Handbook for Program Directors and Graduate Advisors

2020-2021
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Staff</th>
<th>Room</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Ashley Walker</td>
<td>1012B Veazey Hall</td>
<td>912-478-1710</td>
<td><a href="mailto:awalker@georgiasouthern.edu">awalker@georgiasouthern.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dean, College of Graduate Studies</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Checo Colón-Gaud</td>
<td>1013B Veazey Hall</td>
<td>912-478-8695</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jcolongaud@georgiasouthern.edu">jcolongaud@georgiasouthern.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate Dean</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audie Graham</td>
<td>1012 Veazey Hall</td>
<td>912-478-0851</td>
<td><a href="mailto:araham@georgiasouthern.edu">araham@georgiasouthern.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive Assistant</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Randi Sykora</td>
<td>1000F Veazey Hall</td>
<td>912-478-7579</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ryskoramccurdy@georgiasouthern.edu">ryskoramccurdy@georgiasouthern.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative Specialist</td>
<td>130, Armstrong Center</td>
<td>912-344-3250</td>
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<tr>
<td>Graduate Student Services</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Jernigan</td>
<td>1013C Veazey Hall</td>
<td>912-478-8612</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mjernigan@georgiasouthern.edu">mjernigan@georgiasouthern.edu</a></td>
</tr>
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<td>Graduate Student Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wendy Sikora</td>
<td>1013A Veazey Hall</td>
<td>912-478-2647</td>
<td><a href="mailto:wsikora@georgiasouthern.edu">wsikora@georgiasouthern.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Graduate Student Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Megan Murray</td>
<td>1012A Veazey Hall</td>
<td>912-478-2302</td>
<td><a href="mailto:meganmurray@georgiasouthern.edu">meganmurray@georgiasouthern.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recruitment Coordinator</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Graduate Admissions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Naronda Wright</td>
<td>1014B Veazey Hall</td>
<td>912-478-8626</td>
<td><a href="mailto:narondawright@georgiasouthern.edu">narondawright@georgiasouthern.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Caroline James</td>
<td>1014C Veazey Hall</td>
<td>912-478-5680</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ccollins@georgiasouthern.edu">ccollins@georgiasouthern.edu</a></td>
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<td>Graduate Admissions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sara Emily Ridgway-Jones</td>
<td>1014A Veazey Hall</td>
<td>912-478-5678</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sriddgway@georgiasouthern.edu">sriddgway@georgiasouthern.edu</a></td>
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<td>Administrative Specialist</td>
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<td>Graduate Admissions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Graduate Student Organization:</td>
<td>2030 Brannen Hall</td>
<td>912-478-5704</td>
<td><a href="mailto:gso@georgiasouthern.edu">gso@georgiasouthern.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty Advisor - Statesboro Campus:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:tyancey@georgiasouthern.edu">tyancey@georgiasouthern.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty Advisor - Armstrong Campus:</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Faculty Advisor - VACANT</td>
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SECTION 1 - VISION AND MISSION

VISION
The vision for graduate education at Georgia Southern University is to provide a learning environment which fosters creative thinking in the minds of our students and to produce graduates who improve and enrich society.

To support this effort, the University will make it a priority to recruit, support, and retain faculty who are committed to creating and maintaining effective graduate programs. As stated in Georgia Southern’s mission. Our programs provide “a learner-centered culture that prepares you to think, lead, teach and serve.”

Our academic distinction arises from the integrity and quality of our programs. A graduate degree from Georgia Southern is a valued statement of this distinction, and such degrees are earned only by those individuals who have achieved the standards of this community of learners.

MISSION
The mission of the Jack N. Averitt College of Graduate Studies is to develop, nurture, promote and sustain graduate programs of the highest quality at Georgia Southern University. The College of Graduate Studies seeks to support graduate students and graduate programs at the highest level, to provide a foundation for university graduate program growth and development, and to support excellence in graduate education, and the research and scholarly activities associated with it.
SECTION 2 - HISTORY OF THE JACK N. AVERITT COLLEGE OF GRADUATE STUDIES

Georgia Southern University, founded in 1906, is the largest and leading center of higher education in the southern half of Georgia. The university’s student population of approximately 26,400 includes 12% graduate students representing almost every state and more than 102 nations. The College of Graduate Studies was established at Georgia Southern University in 1969.

THE COLLEGE OF GRADUATE STUDIES
The evolution of the College of Graduate Studies is a story of vision, challenge, persistence, and hope. In 1958, the Board of Regents authorized the first graduate degree, the Master of Education (M.Ed.) to be offered at Georgia Southern College. In 1969, the President of Georgia Southern University, Dr. Edison, established the Graduate School under the leadership of Dr. Jack N. Averitt. In 1998, in honor of his many contributions to the development of graduate studies at the University, the College was named the Jack N. Averitt College of Graduate Studies. Over the years, the College of Graduate Studies has undergone many changes and transformations.

DEAN CHRONOLOGY

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Period</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1969 - 1979</td>
<td>Dr. Jack N. Averitt, Dean of the Graduate School</td>
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<td>1980 - 1984</td>
<td>Dr. Leslie Thompson, Dean of the Graduate School</td>
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<td>1984</td>
<td>Dr. Georgelle Thomas, Dean of the Graduate School</td>
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<td>1984 - 1988</td>
<td>Dr. Charlene Black, Acting Dean of the Graduate School</td>
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<tr>
<td>1988 - 1990</td>
<td>Dr. Charlene Black, Dean of the Graduate School</td>
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<td>1991 - 1994</td>
<td>Dr. Wilson Bradshaw, Vice President of Graduate Research and Dean of Graduate Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>1995 - 2002</td>
<td>Dr. G. Lane Van Tassell, Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean of Graduate Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>2002 - 2006</td>
<td>Dr. Charles J. Hardy, Dean of the Jack N. Averitt College of Graduate Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>2006 – 2007</td>
<td>Dr. Saundra Nettles, Interim Dean of the Jack N. Averitt College of Graduate Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>2007 - 2009</td>
<td>Dr. Timothy P. Mack, Dean of the Jack N. Averitt College of Graduate Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>2009 – 2016</td>
<td>Dr. Charles E. Patterson, Vice President for Research &amp; Economic Development and Dean of the Jack N. Averitt College of Graduate Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019-Present</td>
<td>Dr. Ashley Walker, Dean of the Jack N. Averitt College of Graduate Studies</td>
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</table>
SECTION 3 - APPOINTMENT AND ROLE OF THE GRADUATE PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Graduate Program Directors are appointed by the Department/School Chair in which the degree program is offered and approved by the academic unit Dean. The Graduate Program Director serves as the liaison between the department and the College of Graduate Studies. It is the responsibility of the Graduate Program Director to implement all policies and procedures of the Graduate Committee and the College of Graduate Studies pertaining to graduate education at Georgia Southern University. The Graduate Program Director works in conjunction with the graduate faculty of the department/school to ensure that policies and procedures unique to the department are followed.

KEY ROLES FOR THE GRADUATE PROGRAM DIRECTOR/COORDINATOR

Listed below are crucial roles in which the Graduate Program Director influences graduate education.

1. Be a model of excellence in training graduate students.
2. Maintain the overall academic integrity of the graduate degree program.
3. Liaison between the graduate degree program, the academic unit and the College of Graduate Studies.
4. Facilitate the recruitment and admission of a diverse group of highly talented graduate students.
5. Monitor the progress of students through the program and student placement.
6. Prepare relevant student learning outcomes and graduate program assessments on an annual basis.
7. Model and encourage excellence in scholarship and teaching.
8. Provide leadership in the periodic review of the graduate curriculum and in the design and implementation of enhanced graduate student professional development.

The Graduate Program Director is also involved in the following activities:

1. Processing and evaluation of applications;
2. Transmitting to the Office of Admissions the program’s recommendation on student applications for admission;
3. Notifying the College of Graduate Studies of the student’s progress towards the degree (exams, etc.);
4. Endorsing the student’s program of study via DegreeWorks;
5. Approving program course substitutions via DegreeWorks;
6. Maintaining unit files on prospective, present and past students;
7. Providing department endorsements of requested exceptions to University policy;
8. Attendance and participation in COGS Program Director meetings and functions;
9. Reviewing student appeals regarding academic program matters;
10. Makes recommendations for graduate assistantships, scholarships and other awards.
11. Keeps graduate students and faculty informed of current deadline dates and policies of the College of Graduate Studies.
12. Notifies the College of Graduate Studies of the date, time and place of comprehensive/exit/terminal/qualifying examinations, theses defenses and final dissertation defenses.
13. Notifies the College of Graduate Studies of candidacy, comprehensive, exit, terminal or other qualifying examinations, thesis defense and dissertation defense results.
14. Countersigns with the major professor and/or Department Chair, on all requests for degree/major changes, and candidacy recommendation forms.
15. Works in collaboration with the College of Graduate Studies to market and recruit students to their program(s).
16. Communicates with and advises students in the absence of an advisor or program coordinator.

SECTION 4 - GRADUATE ADMISSIONS

Graduate Admissions has the responsibility of processing all applications for admission to the College of Graduate Studies, coordinating recruitment communications with the aid of Campus Management Connect for prospective and applied students, and managing the online application for admission. The Graduate Program Director and/or department admission committee must review all application documents before an admission recommendation can be made. The academic unit in which the applicant proposes to enroll makes the initial recommendation concerning the admission of an applicant for graduate study. Formal admission decisions on all applications to the university’s graduate programs are rendered by the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies. A summary of admission information follows. Detailed information may be found on the Graduate Admissions website: http://cogs.georgiasouthern.edu/admission/

APPLICATION DEADLINES

Application deadlines vary by department and program. Application deadlines are listed on the individual program pages on the Graduate Admissions website: https://cogs.georgiasouthern.edu/admission/program-deadlines-by-college/
Graduate Program Directors should be certain to update applicable deadlines with Graduate Admission prior to the close of the previous semester.

Following each admission cycle, Program Directors should review the application submission and admission decision dates of their applicant pools and make any necessary adjustments to satisfy enrollment management goals deemed consistent with industry and professional standards of their programs. Program Directors are also encouraged to identify the application and notification deadlines of their primary competitors to ensure their admission cycles sufficiently position them in the market. Graduate Program Directors may also discuss application deadline extensions for their respective programs at any time with Graduate Admissions.

APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION

Applicants to the College of Graduate Studies must hold a bachelor’s degree or the equivalent of a higher degree from an institution accredited by the proper regional accrediting association. Each applicant must file an application for admission with Graduate Admissions. Applicants must follow the admission procedures specified in the University Catalog, the College of Graduate Studies website, and/or listed at the degree program website.

Applicants must apply online at Graduate Admissions website: http://cogs.georgiasouthern.edu/admission/start/applynow

Applicants may check the status of their application file via the web at cogs.georgiasouthern.edu/admission
College of Public Health, Doctor of Physical Therapy, Master of Communication Sciences, and Master of Healthcare Administration applicants will check the status of their application file at:
https://my.georgiasouthern.edu/portal/admissions/index.php
This checklist will show application materials that have been received by date and highlight items missing from the applicant file.

U.S. CITIZENS AND PERMANENT RESIDENTS
Domestic applicants are required to submit the following:

• Completed Graduate Application for Admission
• $50 Application fee
• Official transcripts from each college/university previously attended
• Official admission test scores as required for the degree
• Other supplementary application documents as required by the department or school

The application and supplementary materials are collected by Graduate Admissions. In progress applications may be viewed at any time. However, the appropriate department only reviews and grants admission consideration to completed files. Upon review, the Program Director submits an admission recommendation to Graduate Admissions for each completed application.

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS DUE PRIOR TO ENROLLMENT

• Certificate of Immunization Form
• International students ONLY: Original Bank Statement not more than six months old that confirms finances
• Verification of Legal Presence
• International Students ONLY: SEVIS Data Form (Financial Statement Form)
• Other documents required by the department or program

There may be certain visa classifications that permit a foreign national to be admitted to the College of Graduate Studies in a non-degree classification. Questions regarding eligibility may be directed to the Office of International Programs and Services.

IMMUNIZATION DOCUMENTATION
Graduate students (domestic and international) are required to provide documentation of immunization to be eligible to enroll in classes per the Board of Regents policy. Domestic students enrolled in completely 100% online graduate programs are exempt from submitting the immunization documentation as long as they do not attend class on campus. A degree program must only offer 100% online courses, and be coded as Web-F by the Office of the Registrar, to receive this exemption.

Students may access immunization information at the Health Services website at http://auxiliary.georgiasouthern.edu/healthservices/immunization/
VERIFIED LAWFUL PRESENCE

All new students attending a USG institution must verify lawful presence in the United States in order to be eligible for in-state tuition. Domestic students must provide one of the following forms of documentation:

• A current ID or driver’s license issued by the State of Georgia after January 1, 2008.
• A certified U.S. birth certificate showing that the student was born in the U.S. or a U.S. Territory
• A U. S. Certificate of Birth Abroad issued by the Department of State or a Consular Report of Birth Abroad.
• A U.S. Certificate of Naturalization or Certificate of Citizenship.
• A current U.S. Passport.
• A current Military ID.
• A current Permanent Resident Alien Card.

International students in F-1 or J-1 status are verified by the Office of International Programs and Services.

ADMISSION TEST SCORES

Official standardized test scores* are required for admission to all graduate degree programs with the exception of programs that have been through the Graduate Curriculum committee and have been approved to not require standardized test. Currently, the Graduate Record Examination (GRE), Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT) and Miller Analogies Test (MAT) are the standardized admission tests used by most departments at Georgia Southern University. Departments may accept one or more of the standardized tests for admission consideration to their programs, as approved by the Graduate Committee.

* To be official, the test scores must have been submitted to Graduate Admissions directly from the testing agency.

Graduate Programs and Test Requirements:

• Parker College of Business
  Doctor of Philosophy, Logistics and Supply Chain Management (GMAT)
  Master of Accounting (No admission test required)
  Master of Business Administration (No admission test required)
  Master of Science in Applied Economics (GRE)

• College of Education
  Doctor of Education, Curriculum Studies (No admission test required)
  Doctor of Education, Educational Leadership (GRE Only)
  Education Specialist (No admission test required)
    Educational Leadership
    Instructional Technology
    Reading Education
    School Psychology
  Education Specialist (No admission test required)
    Elementary Education
    Middle Grades Education
    Secondary Education
    Special Education
  Master of Education (No admission test required)
  Master of Arts in Teaching (GACE only)
USG Franchise Programs
  M.Ed. – Instructional Technology (No admission test required)
  M.Ed. – Curriculum and Instruction - Accomplished Teaching (No admission test required)

- **Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health**
  Doctor of Public Health (GRE or GMAT)
  Master of Public Health (GRE or GMAT)

- **Waters College of Health Professions**
  Bachelor of Science to Doctor of Nursing Practice (No admission test required)
  Doctor of Nursing Practice (No admission test required)
  Doctor of Physical Therapy (GRE)
  Master of Health Administration (GRE or GMAT)
  Master of Science (Kinesiology) (GRE) (No admission test required for concentrations Coaching, Exercise Science & Physical Education)
  Master of Science in Nursing (No admission test required)
  Master of Science (Sport Management) (No admission test required)
  Master of Science (Sports Medicine) (GRE)
  Master of Science (Communication Sciences and Disorders) (GRE)

- **College of Arts and Humanities**
  Master of Arts (English) (GRE)
  Master of History (GRE)
  Master of Arts (Spanish) (No admission test required)
  Master of Fine Arts (Portfolio required)
  Master of Music (No admission test required)
  Master of Arts (Professional Communication & Leadership) (No admission test required)

- **College of Behavioral and Social Sciences**
  Doctor of Psychology (GRE)
  Master of Public Administration (GRE; exempt with 3.0 cumulative GPA)
  Master of Arts (Social Science) (GRE; exempt with 3.0 cumulative GPA)
  Master of Science (Criminal Justice & Criminology) (GRE)
  Master of Science (Experimental Psychology) (GRE)

- **College of Science and Mathematics**
  Master of Science (Applied Geography) (GRE)
  Master of Science (Applied Physical Science) (GRE)
  Master of Science (Biology) (GRE)
  Master of Science (Mathematics) (GRE)

- **Allen E. Paulson College of Engineering and Computing**
  Master of Science in Applied Engineering (No admission test required)
  Master of Science (Computer Science) (GRE)

**ADMISSION TEST SCORE WAIVER**
Applicants with exceptional experience and/or academic qualifications may be granted degree admission to the College of Graduate Studies without the submission of admission test scores. Admission approval may be granted by the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies following a review of the recommendation by the respective Graduate Program Director and Department Chair. Program Directors should submit the waiver recommendation
which must include documentation justifying the applicant’s exceptional experience and/or academic qualifications to Graduate Admissions. *Note, this should be a program driven effort where the program faculty review the application materials and then recommend the GRE/GMAT waiver based on one or both exceptional academic background and exceptional professional background of the applicant.* Applicants should not contact the College of Graduate Studies asking for the waiver.

**Test Score Reliability**

Testing agencies keep official test scores on file for five (5) years. Admission test scores more than five years old will not be considered for admission. Test score copies from previous institutions, or copies from a third party are not accepted.

**TRANSCRIPTS AND ADMISSION GRADE POINT AVERAGES**

Applicants must submit official transcripts from each college or university attended. The transcripts may be sent directly to Graduate Admissions from the institution(s) attended or the student may collect the official transcripts in sealed institutional envelopes and submit them directly to Graduate Admissions. Transcripts marked as “Issued to Student”, photocopies, or presented in opened institutional envelopes are not accepted as official. The student is responsible for submitting official transcripts before the end of the first week of class. A hold will be placed on further registration until all official transcripts are received and verified.

If an official transcript envelope is opened by Georgia Southern University faculty or administrative staff, the university employee must make a notation on the transcript that verifies the transcript arrived intact and must note the name of the person who opened the envelope.

If a transcript included course(s) transferred from an institution that the applicants failed to list on the application form, the Office of Graduate Admissions will notify the applicant that official transcripts from that institution must be submitted.

Students may be accepted into a graduate program before a degree is awarded from their current program or institution. The student is responsible for submitting the final official transcript with degree awarded date before the end of the first week of class. If a student did not receive the degree, admission decisions will be revoked.

Admission grade point averages, as reflected on each institution’s transcripts, may be used for admission decisions. In cases where the applicant has attended more than one institution, the overall grade point average is calculated by combining the individual’s quality points and hours completed to achieve a cumulative grade point average. The cumulative combined grade point average (all work attempted) is used for admission consideration to all programs.

**NON-DEGREE GRADUATE CREDIT TO RAISE ADMISSION GRADE POINT AVERAGE**

Graduate credit cannot be used to raise the undergraduate Grade Point Average. In addition, graduate credit used to raise the admission GPA cannot be used toward meeting graduate degree requirements at a later time.

