

# THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

## Graduate School Academic Policies

### Academic Advising

Each degree-seeking student is to have a faculty academic advisor throughout the period of graduate study. The faculty academic advisor plays a major role in working with the student to ensure a planned, disciplined, and well-supervised approach to graduate study. Depending on the program, this advisor may be the Graduate Program Director, a faculty member in the student's area of concentration, the thesis/dissertation advisor, or some combination of these individuals.

The relationship between advisor and advisee is reciprocal and requires mutual effort in the planning and execution of all aspects of the student's progress. The faculty academic advisor, as a mentor, is to be diligent in providing guidance by being available for regular consultation and by working with the student in scheduling regular meetings of the thesis/dissertation committee should this type of written work be required for the degree.

The student is responsible for actively seeking the guidance of the faculty advisor and, when appropriate, the thesis/dissertation committee members, for all matters pertaining to the student's progression through the program including degree completion.

### Academic Appeals

The University's commitment to the care of the individual person is the foundation for an appeals process that affords students the opportunity to have a review of circumstances that impact their academic standing or progress at the University.

#### *Student Rights in an Academic Appeal Process When a Hearing Will Take Place*

All students have the right to be treated with dignity and respect throughout any interaction with the academic appeal process and have the following procedural rights during hearings:

- Right to Participate: To be present throughout the hearing but not during the deliberation process of the hearing board
- Right to an Advisor: To be accompanied by an advisor, if desired (see section on rights of an advisor)
- Right to Review: To review all documentation concerning the potential policy violations during the hearing
- Right to Refute: To refute information provided by witnesses

The Graduate School recognizes three types of appeals.

#### 1. Appeal of Course Grade

Students who wish to contest a final course grade may initiate a course grade appeal. This form is the only approved process to submit this request.

Link to: Appeal of Course Grade Form

#### 1. Appeal of Non-Coursework Evaluation

Students who wish to contest an evaluation of their non-course academic performance may initiate an of non-coursework evaluation. This form is the only approved process to submit this request.

Link to: Appeal of Non-Coursework Evaluation Form

#### 1. Appeal of Finding of Academic Misconduct

Students who wish to contest a finding of academic misconduct may review the Academic Integrity Policy and submit an appeal of a finding of academic misconduct.

Link to: Appeal of Finding of Academic Misconduct Form

## Academic Appeal of Course Grade

### Purpose of the Course Grade Appeal

With very rare exceptions, the final decision on all grades rests with the professor. Students have the right to protection, through fair processes, against arbitrary and capricious academic evaluations. Arbitrary and capricious means that there is no relation between the grade given and the student's performance in the class and that a reasonable person could not find that the grade was deserved. Mere disagreement or dissatisfaction with a grade thus does not constitute a basis for an appeal.

In order to provide a forum for the fair resolution of academic disputes involving individual student complaints of the appropriateness of course grades and accusations of academic misconduct the following processes have been developed and will be applied to all cases involving students in the Graduate School.

### Appeals

1. Students retain the right to appeal the determination made at any stage of the process outlined above using the Academic Appeal Procedure described below.
2. The decision of the academic Dean's office is final in all cases except expulsion.

### Academic Appeal Procedure: #Course Grade Appeal

1. The student's first step in the event of a grade dispute is to confer directly with the instructor.
2. If the grade dispute is not resolved, a student must submit a formal request using the Academic Appeal Form: Course Grade Dispute for a grade change no later than 30 days into the following semester explaining in detail why the grade is arbitrary and capricious. This form is the only approved process to submit such a request.
  - a. If the final grade is assigned in spring or summer semester, the student must submit the appeal no later than 30 days into the fall semester.
  - b. If the final grade is assigned in fall or J-term, the student must submit the appeal no later than 30 days into the spring semester.
  - c. For a course offered by the School of Continuing and Professional Studies, the student must submit the appeal no later than 30 days after the final grade is officially posted.
3. The Department Chair and/or Dean's designee determines whether or not there are grounds for an appeal.
  - a. When the Department Chair and/or Dean's designee determines there are no grounds for an appeal, the student will be notified via Loyola email that a hearing board will not be convened.
  - i. If the student disagrees with the determination by the Department Chair and/or Dean's designee, the student may appeal to the appropriate academic Dean. In cases where the student is enrolled in a school other than the one in which the

course is taught, the academic Deans of the two schools will review the appeal together. The student's academic Dean's office will notify the student of the final decision via Loyola email.

- b. When the Department Chair and/or Dean's designee determines there are grounds for an appeal, the student will be notified via Loyola email that a hearing board will be convened.
  - c. It is up to the discretion of the Dean or his/her designee if a student may continue taking courses in a sequence where the course grade under review is a pre-requisite.
4. Each department will have a standing hearing board or have the means to constitute a hearing board for each dispute. Board members are chosen by the Department Chair and/or Dean's designee and will consist of three to five faculty members other than the faculty member involved or Department Chair. In smaller departments or interdisciplinary programs, board members may be members of different departments.
  5. The chairperson of each hearing board will be selected by the person who appoints the hearing board. The chairperson of the hearing board receives all requests for hearings from the department, sets the calendar, notifies all involved parties of the dates and times of hearings via Loyola email, and informs students by written notice of the decisions of the board.
  6. The hearing will be held within 10 business days of the receipt of the request for a hearing, if practicable. Hearings may be held virtually to accommodate committee members or parties to the appeal.
  7. The hearing will be private.
  8. Hearings for a grade dispute generally proceed according to the following format:
    - a. Introduction of all parties present (including witnesses, when applicable) and an overview of the hearing process.
    - b. Review of the Student Rights in the Academic Appeal Process.
    - c. Students should complete the electronic appeal form in advance of the hearing.
    - d. Hearing board chairperson reviews the nature of the grade dispute and the University policy potentially violated.
    - e. Witnesses are excused until statements are needed (if applicable).
    - f. Student(s) (and Instructor(s) when applicable) provide a personal account of the reported incident.
    - g. Student(s) (and Instructor(s) when applicable) have the opportunity to review all documentation relevant to the case that will be used by the hearing board to make a decision.
    - h. Hearing board members ask any remaining investigative questions to the parties present (including witnesses, if applicable).
    - i. Student(s) are provided a final opportunity to make any closing comments.
    - j. Instructor(s) are provided a final opportunity to make any closing comments.
    - k. Hearing board chair may excuse all parties for deliberation if needed.
    - l. Student(s) (and Instructor(s) when applicable) are notified of the decision and any related outcomes either immediately after deliberation or, when further deliberation is needed, typically within 5 business days in writing via Loyola email.
  9. Both the student and the faculty member involved may be accompanied by one advisor of their choice throughout the hearing process. The individual must inform the chairperson of the hearing board via Loyola email of the name of the advisor at least 2 business days before the hearing date.
    - a. The role of an advisor is to provide a comforting presence for the student and/or instructor. An advisor may only speak to the advisee. An advisor may not ask questions, interject, advocate for, or otherwise speak on behalf of the advisee. Even if an advisor is an attorney, the advisor may not function as legal counsel or "represent" an advisee during the hearing process.
    - b. If any advisor conducts themselves in a manner inconsistent with these guidelines, or if the advisor's behavior obstructs or interferes with the hearing process, the advisor will be warned by the board.
    - c. If the advisor's interfering behavior continues or if the advisor engages in a manner that harasses, abuses, or intimidates any other participant, the advisor will be excused from the hearing immediately.
  10. The student and/or instructor have the option of submitting relevant materials to the hearing board prior to or at the time of the hearing. Individuals in the hearing process have the responsibility of presenting truthful information.
  11. The Board may address questions to any party.
  12. The chairperson of the hearing board determines the hearing processes (e.g. location, order of proceedings, determining what evidence is relevant, determining if additional information is needed, etc.). The standard of evidence required for a board to determine that arbitrary and capricious academic evaluation occurred is known as a "preponderance of the evidence." This means the board must determine that it is more likely than not that arbitrary and capricious academic evaluation occurred based on the totality of available evidence.
  13. All decisions of the board must be determined by a majority vote of the hearing board members. A final decision must be rendered by the board by the end of the hearing process.
  14. The student and instructor will be informed in writing via Loyola email by the chairperson of the board's decision within 5 business days of the hearing. The decision is also shared with the Department Chair and/or Dean's designee.
    - a. If the hearing board determines that a grade change is not warranted, the chair of the hearing board will notify the student and the instructor involved of the decision.
    - b. If the hearing board determines that a grade change is warranted, the Dean and/or Dean's designee submits a grade change request to the Office of Registration and Records. The Department Chair and/or Dean's designee will notify the student and the instructor involved of the decision via Loyola email.
- Should the student or instructor wish to contest the hearing board's decision, an appeal letter to the Dean and/or Dean's designee within 30 days of notice of the hearing board's decision may be sent to the Graduate School.
1. The appeal letter must clearly identify the grounds for the appeal with appropriate supporting documentation. Mere disagreement or dissatisfaction with the decision does not constitute a basis for an appeal.
  2. The grounds to appeal the board's decision must include one or more of the following criteria:

- a. New substantive information is available that was not reasonably available at the time of the hearing and could substantially impact the original findings or outcomes of the case.
- b. A substantive procedural error or error in the interpretation of University policy occurred that denied the student or instructor the right to a fair hearing and decision.
- c. The decision (findings or outcomes) is significantly incongruent with the established facts presented at the hearing or the established Graduate School Academic Standards and Regulations.

