Program**

1. **The graduate program** within the department has demonstrated a clear **demand**

and/or **need**.

**C. RESOURCES to Support the Program**

1. **Essential resources** (both financial and material) are available to support and sustain the program.

2. **Diversity of program faculty and students** with the program is evident.

**D. Opportunities and Threats** that could impact the direction and therefore the status of the program. Reflect on the current position (that of strength or that of weakness) of areas A thru C as reported above. Do this with the intent of identifying opportunities that might strengthen an area as well as threats that could weaken an area. This analysis can be the foundation for establishing strategies, goals and actions to prevent, limit or close the gap between where the program is (desirable or undesirable) and where it might go (desirable or undesirable).

**Examples of Evidence for Review of Graduate Program**

Evidence is seen through the department’s analysis of various forms of data and/or documentation that align with the following Quality Standards as identified by the Ohio Board of Regents (OBR) and seen in the YSU review of graduate program evaluative rubric.

**QUALITY**

**A1 Faculty:** active scholarship, creativity and innovation activities, professional recognition, external funding, graduate faculty reviews as seen in vitae, program review requirements, College of Graduate Studies reviews

**A2 Student satisfaction and accomplishments**: graduate surveys, questionnaires or focus groups seeking opinions/facts related to the following;

* program marketing
* program support
* time taken to complete program
* employment rates of graduates in program
* success stories

**A3 Dynamic programming** may include interaction experiences between faculty and students beyond typical course encounters, conference presentations by faculty with graduate students, dates of curriculum reviews and changes, how program has met accreditation requirements

**A4 Program collaboration among and between university programs, and/or state and national programs**

* Collaborative grants
* Interdisciplinary courses within the program
* Interdisciplinary team-taught courses
* Graduate presentations at state or national conferences
* Collaborative publications between program faculty and/or students

**A5 Assessment of learning outcomes and analysis of data** for continual program improvement: external accreditation reports, university assessment reports, data collection methodology of key program assessments

**NEED**

**B1** **Need and/or Demand for Program** Enrollment numbers since the last review, graduate application ratio, extent that the program meets community and/or societal needs

**RESOURCES**

**C1** **Essential resources** may include a listing of resources provided for the students in the program including; library materials, labs, financial support as graduate assistantships, scholarships. It may also include enough faculty for programming, ability to market program, resources to help support distance education opportunities.

**C2 Diversity of faculty and students**: demographic information, search committee records

**Appendices**

**Graduate Program Review Task Force – Available at: http://web.ysu.edu/gen/ysu\_generated\_bin/documents/basic\_module/Graduate\_Program\_Review\_Task\_Force\_010814.docx**

**Graduate Program Review Rubric (completed by Program Director and Key Program Personnel) – Available at:** [**http://web.ysu.edu/gen/ysu\_generated\_bin/documents/basic\_module/GraduateProgramReviewRubric\_\_For\_Completion\_by\_Program\_022014.docx**](http://web.ysu.edu/gen/ysu_generated_bin/documents/basic_module/GraduateProgramReviewRubric__For_Completion_by_Program_022014.docx)

**Graduate Program Review Rubric For Review of Self –Study (completed by Graduate Program Review Team) – Available at:** [**http://web.ysu.edu/gen/ysu\_generated\_bin/documents/basic\_module/GraduateProgramReviewRubric\_For\_Evaluation\_of\_Self\_Study\_Individual.docx**](http://web.ysu.edu/gen/ysu_generated_bin/documents/basic_module/GraduateProgramReviewRubric_For_Evaluation_of_Self_Study_Individual.docx)

**Excerpt of the REGENTS’ ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON GRADUATE STUDY (CCGS) Guidelines and Procedures for Review and Approval of Graduate Degree Programs – Available at: http://web.ysu.edu/gen/ysu\_generated\_bin/documents/basic\_module/Excerpt\_of\_the\_REGENTS\_ADVISORY\_COMMITTEE\_ON\_GRADUATE\_STUDY.docx**

**Graduate Program Review Matrix (Schedule for Program Reviews) – Available at: http://web.ysu.edu/gen/ysu\_generated\_bin/documents/basic\_module/Graduate\_Program\_Review\_Matrix.docx**

#### APPENDIX 1

**Approval Process for New Graduate Program Proposals**

All proposals for new programs must be discussed with the department chair, college dean, and Dean of the College Graduate Studies prior to initiating any approval steps. The general format for review and approval of new graduate degree programs includes the following steps as specified by the Chancellor’s Council on Graduate Studies (CCGS). College of Graduate Studies curriculum approvals and institutional requirements are included. All documents are prepared by the department/group proposing the new program according to the directions and advice of the Dean of the College Graduate Studies.