Applicants who wish to raise their undergraduate grade point average to meet graduate requirements are recommended to apply as a Post-Baccalaureate student. There are three (3) categories for admission:
1. Former Georgia Southern University undergraduate students are instructed to apply as a Post-Bacc through the Registrar’s office with this application:
   https://www.sta.georgiasouthern.edu/Axiom/Login.aspx?SourceID=25

2. Applicants who did not attend Georgia Southern are instructed to apply as a Post-Bacc through the Office of Undergraduate Admissions. Instructions are located at:
   http://admissions.georgiasouthern.edu/index.php?link=apply

3. Applicants who have applied for graduate admission and are advised to change to Post-Bacc status. The applicant may request an update of their graduate application to a future term (up to one year) and then apply as a Post-Bacc through either the office of Undergraduate Admissions (for those applicants who did not attend Georgia Southern) or the Registrar’s Office (for those applicants who attended Georgia Southern).

INTERNATIONAL APPLICANTS

Graduates of an international institution must hold a degree equivalent to a bachelor’s degree earned at a regionally accredited institution in the United States. International applicants must meet requirements for regular admission and may not be admitted under Provisional Admission. International applicants may not be granted Non-Degree admission unless their immigration status permits non-degree study.

International applicants are required to submit the following application documents to be considered for admission:

- Completed online Graduate Application for Admission
- $50 (USD) application fee
- Certified original and English translations of transcripts (such as WES Evaluation)
- Certified copy of diploma and certified English translation of diploma if not stated on the transcript
- Official admission test scores as required for the degree
- Other supplementary application documents as required by the department or school
- Official TOEFL/IELTS score not more than two years old.

Professional Credential Evaluation Requirement for Graduate Applicants

Applicants for graduate admission who were/are enrolled for undergraduate and/or graduate study in institutions abroad are required to have a course-by-course evaluation (to include the GPA) completed by a professional credential evaluation agency. Professional credential evaluation services include Spantran (www.spantran.com), WES (www.wes.org), Josef Silny (www.jsilny.com), Lisano International (www.lisano-intl.com) and AACRO (www.aacrao.org). A professional evaluation confirms the international transcripts are true and authentic and converts the transcript into U.S. academic equivalents.

Official Admission Test Scores (GRE, GMAT, MAT) as required for the selected program must be submitted.

TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) or IELTS (International English Language Testing System)

The Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) exam or the IELTS exam is required of all applicants whose native or primary language is not English. A minimum TOEFL score of 75 (iBT) or 537 (Standard Paper Based Test)
or a minimum IELTS score of 6.0 and not more than two years old at the time of application, is required for admission. The English proficiency requirement will be waived for international applicants who have graduated from a U.S. college or university or are from countries where English is the first language. This includes countries such as Canada (except Quebec), the UK, Australia, or New Zealand.

**International Students with Assistantships**

International students are required to notify International Programs and Services of their assistantship appointment and submit necessary information as requested.

**Additional materials required to be issued an I-20 SEVIS Data Form (Financial Statement Form)**

- SEVIS Data Form (sent directly to the Office of International Programs and Services)
- Original Bank Statement not more than six months old that confirms finances (sent directly to the Office of International Programs and Services)

There may be certain visa classifications that permit a foreign national to be admitted to the College of Graduate Studies in a non-degree classification. Questions regarding eligibility may be directed to Graduate Admissions or to the Office of International Programs and Services.

**ADMISSION CLASSIFICATION**

A prospective student who plans to take additional coursework beyond the baccalaureate degree must apply to the College of Graduate Studies and be admitted under one of the following classifications:

**Degree Admission:** Students who are admitted to the College of Graduate Studies with the expressed intention of following a program leading to a graduate degree are classified as degree-seeking students. These students have successfully submitted all application materials as required by program. When admitted as a degree-seeking student, the applicant will be placed in one of the following categories:

- **Regular:** Meets all requirements for unqualified admission and has been recommended by the college, department or program in which he/she proposes to study, and approved by the College of Graduate Studies.

- **Provisional:** Does not satisfy the full admission requirements. Applicants granted Provisional admission are required to earn grades of "B" or better in their first nine (9) hours of graduate credit taken at Georgia Southern University under this admission category. Failure to satisfy the conditions of provisional admission will result in exclusion from the degree program. A student admitted in this category will be reclassified to Regular admission when the conditions have been met. A Provisional student may enroll in graduate courses and such courses may be counted in a degree program when the student has been reclassified as a Regular student. Only credit earned in graduate courses at Georgia Southern University may be used to satisfy Provisional admission requirements. A student excluded from a graduate degree program for failure to meet the conditions of provisional admission may not be readmitted to the College of Graduate Studies under non-degree admission.
Please note: There is no provisional admission to Doctoral programs. Provisional students are NOT eligible for Graduate Assistantship positions or federal financial aid. International students are not eligible for provisional admission.

**Non-Degree Admission:** An applicant may be admitted to COGS as a non-degree student to earn credit in graduate courses **without** working toward a degree. Upon the advisor’s recommendation, non-degree graduate courses may be included in the program of study should the student gain reclassification as a Regular student. A student may be admitted to COGS in one of the following non-degree admission categories:

- **Limited:** A student who must first satisfy prerequisite course requirements and has not applied and been admitted as a degree seeking student or whose file is incomplete because all required application materials have not been received in Graduate Admissions. Enrollment in the Non-Degree Limited category is limited to a maximum of nine (9) semester hours of credit in graduate courses in any seven contiguous years. A student may count a limited number of credit hours earned under non-degree admission toward graduate degree program requirements if recommended by the Graduate Program Director and approved by the College of Graduate Studies. Students enrolled under this admission category are not eligible for graduate assistant positions or for financial aid.

- **Enrichment:** A student who holds an undergraduate or graduate degree and desires to take courses for personal or professional improvement. Enrollment in the Non-Degree Enrichment category is limited to 18 credit hours unless otherwise stated by the department. Certain departments may limit the number of credits earned under this non-degree admission category that may count toward graduate degree requirements to less than 18 hours. Students enrolled under this admission category are not eligible for graduate assistant positions or for financial aid.

- **Certificate:** A student who holds an undergraduate or graduate degree can pursue a graduate certificate program through the Non-degree Certificate admission. Enrollment in the Non-Degree Certificate category is limited to the number of credit hours required for the certificate program, typically 12-24 credit hours, in any seven continuous years unless additional credit hours are approved by the College of Graduate Studies. A student may count up to 18 credit hours earned as part of the certificate program toward graduate degree program requirements if recommended by the degree Graduate Program Director and approved by the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies. Students enrolled under this admission category are not eligible for graduate assistant positions nor for financial aid. Certificate students must submit a Certificate Completion Application here: [https://w3.georgiasouthern.edu/cogs/certcompletion/](https://w3.georgiasouthern.edu/cogs/certcompletion/) upon completion in order to have the certificate awarded.

- **Teaching/Service/Leadership Certification:** A student seeking initial certification as a P-12 educator (teaching, service, or leadership certification as defined by the Georgia Professional Standards Commission) may be admitted in this category and enroll in graduate courses required for certification in any seven contiguous years. In addition, in service teachers enrolling to meet requirements of a local board of education or the Georgia Professional Standards commission to
renew or reinstate a certificate, to certify in a new area, or to obtain an endorsement to an existing certificate may enroll in graduate courses for credit for this particular purpose through his category. Note that admission in this category and completion of a certification program does not guarantee subsequent admission to a graduate degree program. Enrollment in this category is limited to the number of hours required for certification and/or endorsement not to exceed 18 semester hours of credit. A student may count the credit hours earned as part of the certification/endorsement program(s) toward graduate degree program requirements if recommended by the degree Graduate Program Director and approved by the College of Graduate Studies. Students enrolled under this admission category are not eligible for graduate assistant positions.

**Transient:** Graduate Students who are currently enrolled in a graduate program at another university may take courses at Georgia Southern University as a transient student. To be admitted as a transient student, the student must submit an application (selecting “Graduate Transient” status), and a certificate of good standing from the appropriate official from the home institution. A student is admitted under this classification for one semester only and must apply and be readmitted under this classification each subsequent semester in transient status.

**Post-Baccalaureate:** A student who has completed a Bachelor’s degree and applies for graduate admission but is advised to take additional undergraduate classes to satisfy pre-requisite requirements, or raise their undergraduate cumulative GPA in order to gain Regular admission into a graduate program, may request an update of the graduate application to a future term (up to one year) and apply as a post-bacc student (see item #3 on page 20 above).

The student will not be granted graduate-level credit and must contact the Graduate Admission office (gradadmissions@georgiasouthern.edu) to request an update of the graduate application PRIOR to the first day of class for the original start term to which the student applied. Failure to do so will require the student to submit another application for graduate admission.

**Senior Privilege (Graduate Credit for Seniors):** A Georgia Southern University senior with no more than 9 hours remaining in completing the requirements for the bachelor’s degree may apply for Senior Privilege to enroll in graduate courses (up to a total of nine credit hours) for graduate credit providing:

- The student submits a Senior Privilege Application Form found at http://cogs.georgiasouthern.edu/wp-content/uploads/SeniorPrivilegeApplicationForm.pdf;
- Permission to enroll in such courses is obtained from the chairperson of the department involved, the appropriate graduate program director, and the COGS (College of Graduate Studies);
- The student is otherwise qualified for Regular Degree Admission to the COGS;
- The total term load does not exceed fifteen (15) credit hours, with no more than nine (9) credit hours of graduate credit.

**Under Senior Privilege the courses cannot be used for both graduate and undergraduate credit.**
Accelerated Bachelors to Masters

The Accelerated Bachelor's Master's (ABM) program provides qualified undergraduate students the opportunity to begin graduate studies in their senior year and to simultaneously satisfy some remaining requirements for the bachelor's degree.

A student must apply and be admitted into this program in the semester preceding the beginning of the ABM program. Students must have completed at least 24 hours of coursework in the discipline or related field of the Master's degree to be eligible. Prospective students should consult the program of study for admission deadlines and admission requirements.

A student may use up to 9 credit hours of graduate-level courses offered within a single degree program in meeting the requirements of both a bachelor's degree and a master's degree. However, there must be at least 150 unique hours between the two programs.

An undergraduate student enrolled in graduate classes is limited to six semester hours of graduate course work per term.

**Admission to an Accelerated Bachelor to Master's degree program is different than Senior Privilege. Please review the Senior Privilege policy.**

ADMISSION TO PURSUE TWO GRADUATE DEGREES CONCURRENTLY

A graduate student at Georgia Southern University may be enrolled in more than one Master's or more than one Education Specialist program at the same time providing they have met all admission requirements for each program and have been recommended for admission in each program. All requirements for each program must be met. Students should consult with each program area to determine program requirements.

Internal Credit Hour Sharing Between Graduate Degrees

A graduate student is permitted to count up to 9 credit hours from one previously earned Master's degree or Education Specialist degree, toward the requirements of the second Master's or Education Specialist degree providing the courses are approved and recommended by the student's advisor for the second program.

**Non-course based credit might not be transferable based on individual program requirements.**

ADMISSION TERM

Admission is granted for a specific semester that is stated in the official admission letter and is validated by the registration for that semester. An applicant wishing to defer admission to a subsequent semester must submit a one-time request to the Office of Graduate Admissions as long as the request occurs prior to the start of the original semester of scheduled matriculation. After the original semester of scheduled matriculation has begun, the applicant must submit a new application and application fee to be considered for admission for a future semester. A student must be admitted by the close of the first week of an academic semester in order for the admission to be effective for that semester. The semester for which the applicant is admitted is stated on the official notification of admission letter from the Office of Graduate Admissions. If the admission application
remains incomplete or is completed after the application deadline, due to an incomplete file or because departmental action was not taken earlier, the application for admission will be cancelled.

The College of Graduate Studies will refuse admission to applicants whose files are incomplete after the beginning of the semester of expected matriculation and when the applicants have not requested deferrals to future semesters. The application and supporting documents become the property of the University and cannot be returned or forwarded elsewhere.

READMISSION GRADUATE STUDENT POLICY

To Return within Three (3) Semesters
A graduate student who has not registered or been enrolled for up to three (3) semesters or less and wishes to return in the same degree and admission category must contact Graduate Admissions to update their application. These students are not required to submit a new application for admission or $50 application fee. If the applicant has attended other colleges or universities during the time that attendance at Georgia Southern University was interrupted, official transcripts from those institutions are required.

To Return Beyond Three or More Semesters
A graduate student who has not registered or been enrolled for three or more consecutive semesters must re-apply to (and be accepted into) a graduate program before being considered for re-entry by the College of Graduate Studies. In order to be allowed to resume graduate study, the student must meet all requirements for entry in force at the time of the new application. Inactive students who seek to regain active status will not, however, be required to recreate materials submitted with their original applications and held in their files by the College of Graduate Studies unless the application requirements to their program have changed or records no longer exist pursuant to university record retention policies. If allowed to regain active status, the formerly inactive student will be subject to all requirements in force in his or her graduate program and in the College of Graduate Studies at the time the student returns to active status. The student must submit a new completed application for admission for the next available term only and the $50 application fee:
http://cogs.georgiasouthern.edu/gradadmin/applytogradschool

Applicants who wish to return to continue study may be required to supply previously submitted supporting documents and/or current admission test scores. Additionally, if the applicant has attended other colleges or universities during the time that attendance at Georgia Southern University was interrupted, official transcripts from those institutions are required.

Students with questions regarding past curriculum and how credits will be handled, or students who have passed the number of contiguous years to complete a degree program, are advised to contact the Program Director or Department Chair for advisement.

ADMISSION CHANGES FOR CURRENTLY ENROLLED STUDENTS

To Change Classification or Apply to a Different Degree Program
Students who wish to change their classification (Degree Seeking to Non-Degree Seeking or vice-versa) must apply for admission consistent with their enrollment intention. The student must submit a new application for admission and a $50 application fee.
**To Change Major or Concentration in Same Degree Program After Admission**

Current students who wish to change their major in the same degree program and department may submit the Request for a Change of Major Form found on the College of Graduate Studies website:


The Graduate Program Director for the former and new majors must recommend approval of the request before the College of Graduate Studies will approve it.

**DEGREE OBJECTIVE CHANGE**

A student must submit a new application to Graduate Admissions to request to change a degree objective. The only exception to this situation is when the department requests a change from a degree program to a certificate program within said department. This does not apply to students pursuing a degree and the certificate concurrently. To request a major change, the student must submit a new application to Graduate Admissions. If a currently enrolled student is requesting a change from one major to another within the same department, the student may submit the request to the College of Graduate Studies by completing the Request of a Change of Major Form: http://cogs.georgiasouthern.edu/wp-content/uploads/ChangeOfMajorRequestFormnew2.pdf

A student admitted in the non-degree classification is not eligible to request a change of degree objective. A student in this classification must submit an application for admission to be considered for a degree program. Non-degree students who are later admitted as a prospective degree candidate may be permitted to count a limited number of credits taken in a non-degree status toward a graduate degree. The inclusion of such course work on a program of study is subject to the approval of the major professor, the departmental graduate coordinator, and the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies.

**CAMPUS MANAGEMENT CONNECT CRM**

Campus Management Connect CRM is a comprehensive suite of enrollment management tools housed in an online database. Students can learn more about Georgia Southern and graduate programs of study through targeted emails, online information pages called Interest Pages, surveys, and mailings. Program Directors are responsible for contacting Graduate Admissions if there is a need to update information about their program. However, the communications coordinator will have a call for revisions bi-annually that should be read thoroughly and edited appropriately. Reports showing prospects and applicants by program and term are emailed weekly to each Program Director and can be viewed online. This is a web based system that can be accessed at https://georgiasoutherngrad.askadmissions.net/sso/sso/Login

To request access and training for Connect please contact Graduate Admissions at (912) 478-2302 or meganmurray@georgiasouthern.edu.

**CAMPUS MANAGEMENT APPLYYOURSELF (AY)**

ApplyYourself is the Graduate School’s online application system, where graduate programs self-manage applications. It pushes students through to college admission with popular online tools, such as online applications, online recommendations, and decision management tools. ApplyYourself keeps students actively engaged throughout the entire application process. The Web Center is the administrative side of the
ApplyYourself application system. Each degree program has been issued a Record Access Account allowing each department to only view their applications.

This very dynamic system allows the students to upload their admissions materials and submit a nearly completed application to enable faster application processing and decision rendition. Because AY creates a PDF of the application, it eliminates the need for Xtender, except in cases where a re-admit with documents submitted prior to the implementation of AY are stored that solution.

To make an appointment to be trained on how to render decisions in this system, please contact the Office of Graduate Admissions, 912-478-2302 or meganmurray@georgiasouthern.edu, and we will be glad to meet with you.

SECTION 5 - MATRICULATION, REGISTRATION, AND RECORDS

The Registrar’s Office maintains the student’s registration records, grades, transcripts, degree objective, test scores, and registration holds in BANNER. Beginning fall semester 2014, application file documents for students admitted for this and subsequent terms have been scanned and maintained in an electronic file. Graduate Program Directors, program coordinators, and designated department staff may access the student file documents through Application Xtender or WebXtender and ApplyYourself.

REGISTRATION
A student must be eligible to register to be enrolled in courses. All eligible students are strongly encouraged to register online through the university online registration system (WINGS). The student may conduct online registration during the open registration periods listed in the university academic calendar and on the WINGS website http://em.georgiasouthern.edu/registrar/resources/calendars/

To register online the student must:

• Be admitted to the College of Graduate Studies
• Be eligible to register
• Have a registration access number (RAN) for the semester of registration
• Have no registration holds
• Have satisfied all course prerequisites before registration is attempted

REGISTRATION ACCESS NUMBER (RAN)
Newly accepted graduate students will receive the RAN (Registration Access Number) in their WINGS account. If they are a first time user of my.georgiasouthern.edu, complete registration instructions can be found on the College of Graduate Studies website. A RAN is unique for each semester. If a student delays their attendance, they would need a new RAN for the term enrollment was projected. A new RAN is generated by the Registrar’s Office for each semester. The RAN is sent to each currently enrolled graduate student that is eligible to register through the GSU student email account. Eligible students may also obtain their RAN by directly contacting their advisor, their department office, or the College of Graduate Studies.
**LATE REGISTRATION**

A student who attempts to late register because of non-payment of tuition and fees or because of their failure to initiate the registration process must appeal to the College of Graduate Studies for late registration approval. If the student is approved for late registration, tuition and fees must be paid in full to the Bursar’s Office by cash, cashier’s check, or electronically by credit card or debit card before the student will be registered.

**REGISTRATION HOLDS**

Registration holds may be placed on a student’s record that will prevent them from registering. The office that places the hold must remove the hold. A hold placed on the student by the College of Graduate Studies is identified with “GO”. The College of Graduate Studies may place a registration hold on a student’s record for the following reasons:

1. Non-Degree maximum enrollment hours reached
2. Academic Exclusion
3. Failure to comply with an academic program requirements

When the student with a “GO” hold has satisfied the requirements of the hold, it will be removed. If the student finds the “GO” hold on his/her record, the student may also contact the College of Graduate Studies and request that the hold be removed.