## Academic Appeal of Non-Coursework Evaluation of Research and Scholarship

Students, faculty members, and administrators are strongly encouraged to attempt to resolve informally problems arising from academic matters. The Graduate School hopes that open communication between all parties and mutual confidence in one another's good will will lead to the resolution of problems in this manner. When informal attempts at resolution fail, the management of an academic appeal by a student in the Graduate School of an evaluation of research and scholarship outside of coursework is to proceed according to the formal procedures set forth below.

### Jurisdiction

Evaluation of the quality of graduate student research and scholarship, including the student's successful completion of academic degree requirements outside of coursework including but not limited to qualifying or comprehensive exams, the thesis or dissertation defense proposal, and the thesis or dissertation, is entrusted to Graduate Faculty.

In cases where the student believes that the faculty or faculty concerning evaluation was arbitrary and/or capricious, the following Academic Appeal policy will determine whether the student has the right to appeal the results of the evaluation.

This policy does not apply to:

- An appeal of a course grade (including a grade of NP on a graduate study or supervision course) shall be handled through the Graduate School's policy on Course Grade Appeal.
- An appeal of a charge of academic misconduct shall be handled through the Graduate School's policy on Academic Integrity.
- An appeal of a charge of concerning an allegation of misconduct in the design, conduct or reporting of research supported by federal funds shall be handled through the procedures described in the university's policy concerning misconduct in scholarship published by the Office of University Research Services.
- Problems arising from clearly non-academic matters fall within the jurisdiction of the University's Office of Student Conduct & Conflict Resolution.

In cases in which the jurisdiction of a matter is unclear or mixed, the Dean of the Graduate School the Vice President for Student Development, and or the Office of Research Services when appropriate will determine the appropriate jurisdiction.

This academic appeal procedure applies only to those cases in which the evaluation of the student in the accomplishment of a required milestone (comprehensive examination, research tool, thesis or dissertation

defense) in their academic degree progress outside of coursework, is alleged by the student to be arbitrary and capricious.

A decision is arbitrary and capricious if it is:

- In significant violation of clearly established written department, program, and/or school policies, and/or
- The result of improper procedures and/or
- Based partially or entirely on criteria other than the student's academic performance or quality of academic work and/or
- Based on standards different from those standards of evaluation applied to other students;
- Based on a substantial departure from announced standards of evaluation.

In cases other than those listed above, an evaluation of a student is not the basis for an academic appeal.

### Process

When informal efforts at resolution fail, students must first address the issue at the departmental or programmatic level. Each university unit has an appeal (or grievance) procedure, and this procedure guides the process. If a complainant wishes to appeal the decision reached at the departmental/program level, the complainant can request a Graduate School hearing.

### Graduate School Hearing

**Request for a Hearing:** The complainant is to make a written request for a hearing to the Dean of the Graduate School. Using the Academic Appeal-Non-Course Evaluation form, the request must specify the nature of the appeal and outline prior attempts to resolve the matter. The request must be made within thirty days of a decision reached at the departmental/programmatic level. If, upon review by the Graduate School, the appeal is deemed inappropriate for a hearing because it does not fall within the above standards, the process will not move forward. If the process moves forward, the Graduate School will request copies of all materials generated at the departmental/programmatic level, all materials deemed salient by the student, and all materials generated by the Graduate School as an intermediary between the parties.

### Hearing Board

The Graduate School will convene a hearing board, appointed by the Dean, consisting of at least three members, including one student. Only members of the Graduate School faculty or Graduate School students are eligible to serve on the hearing board. The hearing board will have a chairperson, appointed by the Dean, who is responsible for managing all procedures related to the hearing.

### Hearing Procedure

The purpose of the hearing is to ensure that all parties have full opportunity to present facts and their views to the hearing board and to allow the hearing board to assure itself that it fully understands the parties' views. The conduct of the hearing is informal. It is not bound by rules of evidence or court procedures. All matters of procedure are to be decided by the chairperson of the hearing board in accordance with the following guidelines.

The chairperson of the hearing board is to set the date, time, and location of the hearing. The hearing is to take place within 30 days of the request for a hearing, if practicable. All parties involved are to receive timely written notice of the hearing and the matters to be considered. All

supporting documentation relating to the matter must be submitted to the Graduate School's Associate Dean for Student Academic Services at least three weeks before the hearing. The Associate Dean will distribute it in a timely manner to all involved parties prior to the hearing.

The hearing and material submitted to the hearing board are private and all parties involved in the appeal are to consider their contents confidential. However, if a party disseminates their contents, the party's interest in confidentiality is deemed waived. Electronic recording of the hearing is prohibited.

A party may obtain the assistance of members of the university community (including, but not limited to, faculty, a Graduate Program Director, and/or staff of the Graduate School) in preparing written documentation or in presenting information to the hearing board, provided that the assistants are not attorneys. Individuals from outside the university, including attorneys, are not permitted to serve as assistants. The party must notify the chairperson of the hearing board of the names of the assistants at least one day prior to the hearing.

Each party may present information, both orally and in writing, to the hearing board. The Graduate School, if it has provided guidance to one or both parties and/or has served as an intermediary between the two parties prior to the filing of the appeal, also may present information to the hearing board. All parties are to be available throughout the hearing. Two formats for the hearing exist and are determined by the chairperson of the hearing board: all parties are present together during the hearing or the parties are heard separately at the hearing. Hearings may be held virtually to accommodate committee members or parties to the appeal. Each party may call witnesses at the hearing. The party is to submit to the chairperson of the hearing board the witnesses' names at least one week prior to the hearing; the hearing board will notify all parties of the names of witnesses in a timely manner prior to the hearing. The board may direct questions to any party or witness. All individuals presenting information to the hearing board have the responsibility of presenting truthful information.

After the hearing board has gathered all information necessary to understand fully the parties' views, the board will deliberate in private. In reaching its decision, the board will examine all documents and other exhibits and fully consider statements of all parties and witnesses. The decision of the board will be determined by a majority vote of participating board members.

The committee will provide their decision and justification to the Associate Dean within two weeks of the hearing. The Associate Dean of the Graduate School will notify the parties in writing of the board's decision within two weeks of receiving the committee's decision.

### Appeal of the Hearing Board Decision

A party may appeal the decision of the hearing board to the Dean of the Graduate School. The party is to request an appeal in writing within 30 days of notification of the hearing board's decision. The request must include an explanation of the basis for the appeal according to the following:

1. The appeal letter must clearly identify the grounds for the appeal with appropriate supporting documentation. Mere disagreement or dissatisfaction with the decision does not constitute a basis for an appeal.
2. The grounds to appeal the board's decision must include one or more of the following criteria:

- a. New substantive information is available that was not reasonably available at the time of the hearing and could substantially impact the original findings or outcomes of the case.
- b. The decision (findings or outcomes) is significantly incongruent with the established facts presented at the hearing or the established Graduate School Standards and Regulations.

The Dean will notify all parties of the request for an appeal and will provide an opportunity for a response. The Dean will obtain from the parties and the hearing board information necessary to consider fully the parties' views and the hearing board's decision.

The Dean may affirm, modify or reverse the hearing board's decision. The Dean will notify the parties of the disposition of the appeal within 30 days of receiving the appeal, if practicable. The Dean's decision is final in all cases (including dismissal from a Graduate School program), except those involving possible expulsion from the university (i.e., a permanent prohibition of enrollment at the university); the penalty of expulsion may be imposed only by the university's provost or senior vice president for health sciences.

The Graduate School retains copies of all documentation related to the management of appeals under its jurisdiction in accordance with the university's record retention policy.

## Academic Integrity Policy and Processes

Academic integrity is the pursuit of scholarly activity in an open, honest, and responsible manner. Academic integrity is a guiding principle for all academic activity at Loyola University Chicago, and all members of the University community are expected to act in accordance with this principle.

### Standards

Failing to meet the following standards is a serious violation of personal honesty and the academic ideals that bind the University into a learning community. These standards apply to both individual and group assignments. Individuals working in a group may be held responsible if one of the group members has violated one or more of these standards.

1. Students may not plagiarize. Plagiarism involves taking and using specific words, phrases, or ideas of others without proper acknowledgement of the sources. Students may not:
  - a. Submit material copied from a published or unpublished source.
  - b. Submit material that is not cited appropriately.
  - c. Use another person's unpublished work or examination material.
  - d. Allow or pay another party to prepare or write an assignment.
  - e. Purchase, acquire, or use a pre-written assignment for credit.
  - f. Use generative artificial intelligence to assist or write assignments without prior permission of the faculty.
- g. Students may not submit the same work for credit for more than one assignment (known as self-plagiarism).
- h. If a student plans to submit work with similar or overlapping content two or more times for any purpose, the student should consult with all instructors prior to submission of the work to make certain that such submission will not violate this standard.
2. Students may not fabricate data. All experimental data, observations, interviews, statistical surveys, and other information collected and reported as part of academic work must be authentic. Any alteration, e.g., the removal of statistical outliers, must be clearly documented. Data must not be falsified in any way.
3. Students may not collude.



- a. Students may not work with others on any exam, assignment or portion of an assignment without permission from the faculty.
- b. Students' work with one another on an exam or assignments may not exceed the terms of their instructors' directions for collaboration as part of the assignment.
- c. Students may not use work submitted by another student in a previous semester of a course.
4. Students may not cheat.
  - a. Students may not obtain, distribute, or communicate examination materials prior to the scheduled examination without the consent of the faculty.
  - b. Students may not take an examination by proxy. Taking or attempting to take an exam for someone else is a violation by both the student enrolled in the course and the proxy.
  - c. Students may not attempt to change answers after an examination or an assignment has been submitted.
  - d. Students may not falsify medical or other documents for any reason.
  - e. Students may not use unauthorized study aids in an exam. Examples include, but are not limited to:
    - i. Bringing notes into an exam that does not allow outside materials.
    - ii. Programming equations into a calculator when the faculty has indicated that students are to be tested on the recall of those same equations.
    - iii. Using any electronic device that allows students to look up, translate, calculate, or communicate information with someone else.
5. Students may not facilitate academic misconduct.

