



EAST TENNESSEE STATE
UNIVERSITY

Graduate School Determination of Graduate Grade Point Average Policy

Policy Name: Graduate School Determination of Graduate Grade Point Average

Policy Purpose

This policy specifies the course grades included in determining the graduate grade point average (Graduate GPA).

Applicability

This policy is applicable to graduate students. This policy does not apply to students who are exclusively enrolled in Quillen College of Medicine for the M.D. degree or the Gatton College of Pharmacy for the Pharm.D. degree.

Responsible Official, Office, and Interpretation

The Dean of the Graduate School and Graduate Council are responsible for the review and revision of this policy. For questions about this policy, please contact the Dean of the Graduate School. The Provost in consultation with the Office of University Counsel, has the final authority to interpret this policy.

Defined Terms

A defined term has a specific meaning within the context of this policy.

Cumulative GPA

Cumulative GPA is the average of grades from all graduate coursework at ETSU.

Program GPA

Program GPA is the average of grades earned in courses included in the program of study for a specific graduate degree or certificate.

Term Combined GPA

Term Combined GPA is the average of grades earned in a given term.

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Policy

1. Graduate GPA.

Only coursework earned at ETSU will be used to calculate the Graduate GPA. Transfer credits from coursework earned at another institution will not be computed in the Graduate GPA.

The Graduate GPA is used for, but not limited to, determining a student's status with regard to:

- 1.1. Financial aid eligibility;
- 1.2. Graduate Assistantship eligibility;
- 1.3. Academic standing;
- 1.4. NCAA eligibility; and
- 1.5. Graduation.

2. Calculation of Graduate GPA.

When calculating the Graduate GPA, quality points earned in an ETSU course are based on the final grade earned in the course. The quality points and meaning assigned to each grade for the purposes of calculating the Graduate GPA are as follows:

Final Grade	Meaning	Quality Points
A	Clear Excellence	4.0
A-	Excellence	3.7
B+	Above Satisfactory	3.3
B	Satisfactory Performance	3.0
B-	Below Satisfactory	2.7

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C+	Above Minimum Passing	2.3
C	Minimum Passing Grade	2.0
F	Failing Grade	0

3. Coursework Not Include in Graduate GPA.

A grade of “P” indicates satisfactory completion of a Pass/Fail course, but carries no credit for the purposes of calculating the Graduate GPA and is not included in the calculation of the Graduate GPA.

The grades of “S” (Satisfactory Completion), “SP” (Satisfactory Progress), and “U” (Unsatisfactory) are given for Readings and Research, Capstone Projects, Thesis, and Dissertation coursework. These grades are not included in the calculation of the student’s Graduate GPA.

A grade of “S” or “P” carries graduate credit and indicates satisfactory completion of the course. Each program must specify the number of hours required for Thesis/Dissertation. Degree completion requires a grade of “S” on the most recent hours associated with Thesis/Dissertation or Readings and Research.

A grade of “SP” indicates progress toward project or research completion. Students who receive an “SP” must, in subsequent semesters (including summer), enroll in additional hours of Thesis/Dissertations or Readings and Research until the requirements are completed.

A grade of “U” carries no credit and indicates unsatisfactory progress toward research or project completion. Students who receive a “U” must enroll in the course the following semester, including summer. The “U” is equivalent to an “F”. The first “U” does not affect the Graduate GPA; however, all subsequent “U” grades will convert to an “F” and will be included in the calculation of the Graduate GPA.

A grade of “I” does not impact the GPA until the grade is either changed by the faculty member or converts to an “F” after one year; refer to the Graduate School Incomplete Grades Policy.

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4. GPA Calculations.

Term Combined and Cumulative GPA are calculated by the Registrar's Office at the end of each term and appear on the student's transcript.

Program GPA is calculated at the end of each term by the Graduate School. Program GPA and Cumulative GPA are used to determine if a student is in academic good standing per the [Graduate School Retention Standards Policy](#) and/or eligible for graduation per the [Graduate School Degree and Certificate Graduation and Transcripts Policy](#).

5. Academic Fresh Start.

For students with an approved Graduate Academic Fresh Start, the [Graduate Academic Fresh Start Policy](#) will govern how prior graduate coursework impacts GPA.

6. Repeated Coursework.

If a student repeats a course, all grades earned in that course are calculated in the Graduate GPA. Any additional grades earned when a course is repeated will not replace the original grade earned.

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Procedures

The procedure for calculating the Graduate GPA is as follows: (1) total all quality points earned by a student in all courses attempted as indicated in this policy (Total Quality Points); and (2) divide the Total Quality Points by the total number of credits attempted by the student that are permissible credits under this policy to be included in the Graduate GPA.

1. Examples of Calculated Graduate GPA.

1.1. Example of Graduate GPA with No Pass/Fail Coursework.

Course	Grade	Quality Points	Mathematical Operation	Credits	Mathematical Operation	Quality Points for Course
1	B	3	multiply	3	equals	9
2	A	4	multiply	4	equals	16
3	C	2	multiply	3	equals	6
4	C	2	multiply	3	equals	6
5	A	4	multiply	3	equals	12
Total	n/a	n/a	n/a	16	n/a	49

49 Total Quality Points divided by 16 credits = GPA of 3.06

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1.2. Example of Graduate GPA with Pass/Fail Coursework.

Course	Grade	Quality Points	Mathematical Operation	Credits	Mathematical Operation	Quality Points for Course
1	B	3	multiply	3	equals	9
2	A	4	multiply	3	equals	12
3	B	3	multiply	4	equals	12
4-P/F	P	n/a	multiply	n/a	equals	n/a
5-P/F	F	0	multiply	3	equals	0
Total	n/a	n/a	n/a	13	n/a	33

33 Total Quality Points divided by 13 credits = GPA of 2.53

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Applicable Forms and Websites

Authority and Revisions

Authority: TCA § 49-8-203, et seq.

Previous Policy: N/A

The ETSU Board of Trustees is charged with policy making pursuant to TCA § 49-8-203, et seq. On March 24, 2017, the Board delegated its authority to ETSU's President to establish certain policies and procedures for educational program and other operations of the University, including this policy. The delegation of authority and required process for revision to this policy can be found on the [Policy Development and Rule Making Policy webpage](#).

To suggest a revision to this policy, please contact the responsible official indicated in this policy. Before a substantive change to the policy section may take effect, the requested changes must be: (1) approved by the responsible office; (2) reviewed by the Office of University Counsel for legal sufficiency; (3) posted for public comment; (4) approved by either Academic Council or University Council; and (5) approved by ETSU's President.