Holds placed on the record by other offices or departments must be satisfied before the office or department placing the hold can remove the hold.

**TUITION AND FEES**

Registration is not confirmed until the payment of tuition and fees are confirmed. Students must access WINGS for the tuition and fee amount and pay tuition and fees by the payment deadline given. The current tuition and fee schedule may be accessed at the following website:

http://businesssrvs.georgiasouthern.edu/bursar/office-of-student-accounts/tuition-and-fees/

**LATE FEES**

A student will be assessed a late fee of $100 if tuition and fees are not paid by the semester payment deadline.

**COURSE LOADS**

The maximum course load per semester or term for any graduate student is shown in Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SEMESTER</th>
<th>CREDIT HOURS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spring Semester</td>
<td>12 credit hours</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
- A student may be approved to earn a total of 12 credits during the summer with a credit hour overload approval from the College of Graduate Studies.

**FULL-TIME AND PART-TIME ENROLLMENT**

Full-time and part-time credit hour enrollment by term is shown in Table 2 below.

| Table 2: Graduate Student Full-Time/Part-Time Credit Hour Enrollment by Term |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
|                                  | SPRING                          | SUMMER         | FALL           |                 |                 |
|                                  | Full-Time | Part-Time | Full-Time | Part-Time | Full-Time | Part-Time |
| ALL PROGRAMS                    |           |           |           |           |           |           |
|                                  | 9-12       | <9        | 6         | < 6        | 9-12       | < 9        |
| EXCEPT:                         |           |           |           |           |           |           |
| MSN                              |           |           | 5-12      | <5        | 5-12       | < 5        |
| DNP                              |           |           | 5-12      | <5        | 5-12       | < 5        |
| PsyD                             |           |           | 1 Plus Full- | 1 Plus Full- | 1 Plus Full- |           |
|                                 |           |           | Time Internship | Time Internship | Time Internship |           |
| Dietetic Internship             |           |           | 2 during NTFS 7790 | Final Spring Semester |                |           |

**Graduate Full-Time Status Exception Process**

Requesting a Full-Time Status Exception pertains to higher contact hours for programs that are required to include a, practicum, clinical rotation or extended internship. Any program wishing to apply for an exception to the Full-Time Status criteria outlined in the Graduate Catalog must apply through the process outlined below. It is important to note the dates of the Enrollment Management Council (EMC) meetings, and the Graduate Curriculum Committee deadlines for catalog changes when drafting the Full-Time Status Exception proposal. The exception request will follow the curriculum process with the additional review from the Enrollment Management Council. Program faculty are invited to attend the Enrollment Management Council meeting if questions arise when the program proposal is reviewed.
Exception Approval Process:

Department Curriculum Committee → College Curriculum Committee → Enrollment Management Council → Graduate Curriculum Committee

CREDIT HOUR OVERLOADS
If a graduate student desires a credit hour overload, he/she must submit the completed Credit Hour Overload Request Form [http://cogs.georgiasouthern.edu/wp-content/uploads/CreditHourOverloadRequest-1.pdf](http://cogs.georgiasouthern.edu/wp-content/uploads/CreditHourOverloadRequest-1.pdf). The student’s advisor or major professor must endorse the overload and the overload must be approved by the College of Graduate Studies. If approved by the College of Graduate Studies, the Registrar’s Office and the student are informed of the overload approval by email. The Registrar’s Office will add the student to the class if the student is eligible to be registered in the course. The following programs have been approved to carry a 12 credit hour course load over the Summer: DPT, MS Kinesiology in Coaching, MS Kinesiology in Health Education.

SCHEDULE ADJUSTMENTS
Schedule adjustment may be made in WINGS consistent with the University schedule adjustment period and policy published in the academic calendar on the Registrar’s Office website.

DROP AND ADD
A student may drop or add courses consistent with the university Drop/Add cycle. Adding or dropping a course may be done by either submitting a drop form to the Registrar’s Office or by processing in WINGS prior to the last day of the drop/add period. A “W” will be issued for any course dropped after the Drop/Add period but before the last day to drop without academic penalty. Fees will not be reduced if a course is dropped after the Drop/Add dates.

FAILURE TO OFFICIALLY DROP A COURSE
An “F” grade will be assigned to any student who discontinues attending class without officially dropping the course.

WITHDRAWAL FROM SCHOOL
A graduate student desiring to withdraw from school during the term must complete an online Voluntary Cancellation/Withdrawal Form found on the Office of the Registrar’s website at [https://www.sta.georgiasouthern.edu/Axiom/Login.aspx?SourceID=31](https://www.sta.georgiasouthern.edu/Axiom/Login.aspx?SourceID=31). Failure to do so will result in the assignment of failing grades in all courses for which the student registered. Withdrawal is not permitted after the last day of class. Grades of “W” will be filed for all courses if withdrawal is before the last day to drop without academic penalty. If withdrawal is completed after the last day to drop, instructors have the option of assigning “W” or “WF” grades. The “WF” is computed as an “F” in the Grade Point Average (GPA).

ENROLLMENT OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS IN GRADUATE COURSES (SENIOR PRIVILEGE)
A student approved for Senior Privilege would receive notification from the College of Graduate Studies. Students approved for Senior Privilege may not register for graduate courses online. Based upon information provided by the student, the Registrar’s Office will be notified by the College of Graduate Studies that the student is approved
to be registered in the graduate course(s). Registration would be confirmed by the Registrar’s Office if the student can be registered in the courses.

ENROLLMENT OF GRADUATE STUDENTS IN UNDERGRADUATE COURSES
Graduate students are permitted to enroll in undergraduate courses to satisfy prerequisites or for other reasons as recommended by the advisor, providing the semester registration hour total does not exceed twelve (12) credits. Graduate students pay the graduate tuition rate for enrolling in undergraduate courses.

SECTION 6 - GRADES

Each course has a grade mode that was set at the time the course was approved. A full description of the grading symbols may be found in the Jack N Averitt College of Graduate Studies Catalog.

INCOMPLETE (I)
A grade of “I” (Incomplete) may be assigned if the student was doing satisfactory work but was unable to meet the full requirements of the course due to non-academic reasons beyond his/her control. The student has one year to remove an “I” from his/her record unless the course instructor requires course requirements to be completed in a shorter time period. If the coursework has not been completed within one year or within the time frame given by the course instructor, the “I” automatically and permanently becomes an “F.”

IN PROGRESS (IP)
A grade of “IP” may be assigned only to courses that extend over more than one term such as thesis, dissertation, a project, practicum, or internship.

SATISFACTORY/UNSATISFACTORY GRADES (S AND U)
“S” or “U” grades are mandatory in all courses designated 7999 and 9999 (thesis and dissertation). If other grades are assigned in these courses, grade changes will be requested to correct the error. In certain other courses, “S” or “U” grades are optional rather than mandatory. The declared grading options of each department for these courses are on record in the Office of the Registrar.

CHANGE OF GRADE
Should a change of grade for a graduate student become necessary, the instructor of the course must complete an official change of grade to the Registrar’s Office per the grade change policy and procedures.

Information regarding the assignment of grades via Faculty WINGS is found at https://my.georgiasouthern.edu/portal/portal.php.

CHANGE OF AN ASSIGNED GRADE
The course instructor must submit a change of grade request per the standard procedures outlined by the Office of the Registrar.
**CHANGE OF AN INCOMPLETE (I)**
Changing an “I” grade is done through WINGS by the course instructor. When an incomplete is not removed within three semesters (including summer), the “I” automatically becomes an “F.” Once a grade of Incomplete (“I”) converts to an “F”, it remains an “F”.

**CHANGE OF AN IN PROGRESS (IP)**
Changing an “IP” grade is done through WINGS by the course instructor. Upon the completion of a course in which an “IP” was assigned for preceding terms, the preceding term course grades will be changed to the same grade reported for the final course enrollment.

**SECTION 7 - STUDENT SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER**

The student’s Social Security number may not be used on any correspondence. Only the last four digits of the student’s Eagle ID number is permitted to be used on correspondence. If, for any reason, Social Security numbers are visible to you or others, or if there are Social Security numbers of students within your possession, please contact the College of Graduate Studies.

**SECTION 8 - TRANSFER OR TRANSIENT CREDIT**

A graduate student may be permitted to transfer up to a maximum of nine (9) semester credits from an accredited institution to count toward a Master’s or Education Specialist degree provided:

- The institution offers the graduate degree program for which the student has been admitted at Georgia Southern University
- An official transcript is sent directly to the College of Graduate Studies from the institution where the graduate work was taken
- The credit was earned no more than 7 years prior to the degree completion date
- The course grades are “B” or better
- The student’s advisor or major professor has approved the transfer credit as part of the student’s approved program of study

A graduate student admitted to one of the College of Education programs that are part of the USG franchise program (Georgia on My Line, GOML) may be approved to count from 9 to 27 transfer credits from one or more of the other USG Franchise program institutions toward the specific Georgia Southern University GOML program requirement.

Doctoral program transfer credit policies may be specific to the individual program and are outlined in the College of Graduate Studies program section of the University Catalog or in the individual doctoral program policy manual. Transfer credit, if considered, must be at the post-master’s level. The age limit for courses to be considered for transfer varies by the program. The maximum credit hour transfer for doctoral programs in show in Table 3:
Table 3: Doctoral Programs - Maximum Transfer Credits

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DOCTORAL PROGRAM</th>
<th>MAXIMUM TRANSFER SEMESTER CREDIT HOURS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctor of Public Health (DrPH)</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctor of Education (EDD – Curriculum Studies)</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctor of Education (EDD – Educational Leadership)</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PhD – Logistics &amp; Supply Chain Management</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctor of Psychology (PsyD)</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT)</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TRANSFER CREDIT**

**Doctor of Education (Ed.D.)**

With proper approval, up to nine (9) credits taken beyond the master’s degree program may be transferred to the **Ed.D. in Curriculum Studies**. Up to thirty (30) credits taken beyond the master’s degree may be transferred to the **Ed.D. in Educational Leadership**. Transfer credits must be approved by the Graduate Program Director and/or the major professor. No grade below a “B” may be transferred. Courses taken prior to degree admission may not be used in fulfilling the degree program residency requirement. An official transcript of all transfer credits must be received in the College of Graduate Studies before graduation clearance. No document in lieu of an official transcript may be accepted as proof of completion of coursework.

Doctoral students may transfer courses taken at another university during the time that they are studying at Georgia Southern University. This is intended to help doctoral students who may go to another accredited university during the summer term and take a course not offered at Georgia Southern University but that are very important for their research program. Doctoral students must first have matriculated at Georgia Southern University for their current degree objective before the courses can be considered for transfer. Total transfer hours may not exceed stated limits.

**Doctor of Nursing Practice (D.N.P.)**

A maximum of six (6) credits of doctoral level nursing credits and nine (9) credits of graduate level electives may be applied toward the degree upon approval by the Graduate Nursing Program consistent with the program requirements.
**Doctor of Physical Therapy (D.P.T.)**
A maximum of nine (9) credits may be transferred from another regionally accredited graduate institution subject to the approval of the major professor or graduate advisor. No course with a grade below “B” will be accepted and the transfer course must meet the degree time limit to be included in the degree program of study.

**Doctor of Psychology (Psy.D.)**
Students may be able to substitute credit received for taking up to 18 hours of graduate courses at a regionally-accredited institution during the last five years consistent with the program policy requirements, as outlined in the Handbook for Doctoral Students in Clinical Psychology.

**Doctor of Public Health (Dr.P.H.)**
A maximum of nine (9) credits may be transferred from another regionally accredited graduate institution subject to the approval of the major professor or graduate advisor. No course with a grade below “B” will be accepted and the transfer course must meet the degree time limit to be included in the degree program of study.

**Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D. - Logistics and Supply Chain Management)**
A maximum of nine (9) credits may be transferred from another regionally accredited graduate institution subject to the approval of the major professor or graduate advisor. No course with a grade below “B” will be accepted and the transfer course must meet the degree time limit to be included in the degree program of study.

**TRANSIENT STUDENT PERMISSION FORM (LETTER OF GOOD STANDING)**
A graduate student may request approval to take courses at another institution as a transient student. To be considered as a transient at another institution, the student must complete and submit a Graduate Student Transient Permission Form (Letter of Good Standing). The transient permission form may be accessed at [http://cogs.georgiasouthern.edu/wp-content/uploads/TransientStudentPermissionForm-1.pdf](http://cogs.georgiasouthern.edu/wp-content/uploads/TransientStudentPermissionForm-1.pdf). To be approved to take courses as a transient at another institution, the student must be in good standing and be currently admitted to the College of Graduate Studies. To be in good standing, the student must have a 3.0 graduate grade point average (3.25 for Ed.D. Curriculum Studies and 3.50 for Ed.D. Educational Leadership students).

The graduate student transient permission form must be completed by the student and signed by the advisor before being submitted to the College of Graduate Studies for final approval. If approved, the form is returned to the student for submission with his/her transient application to the other institution. The transient permission form must be processed at least two weeks prior to the proposed attending institution application deadline for transient admission.

**SECTION 9 - RESIDENT CLASSIFICATION**
A student is responsible for registering under the proper residence classification per the University System of Georgia policy. A student classified as a non-resident who believes that he/she is entitled to be reclassified as a legal resident may submit a petition to the Registrar for a change in status. The petition must be filed no later than sixty (60) days after the semester begins in order for the student to be considered for reclassification for that semester. If the petition is granted, reclassification will not be retroactive to prior semesters. The necessary forms for this purpose are available in the Registrar’s Office or on the Registrar’s website at
Also, please refer to the Verified Lawful Presence section under Graduate Admissions.

RESIDENCE STATUS FOR THE PURPOSE OF PAYING IN-STATE FEES
Under the Constitution and the laws of the State of Georgia, the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia was created to govern, control, and manage a system of public institutions providing quality higher education for the Georgia citizens. The State, in turn, receives substantial benefit from individuals who are attending or who have attended these institutions through their contributions to the civic, political, economic, and social advancement of the citizens of Georgia. Due to the overwhelming amount of financial support supplied by the citizens of Georgia, the determination of whether a student is a resident or a non-resident of Georgia is a significant matter. The tuition paid by in-state students covers about one-fourth of the total cost of their education in Georgia. Georgia taxpayers are therefore contributing 75% of the funds for quality education in the state. State colleges and universities often assign out-of-state students a higher tuition rate in an attempt to achieve parity between those who have and those who have not contributed to the state’s economy recently. The courts consider the durational residency requirement (usually 12 months) imposed by most states to be a reasonable period during which the new resident can make tangible or intangible contributions to the state before attending state colleges as an in-state student. The term “resident” is confusing because it can refer to voter registration, driver’s license, automobile registration, income taxes, and other matters.

A student may be a resident of Georgia for some purposes, but not entitled to in-state tuition fees. Courts have consistently upheld the right of these institutions to charge out-of-state students higher rates. The courts have also upheld the institutions’ right to adopt reasonable criteria for determining in-state status. Through the resident and non-resident fees, the taxpayers of Georgia are assured that they are not assuming the financial burden of educating non-permanent residents. If a person has moved to the state of Georgia for the purpose of attending a Georgia educational institution, it is difficult for that person to prove his/her intent to become a legal resident of the state (The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language defines intent in the following manner: That which is intended; aim; purpose). Due to the requirement that a person prove his/her intent to have become a legal resident of the state of Georgia, his/her petition may not be approved. The burden of proof is always on the student, and documentation is absolutely necessary to prove any claims. If his/her petition for legal residency for tuition purpose is denied, the student may appeal the decision at the next level.

Decisions are made concerning an applicant’s classification as a resident or non-resident of the State of Georgia based on the regulations established by the Board of Regents for all system institutions. Questions concerning residence status prior to matriculation should be directed to Graduate Admissions. Questions concerning residence status after matriculation should be directed to the Office of the Registrar.

RESIDENCY STATUS DETERMINED AT THE TIME OF APPLICATION
Residency status is determined at the time of application by Graduate Admissions. Georgia residents who feel their residency is incorrect can contact Graduate Admissions. The student will be asked to submit the following:

- Copy of Georgia Driver’s License with exam date 12 months prior to the first day of class
- Copy of current Georgia state taxes; need first 3 pages, may mark through social security numbers (may be asked for more information to make the proper determination)
• Submit a waiver or petition for residency:
  http://em.georgiasouthern.edu/registrar/students/tuitionclassificationfeewaivers/

Currently enrolled students should contact the Registrar’s office for residency questions.

SECTION 10 - ACADEMIC RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT

Master’s and Education Specialist Degrees
The minimum academic residence requirement is one academic year or three Summer terms. Academic Residency may be satisfied at any Georgia Southern University off-campus center in addition to the Georgia Southern University campus.

Doctor of Education (Ed.D.)
The minimum academic residency requirement for the Ed.D Curriculum Studies is one academic year of continuous enrollment. The minimum academic residency requirement for the Ed.D in Educational Leadership presupposes a minimum of five semesters of continuous study beyond satisfaction of the Tier I requirements and cannot be secured through summer study alone. At least six (6) semester hours must be completed during each of two semesters to satisfy full-time residency requirements at Georgia Southern University (semesters do not have to be consecutive). Doctoral students may not take courses on the program of study designed to meet residence requirements at off-campus centers that are designated residence centers for Master’s and Specialist in Education degrees.

Doctor of Nursing Practice (D.N.P.)
Requires a minimum of one academic year of continuous enrollment.

Doctor of Physical Therapy (D.P.T.)
Requires a minimum of one academic year of continuous enrollment.

Doctor of Psychology (Psy.D.)
The program is designed to be a five-year, full-time program for those entering with a bachelor’s degree. The first four years will include coursework and graded practicum experiences. A minimum of one year (12 consecutive months) of full-time coursework must be done in academic residency at Georgia Southern University. The fifth year will consist of a full-time (2000 hour) approved internship.

Doctor of Public Health (Dr.P.H.)
The minimum residency requirement is one academic year of continual enrollment.

SECTION 11 - DEGREE TIME LIMITS

Master’s and Education Specialist Degrees
All work credited toward Master’s and Education Specialist degrees must be completed within seven (7) years of the degree award date. To appeal for a time extension, a student must complete and submit the Appeal for Extension of Degree Time Limit Form and outline the extenuating circumstances for a time extension. The appeal
must be submitted to the College of Graduate Studies. The minimum residence requirement for a Master’s or Education Specialist degree is one academic year or three summer sessions.

**Doctor of Education (Ed.D.)**
All degree requirements must be completed within five (5) years after the Candidacy Exam was passed. Students must pass the Candidacy Exam within five (5) years from the first Ed.D. admission registration term and not later than the last semester of Ed.D. course work or the following semester.

**Doctor of Nursing Practice (D.N.P.)**
All requirements for the degree must be completed within seven (7) years from the date of the first enrollment for study following admission to the doctoral coursework.