Graduate student responsibilities regarding academic integrity extend outside the classroom to scholarship, research, and teaching. As such, graduate students are also subject to the following standards:

1. Original Research. Thesis and dissertation work is guided by the expectation of making an original contribution to the field. The determination of what constitutes "original research" is made by the thesis/dissertation committee and the academic unit.
2. Research Procedures. Data misrepresentation or fabrication are clearly unethical. Ownership of data and programs and privileged information and confidentiality of data need to be clarified and respected by all those involved in the research process.
3. Authorship. In all cases of joint authorship, individuals working together should establish ahead of time the criteria for their co-authorship. Final determination of authorship should reflect effort and contribution, not rank or status. Dissertations and theses may not be co-authored.
4. Copyright. Laws of the United States and the university need to be respected. Faculty and students are responsible for knowledge and implementation of university policy in this area.
5. Teaching. Intellectual honesty characterizes the teaching endeavor. Instructors have the responsibility of clearly stating at the beginning of a course any and all responsibilities of the course and specifying in percentages how the final grade is to be calculated. Furthermore, instructors will inform themselves of appropriate university guidelines for the composition of course syllabi and ground rules.

## Sanctions

Faculty are responsible for determining the sanctions for academic misconduct in the course sections they teach and students they mentor.

Sanctions are assigned on a case-by-case basis while considering precedent and the following standards below. Academic deans may add to or elevate the initial sanctions assigned by faculty based on the student's prior academic misconduct history:

- the context and seriousness of the violation
- the student's demonstrated commitment not to engage in the same behavior in the future; and
- sanctions that appropriately foster accountability for one's behavior and prevent recurrence of similar behaviors

Below is a list of commonly assigned sanctions and faculty members may choose from this entire list:

### 1. Educational Experiences

Educational experiences provide space for students to reflect upon their conduct; to identify how their action harmed themselves, others, and the community; and/or to explore why such conduct is unacceptable.

Educational experiences or projects may include:

1. Attendance and participation at a required meeting, workshop, special project, or other initiative.
2. Completing an online tutorial focused on academic integrity.
3. A written reflection about a specific topic or issue.
4. Resubmission of the assignment or exam for partial credit.
5. A required meeting with the appropriate dean to discuss the misconduct and the consequences.
6. Completing restorative service hours and/or a Values Workshop.

Deadlines for educational experiences may vary.

### 2. Failing Grade on the assignment

A letter grade of F or zero points will be issued for the assignment or examination.

### 3. Failing Grade in a course, comprehensive examination, proposal or final defense of thesis or dissertation.

A letter grade of F will be issued for the course or milestone where academic misconduct occurred.

### 4. University Suspension - may only be determined by the student's academic dean's office.

University suspension involves the temporary removal of the student from the University for a specified period of time with the understanding the student may be allowed to return to the University at the completion of the suspension period after having satisfied any accompanying conditions. The Academic Dean's office may consider suspension as an elevated sanction.

Suspension from the University further entails being withdrawn from all enrolled courses (resulting in "W" grades) restriction from visiting the University premises except when engaged in official business approved by the Office of the Provost. Visiting the University premises without gaining approval may result in arrest. Students suspended from the University remain responsible for tuition and fees. Students suspended from the University also must forfeit their Loyola ID (Campus Card) and turn it in to Campus Safety. University suspension may also include any other disciplinary action that is judged to be of value to the student.

Persons notified of a student's suspension may include The Office of the Provost, the Office of Registration and Records, the Bursar, the Office of the Dean of Students and their designees, Campus Safety, or other appropriate personnel at the discretion of the Office of the Provost. Suspended students may not study abroad or travel with the University and may not be approved to study abroad until 90 days after their suspension period has ended. University suspension is typically assigned for a minimum of the rest of the semester and may last any number of years.

When a suspension is over and the student has completed any conditions accompanying the suspension, the student must contact their academic dean's office requesting reinstatement and providing documentation demonstrating that the student has satisfied the terms of the suspension (if applicable). The Academic Dean's office may require a meeting with the student before permitting re-enrollment. The student may re-enroll at the University only after the academic dean's office has made an affirmative decision, notified the student, and released the registration hold on the student's University account. If the suspension is for a period of one fall or spring semester, the student will return under the same catalog requirements that were in place for their declared degree plan at the time of suspension. If the suspension is for a period longer than one fall or spring semester, the student will need to reapply to the university through the appropriate admission's office.

#### 5. University Expulsion

An academic dean may recommend a sanction of University Expulsion to the Provost. Expulsion from the University is the most serious University disciplinary action and means the permanent exclusion of the student from the University. Only the Provost may impose the sanction of expulsion as recommended by a Dean. The Provost's decision is final. A student is not eligible to reapply or be readmitted to any other programs at Loyola University Chicago following expulsion.

Expulsion may include: forfeiture of all rights and degrees not actually conferred at the time of the expulsion; permanent notation of the expulsion on the student's academic record; withdrawal from all courses (resulting in "W" grades). Students expelled from the University remain responsible for tuition and fees. Students expelled from the University also must forfeit their Loyola ID (Campus Card) and turn it in to Campus Safety. Any student expelled from the University are not permitted to visit the University premises except when engaged in official business approved in advance and in writing by the Office of the Provost or Campus Safety. Visiting the University premises without gaining approval in advance may result in arrest.

Persons notified of a student's expulsion may include, the Office of the Dean of Students and their designees, the Office of Registration and Records, the Bursar, Campus Safety, or other appropriate personnel at the discretion of the Office of the Provost.

### Process

1. Faculty will gather the appropriate information and documentation when they suspect an instance of academic misconduct has occurred. The standard of evidence required to determine responsibility is known as a "preponderance of the evidence." This means the faculty member(s) must determine that it is more likely

than not that an alleged violation occurred based on the totality of available evidence.

2. If faculty conclude an instance of academic misconduct has occurred, then they will determine the appropriate sanction(s) as it relates to the charge and in accordance with the procedures in Graduate School's Academic Standards and Regulations.
3. Faculty will notify the student of their findings and sanction. Faculty should allow the student an opportunity to respond before reporting the incident.
4. If after talking with the student or the student fails to respond to the faculty's outreach within two business days and faculty have determined that academic misconduct has occurred, faculty will then report the instance of academic misconduct, including supporting documentation, to the Graduate Program Director, Department Chair and the student's Academic Dean's office.
5. The student's academic Dean's office will notify the student that the instance of academic misconduct has been reported. This instance will also be documented in the University's centralized database.
  - The initial sanction(s) determined by the faculty may be reviewed by the academic Dean's office.
  - The final sanction(s) will be included in the notification.
6. Incident reports and supporting materials regarding the academic misconduct are part of the student's academic record.

### Appeals

Students retain the right to appeal the determination made at any stage of the process outlined above using the Appeal Procedure described below. The decision of the Academic Dean's office is final in all cases except expulsion.

#### Appeal Procedure: Finding of Academic Misconduct

1. If a student chooses to contest a finding of academic misconduct, the student's first step is to confer directly with the faculty.
2. If a student and faculty are unable to resolve the issue relating to academic misconduct and the student still chooses to contest the finding, the student may appeal by submitting a formal appeal request (see form) via Loyola email to the Department Chair/ Associate Dean (when applicable) no later than 30 days into the following semester.
  - a. If the dispute occurs within a class in the spring or summer semester, the student must submit the appeal no later than 30 days into the fall semester.
  - b. If the dispute occurs within a class in the fall or J-term, the student must submit the appeal no later than 30 days into the spring semester.
  - c. For a course offered by the School of Continuing and Professional Studies, the student must submit the appeal no later than 30 days after the final grade is officially posted.
3. The Department Chair and/or Dean's designee determines whether or not there are grounds for an appeal.
  - a. When the Department Chair and/or Dean's designee determines there are no grounds for an appeal, the student will be notified that a hearing board will not be convened.
    - If the student disagrees with the determination by the Department Chair and/or Dean's designee, the student may appeal to the appropriate academic Dean. In cases where the student is enrolled in a school other than the one in which the course is taught, the academic Deans of the two schools will review the appeal together.

