



EAST TENNESSEE STATE
UNIVERSITY

Graduate School Academic Fresh Start Policy

Policy Name: Graduate School Academic Fresh Start Policy

Policy Purpose

This policy specifies the requirements for the Graduate Academic Fresh Start Program.

Applicability

This policy is applicable to applicants to the Graduate School. 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 Grade Point Average (GPA)

The average of grades from all graduate coursework at ETSU as described in the [Graduate School Determination of Grade Point Average Policy](#).

Good Standing

A Cumulative Grade Point Average and Program Grade Point Average of 3.0 (B) or higher.

Program Grade Point Average (GPA)

The average of grades earned in courses included in the program of study for a specific graduate degree or certificate as described in the [Graduate School Determination of Grade Point Average Policy](#).

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Matriculation Limit

The limit defined in the policy on [Graduate School Matriculation \(Time\) Limits](#).

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Former ETSU graduate students whose current Cumulative Grade Point Average is below Good Academic Standing and who could not achieve Good Academic Standing by the end of their first semester back are eligible for Graduate Academic Fresh Start. Graduate Academic Fresh Start provides an avenue for admission to their prior or to a new graduate program and omits coursework with grades of B- or less that adversely affected the individual's GPA.

A student may only be granted one (1) Graduate Academic Fresh Start. A student who was dismissed for academic misconduct is not eligible for the Graduate Academic Fresh Start Program.

1. Eligibility for Graduate Fresh Start Program.

A former ETSU graduate student is eligible for admission under the Graduate Academic Fresh Start Program if the individual has not attended graduate classes at ETSU for at least two academic years and has not previously been granted a Graduate Academic Fresh Start.

2. Application and Petition for Readmission.

A student applying for admission under Graduate Academic Fresh Start must follow all normal processes for admission to the Graduate School under the [Graduate School Admissions Degree and Certificate Seeking Students Policy](#). A former ETSU graduate student can petition to enter/reenter a graduate program by utilizing the [Graduate Academic Fresh Start Petition](#). The petition is reviewed and approved by the Dean of the Graduate School (or designee). The decision of the Dean (or designee) is final.

3. Unconditional Admission with Provisions.

If an individual is admitted under the Graduate Academic Fresh Start program, the individual receives an unconditional admission with provision(s). The required provision is that the individual must earn a final grade(s) of "B" or better in each graduate course taken in the first 12 credits. In addition, program admission committees may impose other provisions of admission subject to the approval of the Dean of the Graduate School (or designee). Requests for waiver of provisions set at the time of admission under the Graduate Academic Fresh Start will not be granted.

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4. Catalog of Record.

The student's catalog of record will be the catalog for the year of the Graduate Academic Fresh Start admission/readmission.

5. Transcripts.

The student's transcript will reflect all courses taken and grades received; however, previous graduate coursework that is not covered under the Previous Graduate Credits Section of this Policy will be excluded from the GPA calculations and earned credits calculations. The transcript will include one of the following designations: "Admitted under Graduate Academic Fresh Start" or "Readmitted under Graduate Academic Fresh Start," as appropriate. Once the transcript is changed, the change cannot be reversed.

6. Previous Graduate Credits.

At the discretion of the program admission committee, up to nine (9) graduate credits (or three courses) for degree programs or six (6) graduate credits (or two courses) for certificates previously earned at ETSU may be applied to the student's new program of study. These credits will be identified at the time of application and they will be included in GPA calculations. These credits will affect Matriculation Limits and cannot be considered for revalidation if they exceed Matriculation Limits. Thus, a student may need to retake a course if the degree is not completed within Matriculation Limits.

All credits taken as part of a previously earned ETSU graduate credential will not be removed from the GPA calculations.

7. Financial Support.

7.1. Graduate Assistantships.

A student admitted or readmitted under Graduate Academic Fresh Start Program may be considered for graduate assistantships if the student meets the eligibility requirements in the GA Handbook.

7.2. Financial Aid Generally.

This policy is independent of financial aid regulations. A Graduate Academic Fresh Start applicant should check with an ETSU Financial Aid counselor with regard to eligibility for financial aid.

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8. Accommodations.

To the extent possible, the Dean of the Graduate School (or designee) may grant, in the Dean's discretion, reasonable accommodations to the requirements of this policy.

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Procedures

1. Applying for the Graduate Academic Fresh Start Program.

To apply for the Graduate Academic Fresh Start Program the student must:

- 1.1. Submit a completed application, all required materials to the graduate program of interest, and pay the application fee by the program deadline; and
- 1.2. Complete a [Graduate Academic Fresh Start Petition](#) form.

The petition form requires a statement that addresses professional and/or personal growth during the time absent from Graduate School, as well as information that will inform the program of the current potential for academic success.

The petition form allows students to request up to nine (9) credits (or three courses) for degree programs and six (6) credits (or two courses) for certificate programs to be transferred from the prior graduate program into the new graduate program, subject to Graduate Coordinator approval.

2. Review of Graduate Academic Fresh Start Application.

After a prospective student has submitted: (1) a completed application and petition, and (2) supporting documentation required by this policy, the program admission committee reviews the documents and makes a recommendation to the Dean of the Graduate School or designee. Notification of admission or denial follows the same procedures as the [Graduate School Degree and Certificate Seeking Students Admissions Policy](#).

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Applicable Forms and Websites

[Graduate Academic Fresh Start Petition](#)

Authority and Revisions

Authority: TCA § 49-8-203, et seq.

Previous Policy: Formerly part of the Graduate Admissions Policy

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.