**Doctor of Physical Therapy (D.P.T.)**
All requirements for the degree must be completed within seven (7) years from the date of the first enrollment for study following admission to the doctoral coursework.

**Doctor of Psychology (Psy.D.)**
The degree time limit is five (5) years from the initial enrollment term.

**Doctor of Public Health (Dr.P.H.)**
All requirements for the Dr.P.H. must be completed within seven (7) academic years from the date of the first enrollment for study following admission to the doctoral program. For transfer students, the seven-year time limit commences with the semester during which transfer credit was earned.

**Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D. - Logistics and Supply Chain Management)**
All requirements for the Ph.D. must be completed no later than seven (7) years from beginning of required coursework beyond prerequisites.

SECTION 12 - DEGREE COMPLETION REQUIREMENTS

A student must have successfully completed all degree requirements, successfully completed all other academic requirements, applied for graduation by the application deadline, and have no outstanding obligations to the University to be eligible to graduate. Some programs have a continuous enrollment policy that must be satisfied. A student is not eligible to be graduated during the term in which he/she is a transient at another institution.

**MASTER’S DEGREE**
The minimum credit hour requirement for a Master’s program ranges from 30 to 60 depending upon the specific program. At least 50% of the course credits counted toward the Master’s degree must be courses restricted to graduate students (6000 level or above). Some programs require the completion of a thesis while others may be completed under a non-thesis option. Some programs may require a practicum or an internship. The individual Master’s degree program requirements in effect for the student’s admission semester are found in the COGS Catalog. The successful completion of other non-course work requirements, such as, but not limited to, a terminal examination, comprehensive examination, or thesis defense, may be required.
EDUCATION SPECIALIST (Ed.S.) DEGREE
The minimum credit hour requirement for an Education Specialist program is 33 semester hours depending upon the specific program. Some programs may require a practicum or an internship. The individual Ed.S. degree program requirements in effect for the student’s admission term are found in the COGS Graduate Catalog. The successful completion of other non-course work requirements, such as, but not limited to, a project or comprehensive examination may be required.

DOCTORAL DEGREE
The minimum credit hour requirement for a Doctoral program varies by the individual program. With the exception of the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) and Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT), the completion of a dissertation is required. The individual doctoral degree program requirements in effect for the student’s admission term are found in the COGS Graduate Catalog. The successful completion of other non-course work requirements, such as, but not limited to, a terminal examination, comprehensive/qualifying examination, or thesis defense, may be required.

TIME EXTENSION FOR DEGREE COMPLETION
A student who has been granted an extension of time must complete degree requirements consistent with the conditions and terms specified in the time extension notification and/or readmission notification from the College of Graduate Studies.

SECTION 13 - FINANCIAL AID SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS POLICY

Students are evaluated on the basis of grade point average (GPA), credit hour completion, and maximum time frame limitation. The Financial Aid Department is responsible for evaluating satisfactory academic progress of students receiving financial assistance from the following programs: Federal Perkins Loan, Federal Pell Grant, Federal Subsidized and Unsubsidized Stafford Loan, Federal college Work Study, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant, and Federal PLUS Loan. Georgia Southern University’s SAP policy requires maintaining academic standards based on the following three criteria:

**Grade Point Average:** Graduate students must maintain a minimum cumulative GPA to remain in good academic standing for financial aid and academic purposes. Failure to maintain the required minimum cumulative GPA standards will result in academic probation. When a student’s unsatisfactory academic standing results in exclusion, the student is also excluded from receiving financial aid. Student’s GPA requirements are evaluated at the end of each term. The minimum GPA requirement for Master’s, Education Specialists (Ed.S.) and some doctoral programs is 3.0. The minimum cumulative GPA for the Ed.D. Curriculum Studies is 3.25 and 3.50 for the Ed.D. Educational Leadership programs. If a course is repeated, the last and all previous grades and credits are calculated into the cumulative GPA.

**Credit Hour Completion:** Students are required to earn a minimum number of hours each academic year depending on their enrollment status. Graduate students who enroll for full-time, three-quarter time, or part-time coursework throughout each academic year should complete 66% of all attempted hours registered for during each academic year. Note that these are minimum requirement standards and that most students will
complete the required coursework at a faster rate. Student’s incremental progress is evaluated biannually at the end of the spring term and at the end of the summer term for students taking summer course work.

CERTIFICATE PROGRAM FINANCIAL AID ELIGIBILITY:
Graduate students may be eligible for financial aid if enrolled in a certificate program for which financial aid has been approved (Table 4).

Table 4: Certificate Programs Eligible for Financial Aid

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Certificate Program</th>
<th>Cr Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Applied Economics</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applied Research and Evaluation</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dietetic Internship</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enterprise Resources Planning (ERP)</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP)</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forensic Accounting</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interprofessional Collaboration for Multiple Chronic Conditions</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music Performance</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nurse Educator</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner</td>
<td>Up to 43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public and Nonprofit Management</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Health</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public History</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taxation</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaching Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Students</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL)/Applied Linguistics</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Maximum Time Frame:** Students in a Master’s program who have attempted more than 150% of the published length of a degree program will have their aid terminated. A student must have at least a 3.0 cumulative GPA (3.25 for Ed.D Curriculum Studies; 3.50 for Ed.D Educational Administration) and be projected to receive his/her degree the term immediately after earning the maximum hours will be considered making satisfactory progress. Students’ maximum time frame progress is evaluated biannually at the end of spring term and at the end of summer term for students taking summer course work.
SECTION 14 - MATRICULATION CHECKLISTS

Matriculation checklists for degree seeking students may be accessed at the College of Graduate Studies website. The checklists for graduate students is also found in Appendix IV.

DEGREE WORKS (PROGRAMS OF STUDY)

DegreeWorks is a web-based degree auditing system that provides easy access for students and advisors to track courses completed and plan for those still needed in preparation for registration and graduation. It allows for easier and more efficient advising and assists advisors in tracking student and advisor meetings. DegreeWorks was implemented in the College of Graduate Studies Fall, 2012 and replaced the hard copy Program of Study. A note approving the student’s DegreeWorks Audit must be posted in DegreeWorks by the Advisor or Program Director before the student is cleared for graduation. However, for students who were admitted to a program prior to the 2010-2011 Catalog year, the hardcopy Program of Study may still be required during the transition period for full DegreeWorks tracking. Due to consolidation, paper Programs of Study will also be required for inactive legacy students who wish to return and complete the curriculum outlined for their original catalog year.

DegreeWorks is accessed via Faculty WINGS. Once in WINGS, click the Faculty Services tab, choose the Advisor Menu, and then DegreeWorks. DegreeWorks may be accessed at any time for the student to check their program completion requirements.

If the hard copy Program of Study is needed for a student, he/she may access the form from the College of Graduate Studies website at http://cogs.georgiasouthern.edu/student/forms. The forms may be forwarded to the advisor electronically. The Program of Study form does not require the student’s signature. However, it is concluded that by submission, the student has completed the Program of Study and verifies the accuracy of the data submitted.

MASTER’S DEGREE

All College of Graduate Studies requirements for a master’s degree must be completed within the seven-year time limit for degree completion. This means that all course work to be counted toward the degree requirement must have been completed within seven years of the degree completion term.

Students may check their degree program completion requirements via DegreeWorks at any time. However, for those students whose degree admission catalog was prior to 2010-2011, an approved Program of Study must be on file in the College of Graduate Studies to be eligible to graduate. This also applies for returning inactive legacy students who opt to follow the curriculum for their original catalog year. The Master’s Program of Study Form may be accessed from the College of Graduate Studies website at http://cogs.georgiasouthern.edu/student/forms.

The form must be completed by the student and forwarded to his/her advisor for review. The signature of the advisor indicates that he/she has reviewed the Program of Study and endorses it. The form is then forwarded to the Graduate Program Director/Coordinator or Department Chair for signature before being submitted to the College of Graduate Studies for final approval. The Program of Study must be submitted to the College of Graduate Studies no later than the end of the term prior to the anticipated graduation term. The student and
advisor are notified by email from the College of Graduate Studies if the program is approved. If the program is not approved, the reasons are stated in the notification email.

The minimum number of credit hours required for master’s degrees range from 30 to 60. At least 50% of the credits required for a master’s degree must be in courses open only to graduate students. A maximum of six (6) credits earned in “Independent Study” may be applied toward a master’s degree.

**EDUCATION SPECIALIST (ED.S.) DEGREE**

All College of Graduate Studies requirements for an Education Specialist degree must be completed within the seven-year time limit for degree completion. This means that all course work to be counted toward the degree requirement must have been completed within seven years of the degree completion term.

Students may check their degree program completion requirements via DegreeWorks at any time. For those students whose degree admission catalog was prior to 2010-2011, an approved Program of Study must be on file in the College of Graduate Studies to be eligible to graduate. This also applies for returning inactive legacy students who opt to follow the curriculum for their original catalog year. The ED.S. Program of Study Form (http://cogs.georgiasouthern.edu/student/forms) may be accessed from the College of Graduate Studies website. The form must be completed by the student and forwarded to his/her advisor for review. The signature of the advisor indicates that he/she has reviewed the Program of Study and endorses it. The form is then forwarded to the Graduate Program Director/Coordinator or Department Chair for signature before being submitted to the College of Graduate Studies for final approval. The ED.S. Program of Study must be submitted to the College of Graduate Studies no later than the end of the term prior to the anticipated graduation term. The student and advisor are notified by email from the College of Graduate Studies if the program is approved. If the program is not approved, the reasons are stated in the notification email.

Minimum credit hour requirements for the Education Specialist degree range from 27 to 75. At least 50% of the credits required for the Ed.S. must be in courses open only to graduate students.

A maximum of six credits earned in “Independent Study” may be applied toward an Ed.S. degree.

**DOCTORAL DEGREES**

The degree completion requirements for doctoral students admitted to a program effective the 2010-2011 catalog year or later, will have their degree program tracked in DegreeWorks. For students with an admission prior to the 2010 – 2011 catalog year, a COGS approved hard copy Program of Study form must be on file in the College of Graduate Studies. For those doctoral students admitted prior to Fall, 2010 who must submit the doctoral Program of Study form, the form must be submitted to the College of Graduate Studies no later than the end of the semester prior to the expected graduate term. In addition to the student signature, the Program of Study form must have the designated department and College of Graduate Studies approvals. A student must have an approved Program of Study and/or approved DegreeWorks audit on file in the College of Graduate Studies to be eligible to graduate. No undergraduate or 5000G – 5999G level courses may be counted toward the doctoral degree program requirements with the exception of the BSN-DNP program.
Doctor of Education (Ed.D.)
The minimum hour requirement for the Ed.D. in Curriculum Studies is 63 semester hours beyond the Master’s including dissertation. The minimum hour requirement for the Ed.D. in Educational Leadership is 69 semester hours beyond the Master’s including dissertation. A minimum of 45 semester hours, exclusive or dissertation credit must be completed at Georgia Southern University for the Ed.D. in Curriculum Studies, while a minimum of 30 hours of course work, exclusive of dissertation credit, must be completed at Georgia Southern University for the Ed.D. in Educational Leadership.

In addition to the courses taken at GSU, the program of study may include relevant, approved post-master’s graduate courses.

A student admitted to an Ed.D. program will not be awarded an Ed.S. degree upon the completion of a specified number of Ed.D. courses. A student who wishes to earn the Ed.S. while admitted to the Ed.D. program must apply for admission to the Ed.S. degree program and be admitted. If admitted to the Ed.S. degree program, admission to the Ed.D. program is terminated, and the student must re-apply to the Ed.D. program to resume study toward the degree.

Doctor of Nursing Practice (D.N.P.)
The minimum hour requirement for the DNP is 40 semester credit hours.

Doctor of Nursing (B.S.N.-D.N.P)
The minimum hour requirement for the BSN-DNP is 74 semester credit hours.

Doctor of Physical Therapy (D.P.T.)
The minimum hour requirement for the D.P.T. is 134 semester credit hours.

Doctor of Psychology (Psy.D.)
The minimum hour requirement for the Psy.D. is from 114-124 semester credit hours.

Doctor of Public Health (Dr.P.H.)
The minimum hour requirement for the Dr.P.H. is 63 credit hours including a minimum of nine (9) hours of dissertation credit.

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D. - Logistics and Supply Chain Management)
The minimum hour requirement for the program is 60 semester credit hours.

Course Challenge
Graduate courses listed on a program of study may not be fulfilled by challenge or “testing out”.

SECTION 15 - LEAVE OF ABSENCE

NON-MEDICAL LEAVE OF ABSENCE
In extreme circumstances, a leave of absence from residence and/or the degree program of study may be obtained with the permission of the major professor and Dean of the College of Graduate Studies. The leave of
absence appeal form is found at [cogs.georgiasouthern.edu/student/academicappeal](cogs.georgiasouthern.edu/student/academicappeal). This leave must be approved prior to the break in enrollment or residence. A non-medical leave of absence may be granted for up to one year. Registration is not required during the approved leave of absence period and time to degree completion is suspended during the approved leave of absence period.

**MEDICAL LEAVE OF ABSENCE**
Graduate students may petition for a medical leave (withdrawal) from the university to the Director of the Counseling Center when significant physical or psychological impairments beyond the student’s control interfere with the ability to meet academic requirements. Students wishing to petition for such a voluntary medical leave (withdrawal) must contact the Counseling Center.

**SECTION 16 - CANDIDACY EXAM, COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION, QUALIFYING EXAMINATION, ESSENTIALS EXAMINATION**

**DOCTORAL PROGRAMS**

**Doctor of Education (Ed.D.)**
Ed.D. students must pass the Candidacy/Qualifying Exam within five (5) years from the first Ed.D. admission registration term and no later than the last semester of Ed.D. course work or the following semester.

The Candidacy/Qualifying Exam must then be scheduled in accordance with the department policy regarding the candidacy exam and the results must be reported to the College of Graduate Studies on the Ed.D. Candidacy Exam Report Form at [cogs.georgiasouthern.edu/wp-content/uploads/EDDCandidacyExamReportform.pdf](cogs.georgiasouthern.edu/wp-content/uploads/EDDCandidacyExamReportform.pdf).

**Doctor of Nursing Practice (D.N.P.)**
The Essentials Examination can be taken at the completion of twenty (20) credits but must be taken within one semester of completing all coursework. The Essentials Examination is scheduled consistent with the School of Nursing requirements and successfully completed consistent with the School of Nursing requirements.

Failure of the Essentials Examination may result in additional coursework prior to a second examination. A second failure constitutes dismissal from the program and denial of continued coursework to earn the DNP.

**Doctor of Psychology (Psy.D.)**
In the summer of their third year or the fall of their fourth year, students must successfully complete a Clinical Qualifying Examination. Students must receive a grade of Pass on both the written and oral portions of the examination in order to apply for internship. If the student receives a grade of Fail, she/he may attempt the examination one additional time. If the second attempt is failed, the student will be dismissed from the program.

**Doctor of Public Health (Dr.P.H.)**
The Candidacy Examination consists of two sections covering the public health core and the student’s concentration area. The exam must be taken within one semester of coursework completion. A student is allowed one retake. A student will be advanced to candidacy upon successful completion of the examination.
**Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D. – Logistics and Supply Chain Management)**

Students will be required to pass one or more comprehensive examinations covering all coursework specified in the Program of Study before they may begin any dissertation activities (to include formation of the committee). The Program Director will be responsible for the creation, administration, and evaluation of these exams, although he/she may delegate associated tasks to other faculty members. At the discretion of the Program Director, all coursework may be covered by a single comprehensive exam or up to three separate exams may be given for the categories of core courses, research courses, and concentration courses, as differentiated in the Program of Study. Comprehensive exams may include both written and oral components and will be evaluated on a Pass/Fail basis. The Program Director will notify students in writing of whether they have passed and, if not, what areas require further study. Students may re-take any comprehensive exam once, if needed. Failure to pass any comprehensive exam after two attempts will result in termination of the student’s enrollment in the program. When a student has completed all required comprehensive exams, he/she will be considered a candidate for the Ph.D.

**MASTERS PROGRAMS**

A comprehensive or terminal examination may be required for certain Master’s programs as shown in Table 5.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Major</th>
<th>Examination</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MS</td>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>Comprehensive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MED</td>
<td>Counselor Education</td>
<td>Comprehensive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MED</td>
<td>Educational Leadership</td>
<td>Comprehensive – GACE Educational Leadership Test I &amp; II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MED</td>
<td>Reading Education</td>
<td>Comprehensive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDS</td>
<td>School Psychology</td>
<td>Comprehensive at 36 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MHA</td>
<td>Health Administration (2018-2019 +)</td>
<td>Comprehensive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSAE, MSCE, MSEE, MSIT, MSME</td>
<td>Engineering</td>
<td>Comprehensive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSN</td>
<td>Nursing</td>
<td>Comprehensive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MM</td>
<td>Music</td>
<td>Comprehensive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MS</td>
<td>Psychology (Prior 2018-2019 catalog)</td>
<td>Comprehensive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MA</td>
<td>Spanish</td>
<td>Comprehensive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPA</td>
<td>Public Administration</td>
<td>Comprehensive</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SECTION 17 - ADMISSION TO CANDIDACY

**Doctor of Education (Ed.D. – Educational Leadership)**

Upon satisfactory completion of the following components, the doctoral student is eligible to advance to candidacy for the degree of Doctor of Education in Educational Administration

- **All prerequisites set as a condition for admission have been met**
- All inquiry/research skill requirements have been met
- The final Program of Study has been approved via DegreeWorks by the major professor by posting a note of approval on the DegreeWorks Audit and the College of Graduate Studies.
- A grade point average of 3.25 or higher has been maintained on all graduate courses taken and on all completed courses on the Program of Study; No more than one grade of “C” may be placed on the final Program of Study
- Written and/or oral candidacy/qualifying examinations have been passed and reported to the College of Graduate Studies
- The supervising committee, including any necessary changes in the membership, is confirmed and all its members have been notified of their appointments
- The enrollment requirement has been met

The Committee Chair will forward a completed Ed.D. Candidacy Recommendation Form (cogs.georgiasouthern.edu/wp-content/uploads/EDDCandidacyRecommendationform.pdf) to the College of Graduate Studies. The student will receive written notification from the College of Graduate Studies when admission to candidacy has been granted.

**Doctor of Education (Ed.D. – Curriculum Studies)**

Upon satisfactory completion of the following components, the doctoral student is eligible to advance to candidacy for the degree of Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership

- **All prerequisites set as a condition for admission have been met**
- All inquiry/research skill requirements have been met
- The final Program of Study has been approved via DegreeWorks by the major professor by posting a note of approval or if a paper Program of Study, approved by the major professor, the Department Chair and the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies.
- A grade point average of 3.25 or higher has been maintained on all graduate courses taken and on all completed courses on the Program of Study; No more than one grade of “C” may be placed on the final Program of Study
- Written and/or oral candidacy examinations have been passed and reported to the College of Graduate Studies
- The supervising committee, including any necessary changes in the membership, is confirmed and all its members have been notified of their appointments
- The enrollment requirement has been met

The Committee Chair will forward a completed Ed.D. Candidacy Recommendation Form (cogs.georgiasouthern.edu/wp-content/uploads/EDDCandidacyRecommendationform.pdf) to the College of
Graduate Studies. The student will receive written notification from the College of Graduate Studies when admission to candidacy has been granted.