- b. When the Department Chair and/or Dean's designee determines there are grounds for an appeal, the student will be notified that a hearing board will be convened.
4. The academic Dean's office will notify the student of the final decision.
5. Each department will have a standing hearing board or have the means to constitute a hearing board for each dispute. Board members are chosen by the Department Chair and/or Dean's designee and will consist of three to five faculty members other than the faculty member involved or Department Chair. In smaller departments or interdisciplinary programs, board members may be members of different departments.
6. The chairperson of each hearing board will be selected by the person who appoints the hearing board. The chairperson of the hearing board receives all requests for hearings from the department, sets the calendar, notifies all involved parties of the dates and times of hearings and informs students by written notice of the decisions of the board.
7. The hearing will be held within two weeks of the receipt of the request for a hearing, if practicable. Hearings may be held virtually as necessary to accommodate members of the committee as well as parties to the appeal.
8. The hearing will be private and all information will be held confidential.
9. Hearings for refuting a charge of academic misconduct generally proceed according to the following format:
  1. Introduction of all parties present (including witnesses, when applicable) and an overview of the hearing process.
  2. Review the Student Rights in the Academic Appeal Process.
  3. Students should complete the electronic form in advance of the hearing.
  4. Hearing board chairperson reviews the nature of the alleged conduct and the University policies potentially violated.
  5. Witnesses are excused until statements are needed (if applicable).
  6. Student(s) (and Instructor(s) when applicable) provide a personal account of the reported incident.
  7. Student(s) (and Instructor(s) when applicable) have the opportunity to review all documentation relevant to the case that will be used by the hearing board to make a decision.
  8. Hearing board members ask any remaining investigative questions to the parties present (including witnesses, if applicable).
  9. Student(s) are provided a final opportunity to make any closing comments.
  10. Instructor(s) are provided a final opportunity to make any closing comments.
  11. Hearing board chair may excuse all parties for deliberation if needed.
  12. Student(s) (and Instructor(s) when applicable) are notified of the decision and any related outcomes either immediately after deliberation or, when further deliberation is needed, typically within five business days in writing, via Loyola email.
  13. Both the student and the faculty member involved may be accompanied by one advisor of their choice throughout the hearing process. The individual must inform the chairperson of the hearing board of the name of the advisor before the hearing date.
    - i. The role of an advisor is to provide a comforting presence for the student and/or faculty. A faculty may only speak to the advisee. An advisor may not ask questions, interject, advocate for, or otherwise speak on behalf of the advisee. Even if an advisor is an attorney, the advisor may not function as legal counsel or "represent" an advisee during the hearing process.
    - ii. If any advisor conducts themselves in a manner inconsistent with these guidelines, or if the advisor's behavior obstructs or interferes with the hearing process, the advisor will be warned by the board.
    - iii. If the advisor's interfering behavior continues or if the advisor engages in a manner that harasses, abuses, or intimidates any other participant, the advisor will be excused from the hearing immediately.
14. The student and/or faculty have the option of submitting relevant materials to the hearing board prior to or at the time of the hearing. Individuals in the hearing process have the responsibility of presenting truthful information.
15. The board may address questions to any party.
16. The chairperson of the hearing board determines the hearing procedures (e.g. location, order of proceedings, determining what evidence is relevant, determining if additional information is needed, etc.). Hearings may be held virtually to accommodate committee members or parties to the appeal. The standard of evidence required for a board to determine responsibility is known as a "preponderance of the evidence." This means the board must determine that it is more likely than not that an alleged violation occurred based on the totality of available evidence.
17. All decisions of the board must be determined by a majority vote of the hearing board members. A final decision must be rendered by the board by the end of the hearing process.
18. The student and faculty will be informed in writing by the chairperson of the board's decision within two weeks of the hearing. The decision is also shared with the Department Chair and/or Dean's designee.
19. Should the student or faculty member wish to contest the hearing board's decision, they must submit in writing (via Loyola email) an appeal letter to the Dean and/or Dean's designee within 30 days of notice of the hearing board's decision.
  1. The appeal letter must clearly identify the grounds for the appeal with appropriate supporting documentation. Mere disagreement or dissatisfaction with the decision does not constitute a basis for an appeal.
  2. The grounds to appeal the board's decision must include one or more of the following criteria:
    1. New substantive information is available that could not have been discovered by a diligent respondent at the time of the hearing and that would have likely changed the outcome of the case.
    2. A substantive procedural error or error in the interpretation of University policy occurred.
    3. The decision (findings or outcomes) is significantly incongruent with the established facts presented at the hearing or the established Graduate School Academic Policies.
20. Upon receipt of the appeal letter, the Dean and/or the Dean's designee will review the appeal to determine whether or not to uphold the decision of the hearing board.

The student and the faculty will be notified by the Dean's office of the final decision. This Dean and/or the Dean's designee decision is final and binding.

### Academic Misconduct Records and Privacy

Academic misconduct records are maintained at the University for seven years from the date of the incident, with the exception of cases resulting in University expulsion (such files are retained indefinitely). Such files may contain contact information, correspondence, decisions, assigned outcomes, reports, and other information pertaining to any case in which a student was found responsible. These files are maintained by the Graduate School Academic Dean's Office.

Students have a right to view a redacted copy their academic misconduct file that falls within the seven-year period or resulted in University expulsion, with any protected information about other students removed, during regular business hours. A minimum of five business days' notice is required to prepare files for review. In order to request to view a redacted copy of their academic misconduct file, students must complete the Permission to Release Education Record Information form found on the Office of the Dean of Students website. Forms are reviewed in the order they are received and the ODOS office will contact you to schedule a time for your meeting once your form is processed.

In order to request a release of your academic misconduct file information to another person or school/organization, students must complete the Permission to Release Education Record Information form found on the ODOS website and if applicable, submit any associated form from the school/organization they want to receive their academic misconduct file information. Forms are reviewed in the order they are received and are typically processed within 5-7 business days.

Privacy applies to affected parties, respondents, complainants, witnesses, advisors, Conduct Administrators, and members of Hearing Boards. All individuals are expected to adhere to the regulations set forth by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 as Amended ("FERPA") regarding the dissemination of information pertaining to the academic misconduct process. All proceedings are private and unauthorized recording by any means is prohibited. The University reserves the right to share information regarding a case with other appropriate parties on a need-to-know basis. More information about FERPA can be found here (<https://www.luc.edu/ferpa/>).

## Academic Standing

### Good Standing

A degree-seeking student is in good academic standing if he or she: 1) meets the standards of quality of his or her academic program and the Graduate School; 2) makes satisfactory progress toward completion of degree requirements within the established time limit; 3) fulfills the Graduate School's requirement regarding continuous registration; and 4) fulfills the Graduate School's requirement regarding grade-point average. Students who are not in good academic standing are not eligible to receive a degree and cannot hold an award.

### Continuous Registration

All students, including those who have completed all coursework, are required to register during the regular academic year (not including summer sessions) until all degree requirements are met, unless they have received a leave of absence (see below ([http://www.luc.edu/gradschool/academics\\_policies.shtml/#leave\\_of\\_absence](http://www.luc.edu/gradschool/academics_policies.shtml/#leave_of_absence))).

Students who have completed all coursework and are preparing for comprehensive examinations and/or preparing a thesis/dissertation

proposal are to register for Doctoral/Master's Study. Registration in doctoral study is normally limited to two semesters; after this, students must enroll in thesis/dissertation supervision.

Students working on a dissertation or thesis are to register for Dissertation or Thesis Supervision, even if they are registered for other courses.

Failure to remain continuously enrolled at the thesis or dissertation stage of a student's career carries a financial penalty as well. Doctoral students engaged in dissertation supervision and master's students at the thesis supervision stage face a reinstatement fee should they fail to maintain continuous registration. For doctoral students, the fee will be based on the dissertation fee for the terms missed plus an additional penalty of \$100. For master's students in a program with a thesis requirement (or who have opted to write a thesis in a program where this is a choice), the fee will be based on the thesis supervision fee for the terms missed plus an additional penalty of \$100.

### Inactive Status

Students who do not meet the requirement of continuous registration are considered inactive and not in good academic standing. To request reinstatement to active status, the inactive student should discuss the matter with the graduate program director (GPD) and complete the Reinstatement Request Form (found on the Graduate School website).

The form requires multiple levels of approval and the students should complete the required supporting material with care. Reinstatements are not automatic and students whose requests are denied will not be permitted to continue in their programs. Repeated failure to maintain continuous registration is, itself, grounds for denying a request for reinstatement.

The program may require additional information of the student as it reviews her/his request. In addition, the program may recommend completion of additional requirements (e.g., coursework or examinations) as a condition of reinstatement because of the time that has elapsed since discontinuation of studies at Loyola.

Given the continuous creation of new knowledge and new technologies within academic disciplines, and in order to ensure that students have adequate knowledge of the current state of the field and the specialty, if a PhD student who has been inactive (i.e., not registered) for more than two years applies for reinstatement in a program, the Graduate School will require the student to retake and complete successfully the program's doctoral comprehensive examination requirement if more than five years have elapsed since the student initially completed the requirement. The program may recommend to the Graduate School an alternative to the comprehensive examination as a means of satisfying the requirement that the student demonstrate currency in the field.

The graduate program director will forward to the Graduate School the student's written request for reinstatement and the program's recommendation regarding the request. The Graduate School will notify the student and the program of its decision regarding reinstatement.

## Advanced Standing Toward the Doctoral Degree

A student who has been awarded a relevant master's degree by another institution may petition for advanced standing toward the coursework required for a doctoral degree program. A maximum of thirty credits of advanced standing may be awarded. Some doctoral programs may impose a lower limit or may not permit advanced standing at all. Requests for advanced standing should be made during the student's first year of enrollment in the Graduate School. Requests for advanced



standing must be made to the Graduate Program Director (GPD) of the student's doctoral program, who will make a recommendation to the Graduate School for final review and approval. This recommendation will include both the number of advanced standing credits to be awarded and the number of credits of coursework that remain to be completed for the degree through registration in the Graduate School. Advanced standing does not alter a student's doctoral degree requirements outside of coursework (such as comprehensive exams) or confer candidacy. The number of approved credits of advanced standing will be recorded on the student's transcript but will not contribute to the student's Grade Point Average (GPA). Students entering their doctoral program with Advanced Standing should refer to Graduate School policy on time limit for completion of degree requirements for students.