1. Program Development Plan (PDP) – This is a short summative document that describes the purpose and reasoning behind any new program proposal and presents an outline of the basic curriculum and courses to be included in the degree. It also discusses the quality of facilities and human resources to be devoted to the program and compares the new program to those already in existence throughout the state. The full description of the PDP may be found at the following URL:

<https://www.ohiohighered.org/sites/ohiohighered.org/files/uploads/racgs/CCGS_Guidelines.pdf>

When a PDP has been fully prepared and reviewed by the Dean of Graduate Studies it will be presented to the Provost and Deans at Deans Council. After recommendation, it is ready for curricular review, it will be logged by the College of Graduate Studies and submitted to the appropriate College Graduate Studies Committee (CGSC). The PDP must be accompanied by a “Request for a Graduate Program Action” form available on the College of Graduate Studies website. Upon approval by the CGSC, the PDP will advance to the Graduate Curriculum Committee (GCC). If approved by the GCC, the program is presented to the Graduate Council (GC). Upon approval by GC, the program will be presented to the Youngstown State University Board of Trustees (as an information item not requiring a vote) and simultaneously advanced to CCGS by the Dean of Graduate Studies , who is the only person at YSU authorized to submit programs or communications to this group.

All PDPs received by CCGS will be transmitted to all CCGS member institutions for comment and review and all such statements will be communicated to the Graduate Dean of the submitting institution within six weeks of the receipt of the initial document. Such comments and reviews will be used by the submitting institution in preparing the Full Proposal for any new program.

1. Full Proposal (FP) – The contents and criteria for review of the Full Proposal is discussed on the Ohio Board of Regents website at:

<https://www.ohiohighered.org/sites/ohiohighered.org/files/uploads/racgs/CCGS_Guidelines.pdf>

Prior to submission to CCGS by the Dean of Graduate Studies , the FP must first undergo complete curricular approval as is done at the PDP stage. Simultaneously, the full proposal is presented as a Resolution for Approval to the YSU Board of Trustees for formal approval and vote of the Board and the Dean forwards the document to CCGS and we again receive comments and suggestions from the CCGS member institutions, which are used at the next step of the state approval process. Six weeks are allowed for the CCGS commentaries to be received at this stage of review.

1. Response Document and CCGS Presentation – After all comments pertaining to the FP have been received by the submitting institution, a Response Document is prepared by the proposers of the program as suggested in the CCGS Guidelines:

<https://www.ohiohighered.org/sites/ohiohighered.org/files/uploads/racgs/CCGS_Guidelines.pdf>

The Response Document is normally not more than approximately ten pages in length and summarizes any remaining questions or suggestions about the program. Each issue is addressed separately and a response of the proposing institution to each issue is made. In some cases, changes can be made as proposed by CCGS members’ critiques and in other cases, with appropriate justification, no changes may be made. The Response Document is communicated to CCGS by the Dean of Graduate Studies at least 5 -7 days prior to the formal presentation to CCGS, which will occur at a regularly scheduled CCGS Meeting, either in Columbus or by internet conference. The presentation is normally made by the authors of the program proposal, with supporting representation by the Department Chair and College Dean. In rare cases, when there are extreme questions regarding institutional support of the program, the Provost may also be present.

Upon completion of the formal presentation to CCGS, the presenting group is excused and the CCGS members discuss and vote on the program. The vote is by secret ballot and can only be for or against, no abstentions are permitted. The group will be informed immediately of the outcome.

1. Public Comment and Chancellor’s Approval – A summary of the CCGS approved/recommended program and any approval issues is posted to the Ohio Board of Regent website along with the Regents Staff recommendation for a specified period to allow public comment. The Chancellor then has the final authority to approve or disapprove the program, based on the CCGS and Regents Staff recommendations and any public commentary received. This aspect of program approval normally takes less than four weeks.

When all approvals have been received the program may be advertised and recruitment may begin.

Certificate Programs require only the submission of a PDP through the campus graduate curriculum processes. When complete, such programs are presented to the Board of Trustees for local approval. The state does not approve certificates requiring less than 21 credit hours as they are not considered degrees. Contact the College of Graduate Studies for additional information.

#### 

**APPENDIX 2**

**POLICY ON RECIPROCITY OF GRADUATE FACULTY**

**MEMBERSHIP AMONG PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES**

**IN NORTHEAST OHIO**

Recognizing the benefit to the graduate programs on each campus of sharing the faculty resources of the other three Northeast Ohio public universities, Cleveland State University, Kent State University, the University of Akron, and Youngstown State University hereby each agree to recognize as graduate faculty members those members of their faculty who have been duly appointed to the graduate faculties of their respective home institutions. Accordingly, these graduate faculty may teach graduate courses, serve on thesis and dissertation committees, and co-direct master’s theses and doctoral dissertations with the approval of the appropriate departmental graduate faculty and graduate dean. Faculty so appointed to these duties will vote only in matters concerning the thesis or dissertation committees to which they have been appointed and will have no other voice or vote in departmental or collegial affairs at the host university.

Each university participating in this program of graduate faculty reciprocity agrees to assist in the implementation and enforcement of policies regarding faculty roles and responsibilities of the host campus.

Approved by Policy Committee: March 5, 1996

Approved by Graduate Council: March 8, 1996

APPENDIX 3