**Doctor of Nursing Practice (D.N.P.)**
The doctoral student is automatically advanced to candidacy on the successful completion of the DNP Essentials Examination and when the Clinical Project is successfully completed.

**Doctor of Psychology (Psy.D.)**
The doctoral student is automatically advanced to candidacy on the successful completion of the Clinical Qualifying Examination and formulation of the Dissertation Committee.

**Doctor of Public Health (Dr.P.H.)**
Upon satisfactory completion of the following components, the doctoral student is eligible to advance to candidacy for the degree of Doctor of Public Health.

- Completion of all required coursework as set forth in the program of study with the exception of the preceptorship and dissertation hours,
- Minimum grade point average of 3.0 and
- Successful completion of both the Core and Concentration portions of the candidacy examination.

The Committee Chair will forward a completed Dr.P.H. Candidacy Recommendation Form ([cogs.georgiasouthern.edu/student/forms](http://cogs.georgiasouthern.edu/student/forms)) to the College of Graduate Studies. The student will receive written notification from the College of Graduate Studies when admission to candidacy has been granted.

**Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) – Logistics and Supply chain Management**
Upon satisfactory completion of the following components, the doctoral student is eligible to advance to candidacy for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Logistics and Supply Chain Management.

- Comprehensive exam(s) Passed.
- Satisfactory completion of the Program of Study coursework (except for the dissertation hours) with a minimum cumulative graduate GPA of 3.0.
- Program of Study has been approved via DegreeWorks by the major professor by posting a note of approval on the DegreeWorks Audit and approved by the College of Graduate Studies.
- Dissertation committee approval.

The Committee Chair will forward a completed Ph.D. Candidacy Recommendation Form ([cogs.georgiasouthern.edu/student/forms](http://cogs.georgiasouthern.edu/student/forms)) to the College of Graduate Studies. The student will receive written notification from the College of Graduate Studies when admission to candidacy has been granted.

**SECTION 18 - MASTER’S THESIS COMMITTEE**

**MASTER’S COMMITTEE COMPOSITION**
The thesis committee must consist of a minimum of three members of the Graduate Faculty, including the student’s major professor, who will serve as Committee Chair. The student must submit the Thesis Committee Membership Approval form ([cogs.georgiasouthern.edu/wp-content/uploads/Thesis-Committee-Membership-](http://cogs.georgiasouthern.edu/wp-content/uploads/Thesis-Committee-Membership-))
Approval.pdf) to the College of Graduate Studies for committee approval by the College of Graduate Studies. Changes in the Committee membership must be submitted on the Thesis Committee Member Change form and be approved by the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies.

Persons employed by Georgia Southern University who hold graduate faculty status and who hold the following ranks may serve on thesis committees: professor, associate professor, assistant professor, instructors, lecturers, academic professionals, assistant research scientist, associate research scientist, and senior research scientist. All others may not.

Only faculty holding Member (Full) Graduate Faculty status may serve as the Thesis Committee Chair. Additional voting members may be appointed to the committee, including no more than one non-Georgia Southern University faculty, who must hold the terminal degree in their field of study, be appointed to Affiliate Graduate Faculty status within COGS and/or approved for External Committee Membership, and be approved by the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies. Affiliate Graduate Faculty may be approved to serve on a committee and serve as a Co-Chair. However, Affiliate Graduate Faculty may not serve as the Thesis Committee Chair.

Of a three-person master’s committee, not more than one member may be a non-Georgia Southern University faculty (referred to as non-affiliated). If more than three members are appointed to the committee a majority of the committee must be regular Georgia Southern University faculty.

EXTERNAL COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP
All off-campus members serving on Thesis/Dissertation Committees must register for External Committee Membership online at https://w3.georgiasouthern.edu/cogs/externalcommiteemembers/. All submissions must include a CV for consideration.

ADJUNCT FACULTY STATUS
All non-Georgia Southern professionals who are being proposed by a department to carry out graduate course teaching responsibility must be recommended by the department for Adjunct Faculty status.

To be recommended for Adjunct Faculty status, the department must complete and submit the required documents listed below https://drive.google.com/file/d/0BzP8rvDqILzbQzB5QlpYS3lfS2s/edit

A. A non-Georgia Southern professional appointed to adjunct status may be appointed to “Affiliate Graduate Faculty Status, Course Instruction” if teaching graduate courses. Persons in this classification will be required to submit a transcript and background investigation check.

B. A non-Georgia Southern professional appointed to adjunct status may be appointed to “Affiliate Graduate Faculty Status, Non-Instruction” if serving on a thesis or dissertation committee only. Persons in this classification will NOT be required to submit a transcript and background investigation check.

Information on Adjunct (Unpaid Appointments) Faculty
The University System of Georgia defines adjunct faculty as uncompensated appointments that are courtesy or honorary in nature (not part-time appointments).
For candidates new to Georgia Southern University, the following paperwork is required:

- Personnel Action Form (be sure to include the search number on the form)
- Faculty Information Data Form (FID)
- Curriculum Vitae
- Official transcripts of all academic degrees, both undergraduate and graduate (Instruction)
- Email from Human Resources indicating that the individual has successfully completed the background investigation check (Instruction)

Foreign transcripts need to be provided in English and also need to be evaluated by a Department of Education recognized evaluating service, such as:

World Education Services, Inc. (WES)
P.O. Box 745 Old Chelsea Station
New York, NY 10113-0745
Phone: 800.937.3895
Fax: 212.966.6395
Email: info@wes.org
http://www.wes.org/

A person holding Adjunct Faculty status must be recommended and approved for Affiliate Graduate Faculty status to be approved to serve on a thesis or dissertation committee. Persons not approved for Adjunct Faculty status and/or not approved for Affiliate Graduate Faculty or External Committee Membership status will not be approved to serve on a thesis or dissertation committee.

A visiting professor or a part-time or temporary faculty member may not serve on a thesis committee unless that person is replacing a professor with sole expertise in a designated area on the student’s Program of Study. The Graduate Program Director or coordinator must send a letter to the College of Graduate Studies explaining the need for this replacement. The Dean of the College of Graduate Studies, prior to their service, must approve replacements for members of the committee in any capacity. A Thesis Committee Member Change Form (http://cogs.georgiasouthern.edu/wp-content/uploads/Thesis-Committee-Membership-Approval.pdf) showing the reconstituted committee must be submitted to the College of Graduate Studies and approved by the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies. Graduate Faculty status is required for a person to be approved as a committee member replacement.

**THESIS COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS**

Thesis Committee Co-Chairs, limited to two (2), may be appointed to a thesis committee provided both parties hold graduate faculty status. One must hold Member status and the other must hold Member or Affiliate status. Both parties must sign all forms requiring the Chair’s signature. Should a student choose this option, an additional faculty member must be added to the advisory committee with a majority of Graduate Faculty members being maintained.

**ADVISING MEMBERS OF IMMEDIATE FAMILY**

The nepotism policy defines members of the immediate family as the following: spouse, parents, siblings, children, and in-laws of the same. When a member of the immediate family is involved, a faculty member may not serve as major professor or as a member of any committee that plans a program of study or evaluates the educational progress of the student.
NON-AFFILIATED PERSONS ON THESIS COMMITTEES
In addition to the regular committee members, a person having no official relationship with Georgia Southern University must be approved by COGS for External Committee Membership. To be recommended for External Committee Membership status, the off-campus member must complete the online registry and submit his/her CV here: https://w3.georgiasouthern.edu/cogs/externalcommiteemembers/.

A non-affiliated person appointed to a graduate student's committee is expected to attend meetings associated with the appointment.

FORMER GEORGIA SOUTHERN GRADUATE FACULTY
A faculty member who leaves the University and was a member of the graduate faculty prior to separation may apply for adjunct status through the procedures stated under “Adjunct Faculty Status”. If a former Graduate Faculty member is approved as an adjunct member of the general faculty, they will be appointed to Affiliate Graduate Faculty status. Please note that Graduate Faculty status is not automatic and not directly linked to an adjunct appointment. Once Adjunct Faculty and Affiliate Graduate Faculty status is approved, the member may assume responsibilities normally performed by an Affiliate member of the Graduate Faculty. These responsibilities include service on doctoral and master’s level committees and teaching graduate courses open only to graduate students. An adjunct member of the general faculty who is not a member of the Graduate Faculty may not serve on doctoral and master’s committees or in positions where membership on the Graduate Faculty is required.

EMERITUS FACULTY
Membership on the Graduate Faculty terminates at the time of retirement. The policy of the College of Graduate Studies concerning the participation of emeritus faculty in graduate programs is as follows:

1. The Chair of a thesis committee, who retires, may no longer continue to serve on the committee. However, the emeritus faculty may continue to serve as a committee member if the student and the department wish for the relationship to continue.

2. An emeritus professor will not assume the role of Chair of a thesis committee for a student. Consideration will be given to a waiver of this rule on petition from the department to the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies if the professor has skills of a highly specialized nature, which are not otherwise available in the department.

SECTION 19 - DISSERTATION COMMITTEE

DISSERTATION COMMITTEE COMPOSITION
Dissertation committees must be formulated by doctoral students in doctoral programs requiring dissertations. The dissertation committee must consist of a minimum of three members of the Graduate Faculty, including the student’s major professor, who will serve as Committee Chair. If the specific doctoral program has a minimum committee requirement greater than three, the specific doctoral program requirement must be followed.

The student must submit the completed Committee Membership Approval Form (http://cogs.georgiasouthern.edu/wp-content/uploads/EDDCommitteeApprovalForm.pdf) to the College of Graduate Studies for committee approval by the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies. Changes in the
Committee membership must be submitted on the Committee Member Change form and be approved by the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies.

Persons employed by Georgia Southern University who hold graduate faculty status and who hold the following ranks may serve on dissertation committees: professor, associate professor, assistant professor, instructors, lecturers, academic professionals, assistant research scientist, associate research scientist, and senior research scientist. All others may not.

Only faculty holding Member (Full) Graduate Faculty status may serve as the Dissertation Committee Chair. Additional voting members may be appointed to the committee, including no more than one non-Georgia Southern University faculty, who must hold the terminal degree in their field of study, hold an adjunct faculty appointment at Georgia Southern University and/or approved for External Committee Membership, and be appointed to the graduate faculty and approved by the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies. Affiliate Graduate Faculty may be approved to serve on a committee and serve as a Co-Chair. However, Affiliate Graduate Faculty may not serve as the Dissertation Committee Chair.

Of a three-person dissertation committee, not more than one member may be a non-Georgia Southern University employee (referred to as non-affiliated). If more than three members are appointed to the committee a majority of the committee must be regular Georgia Southern University employees.

EXTERNAL COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

All off-campus members serving on Thesis/Dissertation Committees must register for External Committee Membership online at https://w3.georgiasouthern.edu/cogs/externalcommiteemembers/. All submissions must include a CV for consideration.

ADJUNCT FACULTY STATUS

All non-Georgia Southern professionals who are being proposed by a department to carry out graduate course teaching responsibility must be recommended by the department for Adjunct Faculty status.

To be recommended for Adjunct Faculty status, the department must complete and submit the required documents listed below: https://drive.google.com/file/d/0BzP8rvDqILzbQzB5QlpYS3lfS2s/edit

A. A non-Georgia Southern professional appointed to adjunct status may be appointed to “Affiliate Graduate Faculty Status, Course Instruction” if teaching graduate courses. Persons in this classification will be required to submit a transcript and background investigation check.

B. A non-Georgia Southern professional appointed to adjunct status may be appointed to “Affiliate Graduate Faculty Status, Non-Instruction” if serving on a thesis or dissertation committee only. Persons in this classification will NOT be required to submit a transcript and background investigation check.

Information on Adjunct (Unpaid Appointments) Faculty

The University System of Georgia defines adjunct faculty as uncompensated appointments that are courtesy or honorary in nature (not part-time appointments).
For candidates new to Georgia Southern University, the following paperwork is required:

- Personnel Action Form (be sure to include the search number on the form)
- Faculty Information Data Form (FID)
- Curriculum Vitae
- Official transcripts of all academic degrees, both undergraduate and graduate (Instruction)
- Email from Human Resources indicating that the individual has successfully completed the background investigation check (Instruction)

Foreign transcripts need to be provided in English and also need to be evaluated by a Department of Education recognized evaluating service, such as:

World Education Services, Inc. (WES)
P.O. Box 745 Old Chelsea Station
New York, NY 10113-0745
Phone: 800.937.3895
Fax: 212.966.6395
Email: info@wes.org
http://www.wes.org/

A person holding Adjunct Faculty status must be recommended and approved for Affiliate Graduate Faculty and/or External Committee Membership status to be approved to serve on a dissertation committee. Persons not approved for Adjunct Faculty status and/or not approved for Affiliate Graduate Faculty or External Committee Membership status will not be approved to serve on a dissertation committee.

A visiting professor or a part-time or temporary faculty member may not serve on a dissertation committee unless that person is replacing a professor with sole expertise in a designated area on the student’s Program of Study. The Graduate Program Director or coordinator must send a letter to the College of Graduate Studies explaining the need for this replacement. The Dean of the College of Graduate Studies, prior to their service, must approve replacements for members of the committee in any capacity. A Dissertation Committee Member Change Form (http://cogs.georgiasouthern.edu/wp-content/uploads/EDDCommitteeApprovalForm.pdf) showing the reconstituted committee must be submitted to the College of Graduate Studies and approved by the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies. Graduate Faculty status is required for a person to be approved as a committee member replacement.

DISSERTATION COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS
Dissertation Committee Co-Chairs, limited to two (2), may be appointed to a dissertation committee provided both parties hold graduate faculty status. One must hold Member status and the other must hold Member or Affiliate status. Both parties must sign all forms requiring the Chair’s signature. Should a student choose this option, an additional faculty member must be added to the advisory committee with a majority of Graduate Faculty members being maintained.

ADVISING MEMBERS OF IMMEDIATE FAMILY
The nepotism policy defines members of the immediate family as the following: spouse, parents, siblings, children, and in-laws of the same. When a member of the immediate family is involved, a faculty member may not serve as major professor or as a member of any committee that plans a program of study or evaluates the educational progress of the student.
NON-AFFILIATED PERSONS ON DISSERTATION COMMITTEES
In addition to the regular committee members, a person having no official relationship with Georgia Southern University must be approved by COGS for External Committee Membership. To be recommended for External Committee Membership status, the off-campus member must complete the online registry and submit his/her CV here: https://w3.georgiasouthern.edu/cogs/externalcommiteemembers/.

A non-affiliated person appointed to a graduate student's committee is expected to attend meetings associated with the appointment.

FORMER GEORGIA SOUTHERN GRADUATE FACULTY
A faculty member who leaves the University and was a member of the graduate faculty prior to separation may apply for adjunct status through the procedures stated under “Adjunct Faculty Status”. If a former Graduate Faculty member is approved as an adjunct member of the general faculty, they will be appointed to Affiliate Graduate Faculty status. Please note that Graduate Faculty status is not automatic and not directly linked to an adjunct appointment. Once Adjunct Faculty and Affiliate Graduate Faculty status is approved, that member may assume responsibilities normally performed by an Affiliate member of the Graduate Faculty. These responsibilities include service on doctoral and master’s level committees and teaching graduate courses open only to graduate students. An adjunct member of the general faculty who is not a member of the Graduate Faculty may not serve on doctoral committees or in positions where membership on the Graduate Faculty is required.

EMERITUS FACULTY
Membership on the Graduate Faculty terminates at the time of retirement. The policy of the College of Graduate Studies concerning the participation of emeritus faculty in graduate programs is as follows:

1. The Chair of a dissertation committee, who retires, may no longer continue to serve on the committee. However, the emeritus faculty may continue to serve as a committee member if the student and the department wish for the relationship to continue.

2. An emeritus professor will not assume the role of Chair of a dissertation committee for a student. Consideration will be given to a waiver of this rule on petition from the department to the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies if the professor has skills of a highly specialized nature, which are not otherwise available in the department.

SECTION 20 - ELECTRONIC THESES AND DISSERTATIONS (ETD’S)
Students are required to submit theses and dissertations electronically. ETD information may be found at the ETD website at: https://cogs.georgiasouthern.edu/etd-submission-links/. In order for the student to receive a bound copy of their thesis or dissertation, he/she will need to elect the open release option upon the ETD submission to the Digital Commons and then contact Printing and Postal Services (http://auxiliary.georgiasouthern.edu/storesandshops/printshop/postal-services/). Printing and Postal Services will be able to discuss printing options with the student and calculate a price. Departments that require a bound copy of a student’s thesis or dissertation will pay for their copy.
ETD FINAL SUBMISSION APPROVAL
A dissertation will not be approved before candidacy has been approved. The original dissertation or thesis must be defended. Approval of the final ETD submission is done electronically by the committee. Without approval of the committee members, the dissertation or thesis is not accepted to meet the requirement for graduation.

THESES

Thesis Preparation
All theses and dissertations must be submitted in electronic PDF format. The dissertation or thesis format must conform to the instructions contained in the Electronic Thesis and Dissertation (ETD) Preparation Manual or in the Thesis or Dissertation style manual approved by the department and the College of Graduate Studies to ensure that standards of uniformity and consistency are maintained. Manuscripts must demonstrate correct grammar and word usage and be approved by committees prior to uploading to the ETD/Digital Commons. Manuscripts that do not meet these requirements will be returned to the student for revision.

The student has a responsibility to see that the formatting guidelines are followed. Any questions concerning formatting should be discussed with the Committee Chair or directed to the College of Graduate Studies. Detailed information about the electronic theses and dissertation preparation and submission is found on the ETD website at http://academics.georgiasouthern.edu/etd/.

Theses Styles
The College of Graduate Studies has approved two acceptable styles for preparation of theses. The thesis may be written in either the traditional or the journal article-manuscript style described below. The practice of using journal article-manuscript style thesis format shall be at the discretion of the department. Departments will notify the College of Graduate Studies of their support of and policy for students utilizing the journal article-manuscript style prior to uploading to the ETD website.

The thesis is the final component of a series of academic experiences, which culminate in the awarding of the Master’s degree in that master’s degree program that requires a thesis. The thesis, while not requiring original research, should represent a modest contribution to knowledge in the discipline.

The thesis must demonstrate unity and purpose. All parts of the thesis must contribute to the stated objectives of the research and be communicated in a clear and concise manner that reflects the rules of grammar and style identified for the respective colleges in the ETD manual. The methods used in the research must be described adequately and clearly to permit an independent investigator to repeat the work.