*Also see Transfer Credit Policy.*

## Appeal for Change of Academic Record

A student's appeal to change an academic record (e.g., withdrawal date) must be submitted using the **Appeal for Change of Academic Record** form to describe mitigating circumstances as to why the academic record should be changed. An appeal to change an academic record must be submitted within one calendar year after the last day of the academic term in question. Appeals for summer terms must be received by June 1 of the following calendar year.

## Computation of Academic Grade Point Averages

The transcript reflects a student's actual academic record and the GPA includes all grades earned during the pursuit of the degree. Students must maintain at least a 3.0 or higher GPA for all courses taken while in graduate career.

If a student, with the authorization of the Dean and graduate program director, retakes a course, only the most recent grade earned for the course will be used when evaluating whether or not all degree requirements have been met.

No more than two courses for which a student receives a final grade of C+ (2.33) or C (2.00), and no course for which a student receives a final grade of less than a C (2.00), may be applied toward the fulfillment of degree or certificate requirements. Such grades, however, will be used in the calculation of a student's overall grade point average.

## Communication from Academic Deans

Official notices are presented to students through the Dean's website or via Loyola e-mail account. Students are individually responsible for this information and should check their college's board and e-mail regularly.

For reasons of confidentiality, as well as efficiency, communications to students will be sent to students' Loyola email accounts and not to any other email address. Students are responsible for checking this account and/or setting up a forwarding system. The Dean's Office may refuse to provide confidential information using a non-Loyola email account.

## Comprehensive Examinations

Most programs require the completion of written and/or oral comprehensive (or qualifying) examinations to assess the student's knowledge of the field and competency to undertake independent research. The comprehensive examinations, if required, are to be completed successfully before the student prepares a thesis/dissertation proposal for review by her or his committee. If a student fails all or a portion of the examinations, reexamination may be permitted, but only once. Failure of the reexamination will result in dismissal from the

program. Students who have not completed the coursework for their programs, including outstanding Incomplete grades, will not be permitted to sit for comprehensive exams, nor will students on academic probation.

## Coursework Requirements

### Course Levels

Graduate students may only receive credit toward a degree or certificate from courses at the 400-level and above.

Undergraduate courses, including all 100, 200, and 300-level courses, do not apply toward fulfillment of graduate coursework requirements; such courses may, however, be used to fulfill prerequisite or research tool requirements (e.g., a 100-level language course may be used to fulfill a program's language requirement).

## Degree Requirement Term

The degree requirements for the graduate or professional program pursued by a student will be consistent with the term of admission for the graduate or professional program noted in the admission letter. If a student leaves and is readmitted to a program, they will be held to the requirement term of re-admission. However, if a student changes their plan within a department and does not require a separate admission, they may retain their requirement term.

## Degree Conferral/Graduation

Students are to apply to receive a PhD, MA or MS degree through LOCUS. They should select a degree conferral term at the end of which they expect to complete all degree requirements. Deadlines for degree conferral application are:

Conferral Term    Deadline to Apply for Graduation

- FALL (December) - August 1
- SPRING (May) - December 1
- SUMMER (August) - February 1

Please note that students submitting a thesis or dissertation must fulfill all degree requirements, including defense and submission of final copies, prior to degree conferral.

The Graduate School's commencement ceremony is held once per academic year, in May. For more information, see Loyola's Commencement website: <http://www.luc.edu/commencement/> (<https://www.luc.edu/commencement/>).

## Dissertations and Theses

Several master's programs require the completion of a thesis; all PhD programs require the completion of a dissertation. To ensure that standards of quality are maintained consistently across programs, the Graduate School oversees matters relating to dissertations and theses.

The student has primary responsibility for preparing and submitting the dissertation or thesis to the Graduate School. The Graduate School's website provides information for establishing a thesis/dissertation committee, submitting an approved proposal and documenting approval of the text and oral defense. The Graduate School's Format Manual for Theses and Dissertations ([https://www.luc.edu/media/lucedu/gradschool/pdfs/LUC\\_Formatting\\_Manual\\_for\\_Dissertations\\_and\\_Theses\\_\(revised\\_Aug\\_2022\)\[91\].pdf](https://www.luc.edu/media/lucedu/gradschool/pdfs/LUC_Formatting_Manual_for_Dissertations_and_Theses_(revised_Aug_2022)[91].pdf)) contains information on the preparation and submission of the final copies to the Graduate School.

## Committees

Thesis and dissertation committees have official standing only upon approval by the Graduate Program Director and the Dean (or their designee).

Affiliate Graduate Faculty and faculty from other universities may be recommended to serve as thesis or dissertation readers. In some departments or programs, Affiliate Graduate Faculty may direct theses upon approval by the Graduate Program Director and the Dean (or their designee).

The minimum number of voting members on a Lakeside Campuses committee is as follows: two for a thesis and three for a dissertation. The practice of the Health Sciences Campus is to have three and five respectively. In specific cases, other programs may wish to recommend one or two additional members for the committee. In those cases where a committee exceeds the minimum number, the additional members may be added as “non-voting.” Each case will be handled separately. For a thesis committee of two members or a dissertation committee of either three or four members, a vote of “pass” must be unanimous. For a thesis committee of three members or a dissertation committee of five members, there may be one dissenting vote. Graduate Faculty are expected to provide timely and thoughtful feedback to students according to the timelines established by the department or program. Since all official members of a committee are to be present at the final oral defense, non-Loyola scholars who can reasonably be foreseen not to be able to attend the final defense should be included on the committee as extra, non-voting members. Graduate School policy allows for defenses to be held virtually.

## Proposals

Thesis and dissertation proposals should include: 1) a discussion of the purpose or end of the proposed research; 2) a review of the related literature and 3) a discussion of the project’s research methodology/procedure. Committee members are allowed one month to vote on a proposal. To secure committee approval of the proposal, the student must receive unanimous, unqualified approval from all committee members by written ballot.

As noted below, a student proposing to conduct research involving the use of human and/or vertebrate animal subjects must secure approval of the university’s Institutional Review Board for Protection of Human Subjects (IRB) and/or the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) after the dissertation/thesis committee approves the proposal and prior to undertaking the research.

Upon committee and (if necessary) IRB and/or IACUC approval of the proposal, and after paying the thesis/dissertation registration fee, the student is to submit to the Graduate School a copy of the proposal, the committee ballot and a copy of the approval letter from the IRB and/or the IACUC. The Graduate School will not record final approval of your proposal until all required documentation is received.

## Text and Oral Defense

A public oral defense is required of all dissertations and most theses (see individual programs’ requirements). The committee must indicate approval of the text to the student before the date of the oral defense is established; no oral defense may take place without the prior agreement among the committee members that the text is substantially in its final state, with no major revisions necessary.

All voting members of the committee must participate in the oral defense. In all cases the director of the committee must be present at the oral defense, and ordinarily all readers must be present as well. However, in

exceptional circumstances and upon the approval of the director of the committee, readers may participate in the oral defense via telephone or video conference. The Graduate School will not accept a committee’s approval of a thesis or dissertation if one or more voting members does not participate in the oral defense. The only exception to this policy is in the case of non-participation due to an emergency; in such cases, the Graduate School will accept the result of the oral defense only after consultation with all non-participating committee members.

In the case of a two-member thesis or three-member dissertation committee, approval of the text and oral defense must be unanimous. In the case of a lakeside thesis committee with more than two members, and in the case of all four- and five-member committees, approval of the text and oral defense must be with no more than one dissenting vote.

The committee may award “Distinction” to designate outstanding work on both the text and oral defense; this designation should be made only on rare occasions of truly exceptional work. Votes of “Distinction” must be unanimous. This designation will appear on the student’s transcript.

The results of the committee’s evaluation of the text and oral defense are noted on a written ballot, which the student is to submit to the Graduate School as soon as possible after the oral defense.

## Final Copies of the Text

Students are required to submit to the Graduate School a final, approved electronic copy of the text and other necessary material in proper format. Deadlines for format check and final copy submission are published on the Graduate School website. In addition, in order to ensure that all theses and dissertations are accessible to the academic community and the interested public, all dissertations and theses must be published through ProQuest.

Students must submit final copies with approved revisions within one semester of a successful defense (e.g., if a student’s defense falls within a Fall semester, their final copies must meet the Spring semester submission deadlines). After one full semester a student may be discontinued and be required to apply for reinstatement.

## Doctoral Candidacy

The requirements for doctoral candidacy are: 1) successful completion of all specifically required coursework; 2) fulfillment of all research tool requirements; 3) successful completion of all comprehensive examinations; 4) approval of the dissertation proposal by the approved dissertation committee, the IRB and/or the IACUC (if necessary) and the Graduate School.

Students have five years after admission to doctoral candidacy to complete all of their remaining degree requirements, including all dissertation requirements.

Please see below for details about time limits for degree requirements.

## English Language Requirement

The Graduate School’s English-language requirement is intended to further students’ academic success and allow them to attain a level of proficiency expected of students completing a graduate program at a U.S. university. As stated in letters of admission, the requirement applies to degree-seeking students who have not received a bachelor’s degree from an institution where English is the language of instruction. The requirement includes assessment of students’ English skills and, depending on the results of the assessment, coursework. The English-language requirement is a degree requirement; students who have not

fulfilled the requirement will not receive a degree. In addition, students must complete the requirement in their first term in order to be eligible for continued enrollment in the Graduate School and for renewal of awards.

The Graduate School may grant a student an exemption from the English-language requirement if the student has written and orally defended a thesis or dissertation as part of completing a graduate program at an institution where English is the language of instruction. All requests for exemption must be in writing and include appropriate supporting documentation. Requests must be sent first to the student's graduate program director, who is to then send it to the Graduate School with a written recommendation regarding the request. The Graduate School will not grant an exemption without receiving a positive recommendation from the graduate program director. Requests for exemption must be received by the Graduate School: at least one week before the placement test preceding the student's first semester as a degree-seeking student. The Graduate School will determine whether the student qualifies for an exemption and will notify the student and the graduate program director of its decision.

### Assessment

As indicated above, the English-language requirement includes a placement test to assess students' English skills. This placement test is administered by Loyola University Chicago's Department of English as a Second Language (ESL) and is not the same as either the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the International English Language Testing System (IELTS), taken before admission.

Students entering a Graduate School program as a degree-seeking student during the Summer or Fall Semesters must take the placement test scheduled prior to the beginning of their first Fall Semester. Students entering a Graduate School program as a degree-seeking student during the Spring Semester must take the placement test scheduled prior to the beginning of their first Spring Semester.

The ESL department will notify students of the results of the test. Students whose score on the placement test indicates they have attained acceptable English proficiency will have fulfilled the English-language requirement. Students whose scores indicate they are in need of additional English instruction will be required to complete coursework. Students who take the placement test will not subsequently be eligible for an exemption from the English-language requirement.

### Coursework

As noted above, students whose score on the placement test indicates they are in need of additional English instruction will be required to complete coursework in Loyola's ESL department to improve their English reading, writing and speaking skills. This coursework will be in addition to the courses required in the student's graduate program and must be taken immediately following the placement test.

Students are expected to attend all classes and complete all assignments. Students must receive a grade of CR (credit) for each required course; courses for which students receive a grade of NC (no credit) will not apply toward fulfillment of the English language requirement.

If extraordinary circumstances prevent one from taking required coursework in the first semester, the student may request to defer coursework for one semester. Requests for deferrals must be in writing and sent first to the student's graduate program director, who is to then send it to the Graduate School with a written recommendation regarding the request. Requests for deferrals must be received by the Graduate School within one week of notification of placement test results. The

Graduate School will notify the student and the graduate program director of its decision.

### Additional Information

Students with questions regarding the Graduate School's English-language policies should contact their graduate program director or the Graduate School. Students with questions regarding the nature of the placement test or coursework should visit the ESL department's Website

### Enrollment in Courses

While academic advising is available from the student's program or department, each student is responsible for developing an accurate and appropriate schedule of classes each term. Students are allowed to change their registrations in conformity with the guidelines established by the Office of Registration and Records and the Bursar's office. Students are responsible for maintaining the accuracy of their enrollment and understanding the academic and financial consequences of adding or withdrawing courses.

### STUDENT ENROLLMENT STATUS

#### Fall and Spring Semesters

Students are considered full time if they are either: 1) enrolled in at least eight credit hours of coursework; or 2) enrolled in Thesis Supervision (course #595), Master's Study (#605), Dissertation Supervision (#600), Doctoral Study (#610), or a full-time clerkship, internship or practicum course.

#### Summer Sessions

Students are considered full-time if they are either: 1) enrolled in at least six credit hours of coursework; 2) enrolled in Thesis Supervision (course #S59), Master's Study (#S65), Dissertation Supervision (#S60), Doctoral Study (#S61), or a full-time clerkship, internship or practicum course; or 3) enrolled in and hold a full graduate assistantship or fellowship. Students are considered half-time students if they are enrolled in at least three but less than six credit hours of coursework.

Full- and part-time status are reported to loan companies and to the U.S. government, including the INS. Full- and part- time status are not necessarily related to eligibility for health insurance, or to Loyola's fees.

### Final Examinations

Final examinations are given during the scheduled examination period in each session. Students are expected to take no more than three final examinations in one day. Tests or examinations may be given during the semester or summer sessions as often as deemed advisable by the instructor. Students who miss a final examination should contact their instructor.

### Grades

The grades (and associated grade-point values) in the Graduate School are as follows:

Grade	Grade Points
A	4.00
A-	3.67
B+	3.33
B	3.00
B-	2.67
C+	2.33
C	2.00
C-	1.67

D+	1.33
D	1.00
F	0.00
I	Incomplete
W	Withdrawal
WE	Emergency Withdrawal
P	Pass/Credit
NP	Non-Pass/No Credit
AU	Audit

### Incomplete Grades

The Graduate School expects students to complete all coursework by the end of the term during which the courses were taken. However, if a student and the instructor make arrangements in advance, a student may receive a grade of I (Incomplete) at the end of the term. The student is to complete the outstanding work and submit it to the instructor according to a schedule approved by the instructor, subject to the following Graduate School policies.

The student must complete and submit all outstanding work to the instructor by the last day of the semester following the term in which the I grade was assigned. (For purposes of incomplete grades, the summer sessions are counted together as one term.) If the student does not turn in the work by the deadline, the I will automatically become an F. The Graduate School will not approve a change of grade if the student does not complete and submit the work to the instructor within one term of the assignment of an I grade.

### Withdrawal from Courses

If a student withdraws from a course before the published withdrawal deadline, the student's transcript will show no record of the course. Students contemplating official withdrawal from a class and receiving or expecting to receive financial assistance should consult with the Office of Student Financial Assistance. A grade of "W" indicates official withdrawal from a course through the allowed withdrawal period (see academic calendar for dates). The grade "W" is not counted in computation of academic standing as either attempted or earned credit hours, nor calculated in the grade point average. With a complete emergency term withdrawal, the grade of "WE" does not count towards attempted credit hours or in GPA (effective Fall 2022). However, both the "W" and the "WE" count towards attempted hours when determining Satisfactory Academic Progress for continued financial aid eligibility.

### Credit/No Credit

Thesis Supervision (course #595), Master's Study (#605), Dissertation Supervision (#600), Doctoral Study (#610) and certain other graduate courses are graded on a credit/no credit basis. A grade of P (pass) indicates that the student made satisfactory progress toward completion of course or degree requirements. A grade of NP (no pass) indicates that the student did not make satisfactory progress toward completion of course or degree requirements.

### Audit

Auditors are not required to complete course assignments, including examinations and term papers. Class attendance is required, and auditors have a right to participate in class discussions. A grade of AU indicates satisfactory attendance; students who do not meet the attendance requirement will receive a grade of W. Auditors are assessed one-half tuition.

### Pass/Fail

The Pass/Fail option is not available for courses taken for graduate credit. The Pass/Fail option is available for other courses (e.g., foreign-language courses taken to fulfill a research-tool requirement).

### International Travel

Graduate Student's traveling internationally on university-related business (including research and conference attendance/participation) are expected to abide by university travel policies. The Graduate School provides financial assistance through travel awards, including support for the Insurance for International Travel fee.

### Inter-University Visitation

Loyola University Chicago is a member of the Midwest Catholic Graduate Schools Consortium. Through an agreement with Marquette University, University of Notre Dame, and Saint Louis University, students matriculated in the Graduate School may, with approval, take course work at one of the partner schools to apply to their degree requirements at Loyola. This is not transfer credit, but rather consider in-residence credit earned in visitation to a partner school. The student is enrolled in a degree program at their home university (Loyola), and all financial arrangements are made through the home university, but the student attends the host university on a short-term basis with prior approval. Students who are interested in learning more should contact the Graduate School.

### Long-Term Leaves of Absence

Official long-term leaves of absence are intended for students who wish to discontinue temporarily their graduate studies due to special circumstances (e.g., medical, personal or professional reasons). Students who are on a long-term leave of absence may not use University resources, including faculty time. A long-term leave of absence postpones all deadlines concerning completion of degree requirements for the duration of the leave of absence.

The Leave of Absence request form is available through the Graduate Student Progress System at <https://gsps.luc.edu/>. Please log in to create this form for approval.

Decisions regarding the approval of leaves of absence rest with the Graduate School; when reviewing requests for a leave of absence, the Graduate School may require additional information or documentation from the student and the graduate program director. In cases where the graduate program director recommends that the leave of absence not be granted, the student may petition the Graduate School to consider her/his request. International students admitted to the United States on temporary visas must also receive approval from the university's Office of International Programs for information regarding eligibility for a leave of absence.

Leaves of absence are limited to a period of one full academic year. If a student is not prepared to return to active status after one year, the student may request a renewal of the leave of absence for a period of up to one year; in such cases, the graduate program director and the Graduate School will review the student's record and future plans to determine whether an additional leave is in the best interests of the student, the program and the Graduate School.

In order to be reinstated to active status, the student must notify the Graduate School in writing upon returning from a leave of absence. Unless the student is granted a renewal of a leave of absence, the student must return to active status in the semester following the expiration of a leave of absence; failure to do so may result in dismissal from the



program. If a student does not return from a leave of absence after two consecutive years, s/he must reapply for admission to the program.

## Military Service

Students who have been called into the armed services of the United States and who are consequently withdrawing from the university before the end of the withdrawal period will receive a refund of all tuition and fees paid for the period in question but no academic credit. If they withdraw after the end of the withdrawal period, they will receive full academic credit for the semester with grades as of the date of withdrawal but no refund of tuition.

## Probation and Dismissal

This policy outlines the conditions under which a student may be placed on probation or dismissed from their graduate program for academic performance reasons. Students should review the Academic Policy on Time Limit for Completion of Degree Requirements and be aware of departmental timelines. Please note that individual programs may have more stringent rules regarding probation and students should be aware of those policies as listed in their program handbook. Students may be placed on probation or dismissed from their graduate program in one of two cases:

**1) Minimum GPA:** Students who fail to maintain a grade-point average of at least a 3.00 will be placed on academic probation. In such cases, if the student does not raise the grade-point average to at least 3.00 during the next two consecutive terms in which the student registers, the student will be dismissed for poor scholarship.