The thesis may be written in either the traditional or the journal article-manuscript style described below. In both styles, there must be an introduction and a literature review with the purposes of defining problems, presenting hypotheses or theories, stating objectives, and thoroughly reviewing pertinent literature. In both styles, there must be a concluding chapter or section which unites the preceding chapters or sections and may consist of a general discussion integrating the major findings. Captions must accompany each figure on the same or preceding page of each manuscript.
The traditional style, in addition to an introduction and literature review, may include materials and methods, results, discussion, summary or heading abstract, literature cited, and figures and tables, as appropriate to the student's discipline. The format of the dissertation or thesis will be in conformity with the style manual or guide approved by the student's department and the College of Graduate Studies, as well as with the College of Graduate Studies ETD Preparation Manual or the dissertation and thesis manual. Documentation and format must be consistent throughout the dissertation or thesis.

The journal article-manuscript style for the master’s degree permits the inclusion of a manuscript, submitted or to be submitted to scholarly journals, as chapters or sections of the dissertation or thesis. Each manuscript must blend appropriately with the other parts of the thesis. No reprints or photocopies of reprints will be permitted.

The College of Graduate Studies must receive proof of permission to use articles that have been published or accepted for publication.

Continuous pagination is required throughout the dissertation or thesis. The usual requirements for margins, consistency in chapter or section titles, and other mechanics as specified in the College of Graduate Studies Electronic Thesis and Dissertation (ETD): Student Guide to Preparation and Processing will apply.

**Thesis Defense**

The thesis defense must be conducted by the last day to hold the defense as listed in the University Academic Calendar or listed at the College of Graduate Studies website. A defense may not be scheduled without the permission of the Thesis Committee Chair.

All members of the thesis committee must be present for the entire defense. If, for good reason, a member cannot be present, the student must choose one of the following options:

1. The absentee member may participate via a teleconference in which all participants can hear each person’s comments. The Committee Chair must sign the approval form for the absentee member and register his/her vote and indicate that member’s participation was by teleconference.
2. A substitution may be made with another faculty member who can replace the former member in expertise of the subject field and who has knowledge of the student’s research project. A revised advisory committee form must be submitted to the College of Graduate Studies prior to the examination.
3. The defense may be canceled or rescheduled at a later time. In either case, the College of Graduate Studies must be notified.

**Thesis Defense Approval**

The thesis committee must approve the student’s thesis defense with no more than one dissenting vote in a committee of four or more persons and must certify their approval in writing. If a committee consists of only three (3) members, all must vote to pass. The Committee Chair/Co-Chair’s vote of approval is/are required for the student to pass the examination. An abstention is not an appropriate vote for the thesis defense.

If the program department has defense pass requirements that are more stringent than stated in the above paragraph, the individual program requirement takes precedent.
The results of the thesis defense must be reported to the College of Graduate Studies on the Comprehensive Exam/Thesis Defense Report Form and the results of the defense reported to the College of Graduate Studies on the appropriate defense report form by the deadline listed in the University Academic Calendar or at the College of Graduate Studies website.

**Thesis Submission**
The year on the title page of the thesis shall be the same as the year in which the thesis is approved by the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies following approval by the student's thesis advisory committee. Students submitting the thesis must submit the document under the file name convention outlined in the ETD Preparation Manual. The thesis/dissertation will not be forwarded to, or cataloged by, the University Library until the degree is conferred.

**DISSERTATION**

**Dissertation Styles**
The College of Graduate Studies has approved two acceptable styles for preparation of dissertations and theses. The dissertation or thesis may be written in either the traditional or the journal article-manuscript style described below. The practice of using journal article-manuscript style thesis and dissertation format shall be at the discretion of the department. Departments will notify the College of Graduate Studies of their support of and policy for students utilizing the journal article-manuscript style prior to uploading to the ETD website.

The dissertation is the final component of a series of academic experiences, which culminate in the awarding of the doctoral degree. The dissertation fulfills four major functions: (1) clearly communicates original research or scholarship; (2) demonstrates the student's ability to understand and critically evaluate the literature of the field; (3) reflects the student's mastery of appropriate research methods and tools, and; (4) shows that the student can address a major problem, arrive at successful conclusions, and report in a clear and literate fashion. The findings of a dissertation should be worthy of publication in a refereed journal or other scholarly medium.

The thesis is a requirement for some master’s degrees and represents a more modest contribution to knowledge than does a dissertation.

The dissertation or thesis must demonstrate unity and purpose. All parts of the dissertation or thesis must contribute to the stated objectives of the research. The methods used in the research must be described adequately and clearly to permit an independent investigator to repeat the work.

The dissertation or thesis may be written in either the traditional or the journal article-manuscript style described below. In both styles, there must be an introduction and a literature review with the purposes of defining problems, presenting hypotheses or theories, stating objectives, and thoroughly reviewing pertinent literature. In both styles, there must be a concluding chapter or section which unites the preceding chapters or sections and may consist of a general discussion integrating the major findings. Captions must accompany each figure on the same or preceding page of each manuscript.

The traditional style, in addition to an introduction and literature review, may include materials and methods, results, discussion, summary or heading abstract, literature cited, and figures and tables, as appropriate to the student's discipline. The format of the dissertation or thesis will be in conformity with the style manual or guide approved by the student's department and the College of Graduate Studies, as well as with the College of
Graduate Studies ETD Preparation Manual or the dissertation and thesis manual. Documentation and format must be consistent throughout the dissertation or thesis.

The journal article-manuscript style permits, for the doctoral degree, the inclusion of a manuscript, submitted or to be submitted to scholarly journals, as chapters or sections of the dissertation or thesis. Each manuscript must blend appropriately with the other parts of the dissertation or thesis. No reprints or photocopies of reprints will be permitted. The College of Graduate Studies must receive proof of permission to use articles that have been published or accepted for publication.

Continuous pagination is required throughout the dissertation or thesis. The usual requirements for margins, consistency in chapter or section titles, and other mechanics as specified in the College of Graduate Studies Electronic Thesis and Dissertation (ETD): Student Guide to Preparation and Processing will apply.

Dissertation Defense
The dissertation defense must be conducted by the last day to hold the dissertation defense as listed in the University Academic Calendar or listed on the College of Graduate Studies website. A defense may not be scheduled without the permission of the Committee Chair.

All of the members of the dissertation/supervising committee must be present for the entire defense. If, for good reason, a member cannot be present, the student must choose one of the following options:

1. The absentee member may participate via a teleconference in which all participants can hear each person’s comments. The Committee Chair must sign the approval form for the absentee member and register his/her vote and indicate that member’s participation was by teleconference.
2. A substitution may be made with another faculty member who can replace the former member in expertise of the subject field and who has knowledge of the student’s research project. A revised advisory committee form must be submitted to the College of Graduate Studies prior to the examination.
3. The defense may be canceled or rescheduled at a later time. In either case, the College of Graduate Studies must be notified.

Dissertation Defense Approval
The doctoral committee must approve the student’s dissertation defense with no more than one dissenting vote in a committee of four persons and must certify their approval in writing on the program Dissertation Defense report form that is submitted to the College of Graduate Studies. If a committee consists of only three (3) members, all must vote to pass. The Committee Chair/Co-Chair’s vote of approval is/are required for the student to pass the examination. An abstention is not an appropriate vote for the dissertation defense. The dissertation defense report must be received in the College of Graduate Studies not later than one week after the defense.

If the program department has defense pass requirements that are more stringent than stated in the above paragraph, the individual program requirement takes precedent.
The results of the thesis defense must be reported to the College of Graduate Studies on the Comprehensive Exam/Thesis Defense Report Form. The defense report must be received in the College of Graduate Studies not later than one week after the defense.

**Dissertation Submission**

The year on the title page of the dissertation or thesis shall be the same as the year in which the dissertation or thesis is approved by the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies following approval by the student’s thesis or dissertation advisory committee. Students submitting the thesis or dissertation must submit the document under the file name convention outlined in the ETD Preparation Manual. The thesis/dissertation will not be forwarded to, or cataloged by, the University Library until the degree is conferred.

**SECTION 21 - GRADUATION**

A student must have successfully completed all degree requirements, successfully completed all other academic requirements, applied for graduation by the application deadline, and have no outstanding obligations to the university to be eligible to be graduated. Some programs have a continuous enrollment policy that must also have been satisfied and be registered each term in which the dissertation is under preparation and where university staff/faculty time or university facilities are being used, including the semester the degree requirements are completed and the semester of graduation. A student is not eligible to graduate during the semester in which s/he is a transient at another institution.

The College of Graduate Studies is responsible for the clearance of candidates for all graduate degrees conferred by Georgia Southern University. The College of Graduate Studies processes all official forms submitted in compliance with the fulfillment of degree requirements; monitors the files of students who have applied for graduation; alerts the students, the major professors or advisors, and the graduate coordinators of the status of the students' records prior to graduation; and approves all dissertations and theses submitted for advanced degrees. All routine administrative decisions relating to these functions rest within the jurisdiction of the College of Graduate Studies.

Any form pertaining to degree requirements, e.g. thesis or dissertation committees, programs of study, should not be submitted for the approval to the College of Graduate Studies until the student has been fully admitted to the degree program and has enrolled.

**GRADUATION CHECKLIST**

The following is a graduation checklist that must be followed by all students anticipating graduation.

**Master's and Educational Specialist Candidates**

The following is a list of requirements of the College of Graduate Studies for the Master’s and Education Specialist degree programs that must be met for a student to be eligible for graduation:

1. Have applied for graduation by the application deadline for the expected graduation term. The Application for Graduation may be accessed at:

   [http://em.georgiasouthern.edu/registrar/students/graduationinformation/applicationforgraduation/](http://em.georgiasouthern.edu/registrar/students/graduationinformation/applicationforgraduation/)

2. Have paid the graduation application fee
3. Have had their degree completion requirements cleared through DegreeWorks or if the student was admitted prior to Fall 2010, have a current approved Program of Study on file in the College of Graduate Studies by the end of the semester prior to the expected graduation semester.
4. Have satisfied the Foreign Language requirement if completing a program in which a Foreign Language is required.
5. Have accumulated the minimum number of credit hours required for the degree.
6. Have successfully completed the courses required for the degree.
7. Have no grades of “I” or “IP” on the graduate transcript.
8. Have a cumulative graduate GPA of at least 3.0 plus a GPA of at least 3.0 in the degree major courses in MED and EDS programs.
9. Must have satisfied the continuous enrollment policy if completing a thesis requiring program.
10. Passed the comprehensive examination (or equivalent) by the semester deadline if required for the degree program.
11. Passed the thesis defense by the semester deadline if completing a degree program in which a thesis is required.
12. Submitted the electronic thesis (ETD) in PDF format to the College of Graduate Studies through the ETD website for format review by the format submission deadline.
13. Submitted the final electronic thesis (ETD) to the College of Graduate Studies through the ETD website by the final submission deadline.
14. Have the final submission ETD electronically verified (approved) by the Thesis Committee.
15. Complete the Institutional Review Board (IRB) termination notification through the Office of Research Services and Sponsored Programs’ posted deadline.

**Doctoral Candidates**

The following is a list of requirements of the College of Graduate Studies for Doctoral candidates that must be met for a student to be eligible for graduation (Dissertation requirements not applicable to DNP and DPT programs):

1. Have applied for graduation by the application deadline for the expected graduation term. The application for graduation may be accessed at: [http://em.georgiasouthern.edu/registrar/students/graduationinformation/applicationforgraduation/](http://em.georgiasouthern.edu/registrar/students/graduationinformation/applicationforgraduation/)
2. Have paid the graduation application fee.
3. Have had their degree completion requirements cleared through DegreeWorks or have a current approved Program of Study on file in the College of Graduate Studies by the end of the semester/term prior to the expected graduation semester.
4. Have accumulated the minimum number of credit hours required for the degree.
5. Have documents on file in the College of Graduate Studies that attest that the candidate has passed the Candidacy Examination, the pre-prospectus and prospectus has been approved, has an approved Dissertation Committee form on file and a candidacy recommendation has been made.
6. Have completed the courses required for the degree.
7. Have submitted official transcripts of any transfer work to the College of Graduate Studies.
8. Have no grades of “I” or “IP” on their graduate transcript.
9. A cumulative graduate GPA that meets the minimum required for the Doctoral program.
10. Be registered in at least one (1) credit hour for the semester in which the degree is to be awarded.
11. Must have satisfied the degree program continuous enrollment policy as applicable.
12. Have passed the dissertation defense by the posted deadline to hold the defense.
13. Submit the electronic thesis or dissertation (ETD) in PDF format to the College of Graduate Studies for format review by the format submission deadline.

14. Submit the final electronic dissertation (ETD) to the College of Graduate Studies by the final submission deadline.

15. Have the final submission dissertation (ETD) electronically verified (approved) by the Thesis Committee.

16. Complete the Institutional Review Board (IRB) termination notification through the Office of Research Services and Sponsored Programs’ posted deadline.

**DEADLINE TO SUBMIT APPLICATION FOR GRADUATION**

A student must apply for graduation by the posted deadline to submit the application for graduation for the semester in which the student expects to be graduated.

**Spring or Summer Candidate Application Deadline**

All Masters, Specialists, and Doctoral students must submit a Graduate Application to the Registrar's Office by the first class day of spring semester if they plan to complete their graduation requirements in spring or summer.

Students who miss the spring or summer application for graduation deadline may apply for fall graduation.

**Fall Candidates Application Deadline**

All Masters, Specialists and Doctoral students must submit a Graduate Application to the Registrar's Office by the first class day of fall semester if they plan to complete their graduation requirements in fall.

Students who miss the fall application for graduation deadline may apply for spring graduation. The application for graduation is found at [http://em.georgiasouthern.edu/registrar/students/graduationinformation/applicationforgraduation/](http://em.georgiasouthern.edu/registrar/students/graduationinformation/applicationforgraduation/).

**CHANGE IN GRADUATION SEMESTER**

If a student cannot complete degree requirements in the semester for which a graduation application was submitted, the student should notify the College of Graduate Studies of the new anticipated graduation term or by changing the graduation term by notifying the Registrar’s Office. The major professor or graduate coordinator may also notify the College of Graduate Studies or the Registrar’s Office by letter or e-mail of the student's intent. If a student fails to meet the dissertation or thesis submission deadline for the anticipated graduation term, the student will not be eligible to graduate. The student’s graduation will be projected to the next term and the student will be required to be registered in at least one credit hour.

The Registrar’s website provides all deadline dates for each semester in the Academic Calendars ([http://em.georgiasouthern.edu/registrar/resources/calendars/](http://em.georgiasouthern.edu/registrar/resources/calendars/)).

If a registered non-thesis/non-dissertation student is unable to complete degree requirements to meet graduation deadlines for the semester but is able to complete the requirements before the beginning of the next semester or term the student’s degree completion will be posted for that semester or term. If the student does not complete degree requirements until after the beginning of the next semester or term, the students will be graduated in the term in which degree requirements are met.
A student, who has met all degree requirements except for applying for graduation and/or paying the graduation fee, will not be eligible to graduate until the end of the semester for which the student has been approved to graduate and/or has met all graduation requirements by the end of the approved graduation semester.

**GRADUATION CLEARANCE**
Graduation clearance is conducted in the College of Graduate Studies. When all degree and University requirements have been successfully completed, the student is cleared to be graduated through the Registrar’s Office. A student will not be cleared for graduation unless all requirements (academic and non-academic) have been satisfied. The student and the graduate advisor or coordinator will be notified of any academic impediments to graduation. The student will also receive notification from the GSU Registrar’s Office of any remaining requirements that must be satisfied to be eligible to graduate by the end of the projected graduation semester. A student must first apply for graduation in order to be cleared for graduation.

A student will not be allowed to graduate with an incomplete grade (“I”) or in-progress grade (“IP”) grade on the graduate transcript or if the cumulative graduate GPA is below the required 3.0 for master’s and education specialist degree programs. A doctoral level student will not be allowed to graduate if the cumulative graduate GPA is below that stated for the doctoral program.

In order to remove an “I” or “IP” grade, the student must complete the course requirements. Normally a student would not be required to re-register for the course in which a grade of “I” or “IP” was recorded. However, if the course instructor or department determines that the student must repeat the course work, the student would have to do so.

**SECTION 22 - DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS AND APPEALS**

This section provides information concerning procedures to be followed relative to:
- Alleged violations of university conduct regulations.
- Graduate student appeals regarding policies governing academic matters.

**ALLEGED VIOLATIONS OF UNIVERSITY CONDUCT REGULATIONS**

Hearings on alleged violations of University conduct regulations fall within the jurisdiction of the Office of Judicial Affairs. Violations of conduct regulations include, but are not limited to such items as academic dishonesty, falsification of University records, unauthorized entry or use of University facilities, and theft.

When instances of alleged misconduct arise, the faculty or staff member involved should report the incident to the appropriate individual or office per the Student Conduct Code. The Office of Judicial Affairs, following its own procedures, will hold hearings to determine guilt or innocence and will send written notification to the department, the faculty member, and the College of Graduate Studies of the decision in the case.

**ACADEMIC APPEALS POLICY (GRADUATE STUDENTS)**

The procedures outlined in the College of Graduate Studies Policy on Academic Appeals ensure the protection of students’ rights and serves as a reference on procedures for graduate student academic appeals ([http://cogs.georgiasouthern.edu/student/academicappeal](http://cogs.georgiasouthern.edu/student/academicappeal)). Appeal procedures for undergraduate students differ from procedures for graduate students. Individual programs and departments may outline academic
policies, matriculation requirements, and timelines that are separate from the minimum requirements described by the College of Graduate Studies. It is up to the graduate faculty and graduate administrators within these units to apply their policies effectively. It is also the responsibility of the student, when appealing decisions based on these policies, to provide complete and accurate background information regarding each appeal. However, in all cases, the final authority of graduate student appeals is the Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost. Each appeal is reviewed individually and all decisions are based on the merits and the documentation provided.

This Policy on Academic Appeals and the appeal process described herein is to be used by graduate students for the sole purpose of appealing decisions that affect the matriculation through the graduate academic program. Non-academic disputes that do not directly affect matriculation and good standing are excluded from this process.

Examples of matters that would be appropriate for appeals under this Policy include:

- Assistantship terminations
- ETD submission deadline waivers
- Reinstatement following academic exclusions
- Comprehensive Exam Deadline Extensions
- Assistantship full-time registration waiver
- Re-admission following extended absence
- Continuous enrollment policy waivers
- Credit Hour registration overload
- Time extensions to complete degree requirements
- Internship assignments
- ETD submission deadlines
- Late registrations
- Leaves of absence
- Requests to count out-of-date courses toward degree requirements
- Other matters affecting matriculation and good standing
- Course substitutions

Examples of matters that would not be appropriate for this type of appeal include the following. Please refer to the Georgia Southern University Catalog for process and procedure, as applicable:

- Admission requirements or admission decisions EXCEPT in cases where applicants believe they have been unfairly or arbitrarily denied admission
- Course grade appeals (Petition to Review/Change a Grade – See Graduate or Undergraduate Catalog
- Declination of research and travel grants awarded by the Graduate Student Organization or the academic college, department or graduate program (Appeal: Unit sponsoring the program)
- Allegations of student research/scholarly misconduct (Appeal: See Student Conduct Code Handbook)
- Allegations of student plagiarism (Appeal: See Student Conduct Code Handbook)
- Unlawful discrimination based upon age, race, national origin, gender, religion, disabilities, veteran status or sexual orientation (Appeal: Office of Diversity Services)
Graduate faculty members and graduate administrators must base decisions on University policy and sound academic policy governing the graduate programs within the academic units. Appeal procedures should not be taken lightly nor ignored. Questions concerning graduate student appeal procedures should be directed to the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies.