Students who are near the end of their programs must raise their cumulative GPA to 3.00 in order to receive a degree. Students will require permission from their program and the Graduate School to continue taking courses after they have completed their program hours in the hope of raising their cumulative GPA above 3.00 in order to graduate.

**2) Satisfactory degree progress post coursework:** After completion of their coursework, students who are writing a thesis or dissertation must continue to make satisfactory, timely progress towards the degree. The determination of a student's failure to make satisfactory academic progress must be based on:

- Failure to meet one of the milestones according to the timeline for satisfactory academic progress set by the student's program
- Number of NPs: Master's and Doctoral Study and Supervision courses are graded on a P/NP (Pass/No Pass) basis. Students who are not making satisfactory progress should receive an NP, which will prompt the student to be on academic probation. Students who receive two NP grades may face dismissal.
- The outcome of the graduate program's annual graduate student review based on the quality or pace of the student's progress.

In each of these cases, the student must be provided with sufficient feedback and an opportunity to address the problem. The department or program should notify the student and the Graduate School, and the student will be placed on probation. Failure to complete the requirement or make the required progress during the probationary period will result in the case being forwarded to the appropriate faculty committee or unit for a vote on terminating the student from the degree program. While on probation, the student is expected to meet other program deadlines on schedule.

If the committee votes to terminate the student in the program, a program should submit a request for the student's dismissal to the Graduate School. Following the program's communication to the student

of the dismissal and its rationale, the Dean will then send a letter of dismissal to the student. A student who is dismissed for failure to maintain satisfactory progress may appeal the decision to the Dean of the Graduate School following the procedure outlined in the Graduate School's Academic Grievance Policy.

## Program-Specific Requirements

Because of the diversity of graduate work in different branches of knowledge, individual graduate programs have varying requirements about undergraduate prerequisites, graduate coursework, research tool requirements, comprehensive examinations, theses and dissertations and other matters. Please consult your department's website for individual program requirements listed in this catalog. In cases where there is a conflict between a program's publications and this catalog, the catalog governs.

## Protection of Human and Animal Subjects in Research

A graduate student preparing to conduct research involving the use of human or vertebrate animal subjects, whether or not such research is pursued in connection with a thesis or dissertation, must secure approval of the university's Institutional Review Board for Protection of Human Subjects (IRB) or the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) prior to undertaking the research.

Please consult the IACUC website (<http://www.luc.edu/ors/iacuc/index.shtml/>) for complete information.

## Registration

In order to be certified as active students and to have access to university resources, both new and continuing students are to register before each term in which they are taking courses, working on a thesis or dissertation, completing a practicum or internship or otherwise engaged in graduate study. Applicants must be officially admitted to the Graduate School before they will be permitted to register. Students are responsible for registering for courses in a timely manner through the university's registration system.

No one is permitted to attend any class without first officially registering for that class. Students may not register for classes after the late registration period. A fee is charged for late registration.

Registration at Loyola University Chicago is done through the LOCUS on-line registration system. For specific information on registration, please visit the Office of Registration and Records (<http://www.luc.edu/regrec/>) website.

## Registration for Directed Study, Directed Readings and Independent Study

Individual programs/departments may require students to receive approval prior to registering for these types of courses. Students may request notation on of a specific title on the transcript by submitting to the Graduate School a completed Request for Course Title ([https://www.luc.edu/media/lucedu/gradschool/pdfs/Request for Course Title.pdf](https://www.luc.edu/media/lucedu/gradschool/pdfs/Request%20for%20Course%20Title.pdf)) form.

## Cross-Registration

Students intending to take a course outside the academic unit that includes their program must obtain approval from the course instructor and the "host" unit. Students should contact the host unit for information about registration procedures. They should also consult with their home program to see if these courses will count toward the degree.

### Auditing a Course

The decision as to whether to designate particular graduate courses as open to auditors is made by the academic unit offering the course. In order to audit a course, a Graduate School student must 1) complete the Audit Request (<https://www.luc.edu/gradschool/academics/forms/>) form and 2) receive approval from the academic unit offering the course and the Graduate School. The completed form must be received by the Graduate School by the end of the second week of the semester or by the end of the first week of the summer or intersession term. The Graduate School will not approve a request received after the deadline. Once a course is converted to "audit" for a student, it will not be re-classified as a "for credit" course (i.e., a course that is being audited may not at anytime be counted as credit hours completed toward degree requirements). Completion of the form does not constitute registration for the course; the student is responsible for registering for the course via the university's registration system and must do so prior to the late registration deadline to avoid a late registration fee.

Class attendance is required, and auditors have a right to participate in class discussions. A grade of AU indicates satisfactory attendance; a grade of W will be assigned in cases of unsatisfactory attendance. Auditors do not complete course papers, examinations or other assigned projects. A course that is audited does not count as hours attempted and therefore is not considered in determining a student's enrollment status (i.e., whether the student is classified as full- or part-time) and is not eligible for coverage by a tuition award.

### Withdrawal from a Course

Students can withdraw from a class until the last day to receive a W. Once the system switches to assigning WF's student can only withdraw from a class with the permission of the Dean and according to the procedure for change in registration. Please see our Key Dates and Deadlines ([https://www.luc.edu/gradschool/key\\_dates.shtml/](https://www.luc.edu/gradschool/key_dates.shtml/)) page for specific withdrawal deadlines, which are maintained by the Office of the Bursar.

Students who stop attending a class but have not officially withdrawn will receive the final grade of "WF," which is a penalty grade and equivalent to a grade of "F". Students will incur full financial obligation to the university. Voluntary and repeated unofficial withdrawals from class may result in the student being barred from further attendance in the university. Students may withdraw from class with the final grade of "W" through the first ten weeks of the semester or first four weeks of a summer term.

Students contemplating official withdrawal from a class and receiving or expecting to receive financial assistance should consult with the Office of Student Financial Assistance.

### Adding a Course

Students who would like to add a course after the regular registration period must complete a Change of Registration form and obtain the approval of their graduate program director. The form is then submitted to the Graduate School for approval. Such requests are approved only in extraordinary circumstances; forgetting to enroll or enrolling in the wrong course do not constitute adequate grounds for a late add.

### Number of Courses Allowed

Registration for nine credit hours per semester is considered the normal full-time courseload. The maximum courseload for Graduate School students is 12 credit hours per semester and six credit hours per summer session.

### Registration of Undergraduate Students in Graduate Course

Undergraduates who are judged capable of pursuing graduate studies may be admitted to graduate courses with the approval of the course instructor and the chairperson of the department offering the course. Such courses are ordinarily applicable only toward the student's undergraduate degree; however, under certain circumstances such courses may be applied towards a graduate degree (see the policy on transfer credit below).

### Repetition of Course

Students may repeat a course in which they previously received a passing grade only with the specific authorization of the graduate program and the Graduate School Dean. Authorization to repeat courses merely to improve the grade will rarely be given.

In an authorized repetition of a course the student will not receive credit hours toward graduation for both courses. The student will only receive credit hours toward graduation for the most recent attempt.

A student who repeats a course without permission of the Dean and graduate program earns neither credit hours nor quality points for the repeated course.

### Research Tool Requirement

Several programs have established a "research tool" requirement (e.g., knowledge of a foreign language, proficiency in statistics) to ensure that students are adequately prepared to conduct research in their field. Students in these programs must meet the program's deadline for completing the requirement (i.e., prior to sitting for comprehensive examinations or prior to completing a thesis/dissertation proposal).

### Responsible Conduct of Research and Scholarship Training

In support of the University Mission ([http://luc.edu/mission/mission\\_vision.shtml/](http://luc.edu/mission/mission_vision.shtml/)) and in accordance with federal regulations effective January 2010, Loyola University Chicago has implemented a Responsible Conduct in Research and Scholarship (<https://www.luc.edu/ors/RCRHome.shtml/>) program that incorporates ethics education into the curriculum for all students.

The Graduate School requires RCRS training for all matriculating PhD students and for master's students who are writing a thesis. Graduate Program Directors in non-thesis master's programs may recommend RCRS training for their students.

All PhD students and Master's students who are writing a thesis must successfully complete the Responsible Conduct in Research and Scholarship training as part of the degree requirements. It is strongly recommended that students complete this two-day training before beginning the dissertation/thesis stage of the program.

Students on the Lakeside campuses take UNIV 370, offered at least twice per academic year on campus, to complete this requirement. Students at the Health Sciences Campus, and in the Marcella Niehoff School of Nursing receive separate RCRS training, and students in some School of Education programs complete this requirement with their methods coursework.

### Students with Disabilities

At times, students with disabilities may wish to avail themselves of the university's ancillary services. Students who would like to seek accommodations at the university for their coursework or merit award (teaching and research assistantships) need to contact the Coordinator

of Services for Students with Disabilities. Contact information is available at [www.luc.edu/depts/lac/disabilities](http://www.luc.edu/depts/lac/disabilities).

## Time Limit for Completion of Degree Requirements

### PhD Degree

Students must complete all PhD degree requirements, including the dissertation, within eight years of beginning the first course at Loyola University Chicago applicable toward the doctoral degree. However, students who completed a relevant master's degree (or a significant amount of relevant graduate coursework) at another institution prior to entering the doctoral program must complete all Ph.D. requirements, including the dissertation, within six years of beginning the first course at Loyola University Chicago applicable toward the doctoral degree.

In addition to these limits, Ph.D. students must also make good progress at the dissertation stage. If a doctoral candidate does not successfully defend and submit the dissertation within five years after becoming a doctoral candidate (by approval of the dissertation proposal), the student will be dropped from candidacy. The student must then pass a second comprehensive examination or program-specific equivalent to be reinstated as a doctoral candidate, and the time limit for submitting the dissertation will be determined by the Dean of the Graduate School and the candidate's committee. Exceptions to the five-year time limit require a petition to the dissertation chair, who forwards the petition to the Graduate Program Director and then the Graduate School. This policy will become effective for students achieving candidacy in the fall 2006 semester or later.

### Master's Degree

Students must complete all master's degree requirements within five years of beginning the first course at Loyola University Chicago taken as a degree-seeking student.

### Extensions of Time Limits

A student may request an extension of the time limit for completion of degree requirements due to special circumstances (e.g., medical, personal, professional, or research related reasons). A student requesting an extension shall complete an Extension of Time Limit for Completion of Degree Requirements form, which can be accessed by logging into GSPS (<https://gsps.luc.edu/Secure/Login.aspx>), attach required information, and contact the dissertation/thesis director (if applicable) and the graduate program director. These faculty members are to then make a recommendation on the student's behalf to the Graduate School. Decisions regarding the approval of extensions rest with the Graduate School; when reviewing requests for an extension, the Graduate School may require additional information or documentation from the student or the graduate program. In cases where the graduate program recommends that the extension not be granted, the student may petition the Graduate School to consider her/his request.

Extensions are ordinarily limited in duration to one full academic year. If a student has not completed all degree requirements by the extended deadline, the student may request an additional extension for a period of up to one year; in such cases, the graduate program and the Graduate School will review the student's record and future plans to determine whether an additional extension is in the best interests of the student, the program and the Graduate School. Students who do not complete all degree requirements within the required time limit are subject to dismissal from the program.

## Transcripts of Graduate Work

All courses taken by the student and other relevant academic information are included on the student's official academic transcripts, which are maintained by the university's Office of Registration and Records.

## Transfer Credit

It is ordinarily expected that all work towards a master's degree will be completed in the program at Loyola University Chicago. However, up to six credit hours of graduate work completed in another Loyola program or at another institution may be applied toward a master's degree with permission of the program's Graduate Program Director (GPD) and the Graduate School. Students may request transfer of credit, and the program can make its recommendation to the Graduate School during the student's first semester in the Graduate School. The Graduate School maintains responsibility for approving transfer credit. To ensure that each student is well prepared for undertaking scholarship in the student's current field of study, the Graduate School's decision regarding transfer credit will be based on the quality of the student's work, the time interval since its completion and its relevance to the student's program of study at Loyola. Coursework below a B grade will not be accepted. Students may not transfer coursework that has been awarded as part of a conferred or completed degree program. If a course fulfills the learning outcomes of a requirement in the student's master's program, and upon department recommendation, a specific required course may be substituted with an elective chosen in concert with the student's program director.

For students entering a PhD program with prior graduate work completed in another Loyola program or at another institution, up to one-half of the total number of semester hours required by the doctoral program at Loyola may be applied toward the PhD degree. It may be possible for a completed relevant master's degree to be applied towards the PhD, and this is further elaborated in the Advanced Standing policy (Approved May 4, 2021).

## Withdrawal from the University

An enrolled student who wishes to withdraw from the university during any semester must notify the Dean's office and his or her graduate program director in writing. A student is considered to be in attendance until such notice has been received by the Dean or the Graduate Program Director. All financial refunds or obligations are dated from the date of the formal notice of withdrawal and not from the date of the last class attended; see the Bursar's website for more information. It is the student's obligation to inform the Graduate School promptly of the intention to withdraw. Telephone messages or non-attendance in class are not official notification.

A student may be required to withdraw from the university because of academic deficiency, lack of sufficient progress toward completion of degree requirements, failure to adhere to university requirements, degree requirements and/or regulations for conduct or failure to meet financial obligations to the university.

## Complete Emergency Withdrawal

Students facing a significant emergency circumstance (see "Definitions" section below) that prevents them from continuing in or completing an academic term may submit an Intent to Withdraw (<https://www.luc.edu/media/lucedu/registrationrecords/provostpdfformsasof2022/Notice%20of%20Intent%20to%20Withdraw.pdf>) form to their program director or the Graduate School. All requests must be supported by appropriate documentation. The Intent to Withdraw form is reviewed by the academic

dean's office of the student's primary college/school for approval and processing.

Requests for complete emergency term withdrawals are considered after the last day of a term to drop a course or courses without a grade of "W." In cases where the student is incapacitated (see "Emergencies Resulting in Student Incapacitation" below for more details), the requests for complete emergency term withdrawals may be submitted by a parent, spouse or legal guardian.

Complete emergency term withdrawals constitute a withdrawal from all classes and may result in final grades of "WE" in all classes for the given academic term. The University does not grant partial withdrawals (i.e., requests to withdraw from some classes but not others) for emergencies. Grades of "WE" have no impact on a student's cumulative GPA. The "WE" grade has no earned or attempted hours associated with the grade; however, "WE" counts towards attempted hours when determining Satisfactory Academic Progress (<https://www.luc.edu/financialaid/aid-process/responsibilities/academic-progress/>) for continued financial aid eligibility. This policy does not apply in cases where the student has completed final exams or final projects for classes in the term impacted by the significant emergency circumstance. When final grades have posted, students should utilize the Appeal for Change of Academic Record (<https://www.luc.edu/media/lucedu/registrationrecords/provostpdfformsasof2022/Appeal%20for%20Change%20of%20Academic%20Record.pdf>) form and submit to their primary academic advisor, program director or assistant/associate Dean.

The Office of the Bursar will determine the impact of the Withdrawal on the student's account balance in LOCUS. The Student Account Balance will be determined by the University withdrawal calendar Loyola Withdrawal Schedule (<https://www.luc.edu/bursar/withdrawalschedulechangecalendars/>). The Bursar will not assess any late payment fees after the date of Withdrawal.

### EMERGENCIES RESULTING IN STUDENT INCAPACITATION

It is required that a complete emergency term withdrawal request be submitted by the student. However, if an emergency situation has resulted in the student's temporary or long-term incapacitation for a period that may extend beyond the one-calendar-year deadline of this policy, the student's college/school academic dean's office, the Office of the Dean of Students, a parent (for minors), emergency contact person, or other legally assigned designee may submit a request on the student's behalf. In such cases, the student's college/school academic dean's office may require additional documentation (e.g., letter from medical doctor, hospitalization forms, power of attorney).

### POTENTIAL IMPLICATIONS

The section below provides a non-exhaustive list and general information on the potential implications of a complete emergency term withdrawal. While the University offers a number of considerations that help support students who are facing emergencies, there are other important factors that should be taken into consideration before submitting a request for a complete emergency term withdrawal. Whenever possible, it is strongly recommended that a student discuss all possible options, including the potential implications of a complete emergency withdrawal with their primary academic advisor.

### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: TUITION AND FINANCIAL AID

Students are strongly encouraged to purchase tuition insurance (e.g., A.W.G Dewar, Inc.) prior to the start of the academic term.

Note that a complete emergency withdrawal does not automatically result in tuition credit. Please refer to the withdrawal schedule on the Office of the Bursar's website.

### COMPLETE EMERGENCY WITHDRAWAL PROCEDURES DURING AN ACADEMIC TERM

Although it is recommended that the student submit as much information as possible, documentation does not need to specify details of the emergency that may be protected by law or considered private. Documentation must come from a verifiable authority (e.g., community/ licensed healthcare provider, police agency, court of law, US military etc.) and minimally confirm the following:

Requests for a complete emergency withdrawal will be reviewed and decided by the student's college/school academic dean's office. Other areas, such as the Office of the Dean of Students, the Office for Equity & Compliance, or Student Accessibility Center, may be consulted in cases where the student was either referred or is being supported by said office. Additional documentation and/or information may be requested of the student before a final decision is made.

The student will receive a written decision notification no later than 14 business days after receipt of original request via LUC email. If the school is unable to meet the 14 business-days deadline, the student will be notified in writing of the new deadline. If the request is approved, the effective date and further instructions before returning to campus (if necessary) will be provided. The date of the complete emergency withdrawal will be determined by the primary college/school dean's office based on the date of the last academically related activity.

### POST-EMERGENCY COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL RE-ENTRY PROCESS

Unless otherwise indicated in the approval notification or by the Office of the Dean of Students in lieu of the Loyola University Chicago Behavior Concerns Team (BCT), the process for returning to the university will follow standard policies and procedures for re-enrollment. Students who were being supported by BCT before withdrawing or are returning because of a mental health hospitalization are required to consult the Office of the Dean of Students for instructions on potential re-entry requirements.

### DEFINITIONS

Significant Emergency Circumstance – an unforeseen emergency situation that prevents a student from continuing in or completing an academic term. Some examples include but are not limited to:

- Chronic illness of withdrawing student
- Death of parent/legal guardian or medical issue of a family member and the withdrawing student must become a part-time or full-time caretaker of family member
- Extreme financial hardship
- Mental health condition, serious injury or illness of withdrawing student
- Sudden or consistent lack of transportation which affected the withdrawing student's ability to meet in-person attendance requirements
- Other situations, at the University's sole discretion, which are deemed to result in significant hardship to the withdrawing student

*This list includes examples of emergency situations that directly affect the student.*