**Academic Appeal Procedures**

The responsibility of the College of Graduate Studies is to review an academic appeal for procedural fairness and to maintain and protect the rights of the graduate student and the graduate faculty. Within the limits set by faculty and administrative policy, members of the graduate faculty and graduate administrators act in good faith within the area of their academic expertise, provided their decisions are consistent with general policies established by the College of Graduate Studies and the Graduate Committee or its representative bodies. Graduate programs may utilize their own program, department, or college-level process to consider an appeal and other measures required to assess the circumstances of a student’s request for an appeal. In any event, the appeal process must not conflict with the College of Graduate Studies Policy on Academic Appeals.

Subject to these limitations, the College of Graduate Studies will assume that actions taken by the graduate faculty of the program or department concerning course requirements, graduation requirements, and similar matters are final and binding on all parties concerned. Only if it is found or determined by the College of Graduate Studies that the department, program, or academic college did not follow documented procedures, or that the student’s appeal did not have a fair review, or that there is evidence on the part of the faculty which may be perceived to have materially affected the academic decision, will a decision imposed by the academic unit be subject to reversal by the College of Graduate Studies.

**Student Appeal Steps**

**Step 1:**
Graduate students wishing to appeal must complete and submit their appeal on line through the Graduate Student Academic Appeal portal at [http://cogs.georgiasouthern.edu/student/academicappeal](http://cogs.georgiasouthern.edu/student/academicappeal). The appeal will be directed to the student’s Graduate Program Director that must review and take action on the appeal by indicating his/her appeal decision at the appeal portal. The Program Director’s decision will be reviewed by the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies or his/her delegate acting on behalf of the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies. A favorable appeal decision by the Program Director will indicate approval of the appeal unless the decision is determined to be counter to COGS policy. If determined to be counter to COGS policy, the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies will consult with the Program Director regarding the best action to be taken on the appeal. The student would then be informed of the appeal decision by the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies. The student may review the Program Director’s appeal decision at the web Appeal Portal.

**Step 2:**
If the Program Director’s decision is not acceptable to the student, the student may choose to appeal the Program Director’s decision to the Department Chairperson after notification of the Program Director’s appeal decision. The student’s appeal to the Department Chair must contain:

a. An explanation specifying the points on which the student disagrees with the Program Director’s decision; and

b. All evidence supporting the student’s perspective.
The Department Chair’s decision will be recorded on the web Appeal Portal.

**Step 3:**
If the student does not accept the appeal decision by the Department Chair, the student may elect to appeal to the next appeal level. To do so, the student must direct the appeal to the Academic College Dean. The student’s appeal to the Academic College Dean must contain:

- An explanation specifying the points on which the student disagrees with the department chair’s decision;
- All evidence supporting the student’s perspective.

The Academic College Dean will review the appeal and submit his/her decision. The Academic College Dean may review the decisions of the Department Chair and the Program Director and/or discuss the appeal with the Department Chair and/or Program Director prior to rendering the decision.

**Step 4:**
If the student does not accept the decision of the Academic College Dean, the student may appeal the decision to the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies. The student’s appeal to the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies must contain:

- An explanation specifying the points on which the student disagrees with the Academic Dean’s decision;
- All evidence supporting the student’s perspective.

The Dean of the College of Graduate Studies may charge a subcommittee of the Graduate Committee (hereafter referred to as the Appeals Subcommittee) to review the student’s appeal. The Appeals Subcommittee will consist of a five (5) member ad hoc panel drawn from members of the Graduate Committee. The Graduate Student Organization member of the Graduate Committee shall be an ex-officio member of the Appeals Subcommittee. In accepting to serve as a member of the Appeals subcommittee, each member of the subcommittee shall declare that no actual or perceived conflict of interest exists between the member and any party involved in the appeal.

The Appeals Subcommittee will convene within fifteen (15) working days of the request of the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies. If the appeal is submitted to the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies during the summer, the subcommittee’s review may, at the discretion of the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies, be delayed until after the beginning of the academic year. The subcommittee will review all available documentation, written responses to prior decisions, and convene interviews with individuals, necessary to determine whether the action(s) being appealed by the student were arbitrary, capricious, or contrary to University policy. A recommendation will be made within fifteen (15) working days after the Appeals Subcommittee’s review of the materials or following the conclusion of the Appeals Subcommittee meeting(s), whichever is later. This recommendation shall be transmitted to the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies. The Dean of the College of Graduate Studies shall render a decision following receipt of the Appeals Subcommittee recommendation. The decision of the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies will be recorded in the web Appeals database for viewing by the student. The Dean of the College of Graduate Studies may elect to forward notice of the decision to others who have been involved in the appeal process to this stage.
Step 5:
If the student does not accept the decision of the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies, the student may make a final appeal to the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs (hereinafter Provost). The student’s appeal to the Provost must contain:

a. An explanation specifying the points on which the student disagrees with the Appeals Subcommittee’s decision (step 4 above); and
b. All evidence supporting student’s perspective.

The Provost shall review all materials and documentation of the prior appeals and shall render a decision.

All appeal decisions and recommended actions by the Provost are considered actionable and final.
Figure 1 Student Web Appeal Submission Process

EXCLUSION
A graduate student may be excluded or dismissed from continued enrollment at Georgia Southern University for any of the following reasons:
- Failure to meet the conditions of Academic Probation.
- Failure to meet the conditions of Provisional Admission.
- Failure to meet specified academic requirements as set by the department in which study is pursued.
- Failure to comply with the Academic Dishonesty section of the Student Conduct Code.

Table 6: Program Academic Exclusion Matrix

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DEGREE</th>
<th>MAJOR</th>
<th>EXCLUSION POLICIES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>D.N.P</td>
<td>Nursing Practice</td>
<td>1. Grades of &quot;C&quot; or below in 3 or more courses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2. Grade of &quot;D&quot;, &quot;F&quot; or &quot;WF&quot; in any course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3. Minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 not achieved upon completion of 40 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4. Failure to meet terms of Academic Probation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr.P.H.</td>
<td>Public Health</td>
<td>1. Grades of &quot;D&quot; or below in 1 or more courses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2. Failure to meet terms of Academic Probation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M.P.H.</td>
<td>Public Health</td>
<td>1. Grades of “D” or below in 1 or more courses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2. Failure to meet terms of Academic Probation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ph.D.</td>
<td>Logistics and Supply Chain Management</td>
<td>1. Grades of &quot;C&quot; or below in 2 or more courses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2. Grade below &quot;B&quot; in repeat of course in which &quot;C&quot; was earned</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3. Failure to meet terms of Academic Probation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ed.D.</td>
<td>Curriculum Studies</td>
<td>1. Grades below B in 2 or more courses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2. Failure to meet terms of Academic Probation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psy.D.</td>
<td>Clinical Psychology</td>
<td>1. Grades below “B” in 2 or more courses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2. Failure to meet terms of Academic Probation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M.F.A.</td>
<td>Art</td>
<td>1. Grades below “B” in 2 or more courses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2. Failure to meet terms of Academic Probation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M.S.N.</td>
<td>Nursing</td>
<td>1. Grades of &quot;C&quot; or below is 3 or more courses</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Termination of a student will follow policies and procedures adopted by the department, academic college, and the College of Graduate Studies.

**ACADEMIC WARNING AND PROBATION**
A graduate student may be placed on academic warning or probation based upon the criteria as stated in Table 7.

**Table 7: Program Academic Warning and Probation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DEGREE</th>
<th>MAJOR</th>
<th>Academic Standing</th>
<th>CUMULATIVE GSU GRADUATE GPA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Master’s</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>Warning</td>
<td>Less than 3.0 upon completion of less than 9 graduate credits.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Probability</td>
<td>Less than 3.0 upon completion of any 9 graduate credits.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specialist</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>Warning</td>
<td>Less than 3.0 upon completion of less than 9 graduate credits.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Probability</td>
<td>Less than 3.0 upon completion of any 9 graduate credits.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ed.D.</td>
<td>Curriculum Studies</td>
<td>Warning</td>
<td>Less than 3.25 upon completion of less than 9 graduate credits.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Probability</td>
<td>Less than 3.25 upon completion of any 9 graduate credits.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ed.D.</td>
<td>Educational Leadership</td>
<td>Warning</td>
<td>Less than 3.25 upon completion of less than 9 graduate credits.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Probability</td>
<td>Less than 3.25 upon completion of any 9 graduate credits.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D.N.P D.P.T.</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>Warning</td>
<td>Less than 3.0 upon completion of less than 9 graduate credits.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEGREE</td>
<td>MAJOR</td>
<td>Academic Standing</td>
<td>CUMULATIVE GSU GRADUATE GPA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
<td>-------</td>
<td>-------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr.P.H.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Probation</td>
<td>Less than 3.0 upon completion of any 9 graduate credits.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psy.D</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ph.D.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**REINSTATEMENT APPEAL**

A student excluded from a degree program due to academic reasons, may appeal for reinstatement following exclusion. To appeal for reinstatement, the student must follow the procedures outlined in the College of Graduate Studies Policy on Academic Appeals.

**GRADES OF “C” OR BELOW**

Courses in which a grade of “C” was earned may count toward degree requirements unless prohibited by department regulations. Courses in which grades of “C” were earned may not be repeated unless permitted by department regulations.

Courses in which grades of “D” or below were earned may not count toward a graduate degree and must be repeated if core courses. Under no circumstances may a course in which a grade below “C” was earned be counted toward degree requirements. If courses are repeated, all credits hours and grade points become part of the student’s cumulative GPA. Courses in which a “WF” is recorded are calculated in the cumulative graduate GPA as an “F” grade.

Grades of S, U, I, IP, W and V will not be used in calculating the cumulative graduate grade point average. However, when a grade of “I” converts to F, this may result in an action of probation or dismissal for the semester in which the conversion takes place, even if the student is not registered for the semester in which it converted.

A student excluded for academic reasons may not be re-admitted to the same major in a non-degree admission category.

A student placed on academic probation may not take courses at another institution as a transient and use those credits to raise the GPA at Georgia Southern University.

**SECTION 23 - PETITION TO REVIEW/CHANGE OF GRADE**

The evaluation of the quality of a student’s performance is the prerogative of the instructor. Nothing started below is intended to place a limitation on this prerogative and the instructor will be involved in the review at each stage in the appeal process. All grade appeals should be viewed as confidential matters between the student, the instructor, and the appropriate administrators.
If a student does not understand the reasons for a grade, it is the student’s responsibility to consult the instructor of the course about the grade. If after such consultation the student does not agree with the basis on which the grade was assigned, the student may initiate an appeal according to the procedures given below. The burden of proof will rest with the student. There are four stages of appeal available to a student and they must be followed sequentially. Stages Two through Four must be completed during the term immediately following the term in which the grade was assigned unless the Provost authorizes an extension. At the completion of each stage of the appeal, the student is to be notified of the decision in writing.

**PROCEDURES:**

**Stage One:**
An appeal must be initiated within fourteen (14) working days after the first day of class of the semester which immediately follows the semester for which the grade was awarded. The student shall petition the instructor in writing, giving salient reasons for the grade appeal. The student should retain a copy of the written appeal for personal records.

**Stage Two:**
If the student is not satisfied after the review by the instructor, the student should consult the Department Chair and submit a copy of the written appeal. The Department Chair will attempt to resolve the grade appeal. The Chair will meet with the instructor and may consult with other persons who have relevant information.

**Stage Three:**
If all efforts to resolve the grade appeal at the departmental level are unsuccessful, the student may submit the written appeal to the Dean of the appropriate College. The Academic College Dean will examine the appeal and other pertinent materials submitted by the student. The Dean will meet with the instructor and also may request from the instructor materials deemed relevant. In an attempt to resolve the grade appeal, the Dean may interview the student, instructor, and others who may have pertinent information. If the Dean determines the need for a review committee to examine the issue the committee shall consist of:

- One faculty member from the department.
- One faculty member from the college but not from the department of the instructor.
- One faculty member from another College
- Ex Officio: A staff member from Student Affairs and Enrollment Management recommended by the Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management.
- The committee, if appointed, will advise the Dean regarding the grade under appeal. Whether the Dean chooses to appoint a committee or not, the Dean will render a final decision on the grade appeal to the college level.

**Stage Four:**
If all efforts to resolve the grade appeal at the college level are unsuccessful, the student may submit the written appeal to the Provost. The Provost will examine the appeal and other pertinent materials submitted by the student. The Provost will meet with the instructor and also may request materials deemed relevant. In an attempt to resolve the grade appeal, the Provost may interview the student, instructor, and others who may have pertinent information.
If a committee was constituted at the college level, the Provost will review the process, the committee findings, and the decision of the Dean and render a final University decision.

If a committee was not appointed at the college level, the Provost has the option of appointing a review committee that conforms to the composition described in Stage Three.

The committee, if appointed, will advise the Provost regarding the grade under appeal. Whether the Provost chooses to appoint a committee or not, the Provost will render a final University decision.
SECTION 24 - FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS

GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIP APPLICATION
The College of Graduate Studies manages the processing of Graduate Assistantship positions across campus. A student must complete a GA application which may be completed and submitted online at: https://w3.georgiasouthern.edu/cogs/gaapp/index.php. It is important to coordinate offers of a graduate assistantship with the Graduate Program Directors responsible for making offers of acceptance to prospective graduate students.

GRADUATE ASSISTANT DEFINITION
A graduate assistant is a graduate student employee appointed to the position title of Teaching Assistant (TA1 or TA2), Research Assistant (RA), Lab Assistant (LA1 or LA2), or Graduate Assistant (GA). These are defined according to the emphasis placed on the student employee’s teaching, research, or general experience. Appointments and initial stipend are determined on the basis of academic background, prior experience, scholarship, and general potential. All graduate assistants receive a tuition waiver of the standard in-state and out-of-state tuition but must pay a reduced matriculation fee of $25 per semester along with all assessed university fees. Some programs are approved to charge a premium tuition rate that is not covered by the standard tuition waiver.

Graduate Teaching Assistant (TA1)
A Graduate Teaching Assistant (TA1) is a graduate student who works under the direct supervision of regular faculty members and may be assigned only to duties related to instruction. A TA1 may not have primary responsibility for a course or serve as the instructor of record, but may assist in the instructional process by serving as a discussion leader in breakout sections, grade papers, proctor exams, or assist the primary instructor of record in other ways. The Department Chair and Graduate Program Director shall determine that the credentials of a student assigned as TA1 qualify the individual to assist in instruction activities.

Graduate Teaching Assistant (TA2)
A Graduate Teaching Assistant (TA2) is an advanced graduate student who is given primary responsibility for teaching courses and may have autonomy for assigning grades and providing laboratory instruction/setup as part of a regularly scheduled course. A TA2 must be under the supervision of a Georgia Southern faculty member that teaches in the discipline, but the student may be listed as instructor of record. A TA2 must have completed 18 hours of graduate course credit in the discipline and must have completed training, which consists of centralized training offered by the Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE) or decentralized training within the academic program. Decentralized training must have prior approval from COGS, CTE and the Office of the Provost. TA2s may be also be required to participate in additional in-service training within their College or Department, as determined by their Program.

The Department Chair and Graduate Program Director shall determine that the credentials of a student assigned as TA2 qualify the individual to undertake the assignment of instruction and must submit all required documentation to the Office of the Provost.

Graduate Research Assistant (RA)
Graduate Research Assistant (RA) is a graduate student whose responsibilities are other than teaching. An RA position is one that allows a graduate student to conduct research of a scholarly nature, normally under faculty supervision. Services provided by a research assistant may include, but is not limited to, the production and
analysis of data, the development of theoretical analyses and models, the production or publication of scholarly journals and research reports to develop his or her own research agenda and for the benefit of the University, faculty or academic staff supervisor, or granting agency.

**Lab Assistant, Level 1 (LA1)**

Graduate students appointed to the position of LA1 may not have primary responsibility for a lab or serve as the instructor of record, but may assist in the instructional process by assisting in a lab or assist the primary instructor of record in other ways. The department chair and graduate program director shall determine that the credentials of a student assigned as LA1 qualify the individual to assist in instruction activities.

**Lab Assistant, Level 2 (LA2)**

Graduate students appointed to the position of LA2 will have completed more than 18 hours of graduate course credit in the appropriate discipline and will have completed centralized training facilitated by the College of Graduate Studies. LA2s may have primary instructional responsibility for a lab and may have autonomy for teaching, assigning grades, and providing laboratory instruction/setup as part of a regularly scheduled course. LA2s must be under the supervision of a Georgia Southern faculty member that teaches in the discipline. The department chair and graduate program director shall determine that the credentials of a student assigned as LA2 qualify the individual to undertake the assignment of instruction.

**Graduate Assistant (GA)**

A Graduate Assistant (GA) is a graduate student who provides general administrative support to academic and administrative units within the University. The assigned duties to the GA should be relevant to the graduate program and the professional goals of the student whenever possible. The following guidelines are normally used when determining the work assignments and workload for a GA.

- Responsibilities that best serve the student, the hiring unit, and the student’s academic department when they are used as an integral component of the graduate education experience.
- Responsibilities that should enhance the educational experience by exposing the student to the professional activities of their disciplines, involving them in university activities related to their academic and professional interests, and affording them the opportunity to work closely with faculty and professionals.
- Activities that should provide high quality support for the academic mission of the University.

The primary goal of an assistantship is to permit orderly progress, academically and financially, through a graduate degree program. While assistants progress towards an advanced degree, they also receive experience and apprenticeship under the supervision of faculty mentors. All graduate assistants occupy dual roles, as they are both students at, and temporary student employees of, the University. In the former role, they are expected to concentrate on their studies under the direction of faculty mentors as a means of developing knowledge of their field of study and their professional skills. As temporary student employees of the University, graduate assistants are expected to meet the obligations assigned, whether they involve teaching, research, or other activities.

Graduate assistants, regardless of their functional classification as TAs, RAs, LAs, or GAs, are to work under the supervision of faculty who are experienced and knowledgeable in their field. Supervision of graduate assistants includes providing appropriate training prior to and during the assistants' assumption of responsibility for assigned tasks.
Academic and non-academic units of the University may employ graduate assistants. Funding for the graduate assistantship may come from allocated funds (provided to the unit from the College of Graduate Studies for the purpose of assistantship support) or from unallocated funds (provided separately by the department or other budgetary unit).

**DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS (Assistantship)**
A limited number of Doctoral Graduate Assistantships may be awarded by the respective colleges/department that house doctoral programs. Doctoral Graduate Assistantships are awarded on a competitive basis by the college/department and may include an annual appointment as determined by the college.

**ASSISTANTSHIP ELIGIBILITY**
Offers of an assistantship (or a doctoral fellowship) are typically provided to first-time, degree seeking graduate students. While some graduate assistantships are provided by the academic colleges/programs for students to gain academic experience that directly complements the student's degree program, many divisions outside of the University's academic programs also employ graduate assistants to serve other important roles/responsibilities while earning their advanced degrees. Graduate assistants must have substantial academic work or significant work experience in the field in which they receive the appointment. They should have achieved a strong academic record and must be committed to full time study for the degree. It is the hiring unit (academic or otherwise) that provides the offer of a graduate assistantship.

Graduate assistantships may only be offered to students that meet the minimum criteria of acceptance to a given program. In cases where graduate assistantship offers are provided by persons other than the Graduate Program Director, the hiring unit should confer with the Program Director and confirm (1) that the applicant has been formally accepted by the graduate program and (2) that the acceptance classification allows the student to hold a graduate assistantship.

Qualifications to hold a graduate assistantship include:
- Admission to COGS under the “Regular” degree admission classification.
- Enrolled full-time as defined by the program.
- A cumulative GSU graduate GPA of at least 3.0 (3.25 for Ed.D. Curriculum Studies or 3.50 for Ed.D. Educational Leadership students) in all coursework. Students enrolled in Georgia On My Line (GOML) consortium programs are NOT eligible for an assistantship.
- Offers to students enrolled in an online program require written permission from the Dean of their college, acknowledging the loss of the tuition premium to the academic unit. If the online program student is approved by the Dean of the college in which the student is pursuing the degree program and the Dean of the college of the assistantship appointment college is different from the degree program college, the assistantship will be approved.

Graduate assistantships are **NOT** available to, and should not be offered to, students matriculating under the following conditions:
- Have not been accepted by COGS.
- Enrolled under Provisional degree or Non-degree admission classifications.
- Enrolled in a GOML Consortium program
• Seeking only a certificate or certification and not fully enrolled in a degree program.
• Placed on academic probation.
• Not enrolled full-time.

All graduate assistants must be registered for classes prior to the first day of classes for each semester. A graduate assistant must also be registered as a full-time student each semester or term of the appointment. A graduate assistant who withdraws or drops a course resulting in the registration total to fall below full-time will lose the assistantship, and the student will be required to pay full tuition and fees for the remaining number of enrolled hours. Graduate assistants may be approved to take less than the minimum required course load (as little as one hour) given that the graduate assistant is in the last semester of coursework, have completed the graduation application, and have a cleared DegreeWorks audit on file. This policy may only be applied once.

If the student holding a graduate assistantship during the summer withdraws or drops a course resulting in the registration total to fall below the minimum stated previously, the graduate assistantship will be lost and the student will be required to pay full tuition and fees for the remaining number of enrolled hours.

If after appointment a graduate assistant is terminated, the student will be assessed full tuition and fees for the semester.

At the time assistantship offers are accepted, the heads of the appointing units should provide recipients with a copy of any applicable departmental policies relating to graduate assistants.

New graduate assistants should be notified of orientation meetings and other training opportunities as soon as these meetings are scheduled.

**GRADUATE ASSISTANT RESPONSIBILITIES**
A student appointed to an assistantship is required to work a maximum of twenty (20) hours per week in the unit. Graduate Assistant responsibilities are determined by the unit making the assistantship appointment.

A TA may be assigned the instructional responsibility for a course. They may have autonomy for teaching, assigning grades, providing laboratory instruction/setup as part of a regularly scheduled course, etc. Prior to assuming responsibility for a course, student assistants are required to work under the supervision of experienced faculty members as a means of developing teaching skills in the academic discipline.

**GRADUATE ASSISTANT STIPEND**
The minimum assistantship stipend for non-STEM fields is $3,875 per semester (fall, spring, & summer), and $5,000 per semester (fall, spring, & summer) for STEM fields. Academic units have the option to augment the stipend if so desired. Normally an assistantship for a master’s or education specialist student may be continued for two years. However, additional time may be considered if supported by the department in which the student is pursuing the degree and approved by the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies. A student who held a graduate assistantship while completing one master’s or educational specialist degree may be granted a graduate assistantship while the student is completing a second master’s or educational specialist degree.
To appoint a graduate assistant, the unit must have the necessary funds to cover the assistantship stipend and must meet the qualification to conduct the assistantship activities prescribed by the department.

**GRADUATE ASSISTANT TUITION WAIVER**
A graduate student to whom an assistantship is awarded will receive a waiver of standard tuition (in- and out-of-state if student is classified as a non-resident). A graduate assistant is required to pay a $25 matriculation fee each semester of enrollment while holding an assistantship.

The following are not waived:
- Premium tuition amount for programs approved to assess premium tuition above the standard tuition amount.
- Health Insurance Premium
- Technology Fee
- Institutional Fee
- Health Fee
- Activity Fee
- RAC Fee
- Athletic Fee
- Athletic Facility Fee
- FBS Fee
- Transit Fee
- Sustainability Fee

**GRADUATE ASSISTANT HEALTH INSURANCE REQUIREMENT**
All graduate students receiving a tuition waiver as a result of a graduate assistantship or doctoral fellowship are required to have health insurance. A graduate assistant may waive out of this fee if they are already covered by Health Insurance by contacting Health Services.

**GRADUATE ASSISTANT APPOINTMENT DURATION**
In most cases, assistantship appointments should be made for an academic or fiscal year so that employing units and assistants can plan effectively. In some instances, appointments may be made for one semester only. To be eligible for reappointment, the assistant must have maintained a cumulative GSU graduate GPA of at least 3.0 (3.25 for Ed.D. Curriculum Studies; 3.50 for Ed.D. Educational Administration students) on all graduate course work and must have received acceptable performance evaluations from their immediate supervisor.

**INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS WITH ASSISTANTSHIPS**
International students are required to notify International Programs and Services of their assistantship appointment and submit necessary information as requested.

**ASSISTANTSHIPS FOR FULLY-ONLINE STUDENTS**
At the discretion of the Dean of the respective college, a limited number of assistantships may be provided to students enrolled in programs or classes that are delivered fully-online AND where the student will be employed as a TA, RA, LA, or GA in the home college/department of the graduate program.
In cases where the employing unit and the academic unit are NOT one and the same, the employing unit MUST seek prior approval from the Dean of the academic unit in advance of offering the student an assistantship.

To be eligible, fully-online students must be able to meet the same eligibility requirements and are required to fulfill the same on-campus work schedule as a traditional graduate assistant. As such, it is anticipated that fully-online graduate assistants will reside within a reasonable distance to the University.

GRADUATE ASSISTANT CONDITION OF SERVICE
Graduate assistants are expected to make uninterrupted progress toward completing requirements for the degree. A student may hold only one assistantship at a time.

Because of the intensive nature of coursework in the summer term, graduate assistants, regardless of classification as RAs, TAs, LAs, or GAs, must be registered as full-time students. Summer term rules for maximum loads apply. A student will not be permitted to be appointed to, or hold, an assistantship if any of the following applies:

1. Under Provisional or Non-Degree admission.
2. On academic probation.
3. The cumulative graduate GPA is or falls below 3.0 (3.25 for Ed.D. – Curriculum Studies or 3.5 for Ed.D. Educational Leadership students).
4. A course grade of “I” is not cleared by the end of the semester or term the “I” grade was recorded.
5. Enrolled less than full-time.

Graduate assistants may be approved to take less than the minimum required course load (as little as 1 hour) given that the graduate assistant is in the last semester of coursework, have completed the graduation application, and have a cleared DegreeWorks audit on file.

Graduate assistants are not permitted to enroll in courses for which they are assigned assistantship responsibilities and may require special permission to enroll in courses that are not part of their program of study.

As student employees of the University, graduate assistants are responsible for knowing and adhering to departmental, college, and Institutional regulations, and for following them consistently.

Regardless of the work assignment, graduate assistants are obligated to maintain standards of academic honesty and integrity and to report violations of these to their faculty supervisor. Recognizing that the assistantship is a temporary position, graduate assistants should keep careful records of work assignments and should leave records in such a condition that decisions can be traced, results verified, and incomplete work finished after the assistantship has ended.

TEACHING ASSISTANT PARKING PRIVILEGES
A graduate assistant who has designated teaching (TA1 or TA2) responsibilities may apply for the right to purchase a graduate assistantship parking pass. There are a limited number of parking passes available. TA2s will receive priority. The TA Parking Permit Form is found at https://cogs.georgiasouthern.edu/wp-content/uploads/Parking-Updated-2020.pdf.
GRADUATE ASSISTANT EVALUATION
The performance of all graduate assistants in each academic unit must be evaluated annually following written policies and procedures adopted by the unit. Evaluation is to be made by the immediate supervisor(s) of the graduate assistant and monitored by the head of the department. Evaluation results must be reported in writing to graduate assistants and the report should identify strengths and weakness of their performance.

On-going informal evaluations should occur in addition to the annual evaluation. If these informal evaluations identify weaknesses, the graduate assistants should be advised in writing of the weaknesses and a notation of the evaluation should be entered in their personnel records. The graduate assistants and their immediate supervisor(s) should then devise a plan of improvement. If the performance of a graduate assistant fails to improve in accordance with the plan, further action should be taken. In those situations where continuance of the assistantship would be detrimental to the effective operation of the academic unit, consideration should be given to terminating the assistantship. When an assistantship is terminated, the student must be advised in writing of the termination of the assistantship and of the appeal procedures available.

Appeals of terminations, unless they include charges of discrimination, will be heard through channels established for academic decisions. The appeals must be in writing and must specify the grounds on which they are based.

GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIP INELIGIBILITY OR TERMINATION
A graduate assistant will be ineligible to continue and/or will be terminated if:

1. Placed on academic probation.
2. The cumulative graduate GPA falls below 3.0 (3.25 for Ed.D. Curriculum Studies students; 3.50 for Ed.D. Educational Leadership students).
3. An “I” grade has not been cleared by the end of the next semester after which it was recorded. This includes summer.
4. The graduate assistant does not meet the mandatory insurance policy.
5. Full-time enrollment is not maintained.
6. Assistantship responsibilities are not performed in a satisfactory manner.
7. Loss of unit or department funding

If a graduate assistantship is terminated, the student loses the assistantship tuition waiver and is assessed the full tuition and fee amount for the term.

GRADUATE ASSISTANT RIGHTS
Graduate assistants are granted rights as outlined in the American Association of University Professors’ Statement on Graduate Students. Graduate assistants must be notified in writing of all decisions that affect their status as temporary student employees. They will be given advanced notice of evaluation procedures and must receive notice of reappointment procedures in time to permit preparation of their assistantship applications. All graduate assistants, regardless of classification as RAs, TAs, or GAs, have access to appeal and grievance procedures operative to the University. Appeals resulting from academic decisions are usually directed to the unit responsible for the decision. An unfavorable ruling may be appealed to successive levels in the University and ultimately to the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia. Information on appeals of academic matters may be obtained from the College of Graduate Studies.
Complaints of discrimination based on race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, handicap, or veteran’s status may be heard through the University's Grievance Procedures. Under these procedures, a grievance panel will also hear complaints that allege deviation from official University policy. The panel does not have jurisdiction over pay disputes, promotional decisions, or other matters involving the exercise of legitimate discretionary authority unless the decision is alleged to have been based upon discriminatory factors. Information on the consolidated grievance procedures may be obtained from the Georgia Southern University Grievance Coordinator in the Office of Academic Affairs.

**SUMMER ASSISTANTSHIPS**

A student granted an assistantship during the summer term must be enrolled during the summer to be eligible to hold an assistantship. The student must be enrolled in the minimum number of credit hours as shows below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TA, RA, GA Appointment TERM</th>
<th>Minimum Cr Hr Enrollment Required</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Term A Only</td>
<td>3 credit hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term B only</td>
<td>3 credit hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long Term</td>
<td>6 credit hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JPHCOPH Term</td>
<td>6 credit hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COE Term</td>
<td>6 credit hours</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**POLICIES ON GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIPS**

Applicable policies on graduate assistantships are found in Appendix XIII.

**SECTION 25 - WORKLOADS, COURSE LOADS, AND COMPENSATION FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS**

The Dean of the College of Graduate Studies has been delegated the responsibility for the proper implementation of policies pertaining to workloads, course loads, and compensation for graduate students. The Dean of the College of Graduate Studies also obtains compliance from all units in the University regardless of the source of funding.

All graduate assistant employee personnel reports must be submitted to and approved by the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies, who will then send the approved forms to the appropriate vice president for further consideration and action. Expeditious processing of these documents is necessary to ensure that graduate students will be paid promptly and that his/her fees will be properly assessed.
ANNUAL STIPEND RATES
Annual minimum stipend rates for graduate assistants will be established by the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the College of Graduate Studies prior to the beginning of the fiscal year. Providing the rate meets the minimum stipend rate approved by the College of Graduate Studies, the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies may approve annual rates for graduate assistants that vary from the standard rate set.

STUDENT HOURLY EMPLOYEES
Student Employees are considered temporary and include graduate assistants and student workers. Student employees may not exceed a total of 1,300 hours worked in a 12-consecutive month period. The 1,300 hours can be accumulated in any combination during the 12 month period. Student employees’ are not subject to the re-employment restriction requiring a break-in-service after 12-consecutive months of employment.

To be eligible for employment by Georgia Southern University on an hourly basis, a graduate student must be registered in the semester during which work is performed. Student hourly employees should keep their major professor and/or graduate coordinator advised as to their workload each semester.

International students in lawful F-1 and J-1 status who are enrolled full-time are eligible to work for an institution but must not work more than 20 hours per week in accordance with visa restrictions and must ensure compliance with Federal Work Study requirements.

The 1,300 work hours per 12 month period limit is a strict requirement and must be adhered to.

TUITION WAIVERS
Allocated and unallocated assistantships funded by the University provide a standard tuition waiver, with the exception of reduced tuition fee of $25.00 per semester. Graduate assistants are responsible for paying all other University fees and any applicable premium tuition for each semester. Premium tuition is not waived.

TUITION WAIVERS ON SPONSORED PROGRAMS
If funding for an assistantship is derived from an external source (e.g. sponsored programs), a tuition waiver is not granted and either the student or the external agency is responsible for full tuition, including any fees and premium tuition.

In some cases, a tuition waiver may be provided by the Office of Research Services and Sponsored Programs for RAs, and in rare cases TAs, receiving a full stipend supported from funding received by the Office of Research Services and Sponsored Programs. Graduate students supported on sponsored programs must meet and maintain enrollment and eligibility requirements and work only on tasks towards the sponsored program. If modifications to the sponsored program exclude the graduate assistant from working on the project, the principal investigator is responsible for issuing a termination notice for the position.

FINANCIAL AID AND VETERANS’ BENEFITS
To qualify as a full-time graduate student for financial aid and veterans’ benefits, a student must be enrolled in the required number of credits set by regulations governing financial aid or veteran’s benefits. Students should contact the Financial Aid Office of the Office of Veterans Affairs in the Registrar’s Office for information about minimum enrollment requirements.
WORK STUDY
Graduate students may qualify for work-study. Applicants must submit the application for work-study to the Financial Aid Office.

MANDATORY INSURANCE FOR GRADUATE ASSISTANTS
All graduate assistants, regardless of classification as RAs, TAs, LAs, or GAs, are required to have student health insurance that is provided through the University System of Georgia Board of Regents approved provider.

SECTION 26 - STUDENT RESEARCH AND TRAVEL GRANTS

GRADUATE STUDENT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND
The College of Graduate Studies also works closely with the Georgia Southern University Graduate Student Organization (GSO). The GSO seeks to support scholarly activities and promote social opportunities for the development of graduate students, and is committed to representing and supporting the interests of all current and prospective graduate students at Georgia Southern University.

The College of Graduate Studies and the GSO, through the use of the Graduate Student Professional Development Fund (GSPDF), provide support for graduate student research and travel essential to the professional development and progression of students within their scholarship.

More information on research and travel grants may be found on the Graduate Student Organization website at http://cogs.georgiasouthern.edu/gso/.

SECTION 27 - BORDER COUNTY FEE WAIVERS

Graduate students who are legal residents of out-of-state counties bordering Georgia counties where an institution of the University System of Georgia is located and who are enrolled in said institutions may be eligible for a fee waiver based upon the Border County rule.

1. Border county out-of-state tuition waiver is to persons who are in a graduate program, offered completely on the Armstrong campus, that live in Beaufort or Jasper County, South Carolina.

SECTION 28 - INTERNATIONAL DIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS (OUT-OF-COUNTRY TUITION WAIVERS)

Georgia Southern University has been authorized to award a limited number of International Diversity Scholarships (formerly called out-of-country tuition waivers). The awards provide for a waiver of out-of-state tuition. To apply, the applicant must complete and submit the International Diversity Scholarship (Out-of-Country
Tuition Waiver) application form by the application deadline to the College of Graduate Studies Office of Admissions. International graduates students with outstanding academic credentials may be considered for the award. An international graduate student to whom the award was made should maintain a cumulative graduate GPA that meets the minimum to be in academic good standing, to be eligible to maintain the award.

To apply for the International Diversity Scholarship (Out-of-Country Tuition Waiver) applicants must complete and submit the scholarship application form found at [http://cogs.georgiasouthern.edu/admission/international-students-2/](http://cogs.georgiasouthern.edu/admission/international-students-2/)

Each recipient of the International Diversity Scholarship is required to register per SEVIS requirements.

**CRITERIA FOR AWARDING INTERNATIONAL DIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS**
The following criteria are utilized in awarding International Diversity Scholarships:

1. Academic record
2. Essay (not to exceed 500 words) stating the financial need and how the applicant intends to use their education after returning to their home country
3. Students who are awarded the scholarship are required to maintain a 3.50 GPA to retain the benefit
4. Students must be registered for the waiver to be awarded

International Diversity Scholarship selections are made by the Office of Graduate Admissions and are intended to compliment international graduate student recruitment. Students to whom the awards are made are notified by e-mail.

**SECTION 29 - OFF-CAMPUS PROGRAMMING**

**OFF-CAMPUS PROGRAMS**
Georgia Southern University offers a range of graduate programs and courses through online delivery. In addition, a limited number of graduate courses are periodically offered at other off-campus locations.

*Courses offered contingent upon sufficient course enrollments.*

**OFF-CAMPUS DEFINITIONS**
- **Off-campus Course**
  A course that carries academic credit and is scheduled at times and locations different from courses offered on the GSU Statesboro Campus. These courses will have a section code that identifies the course location.
- **Off-campus Program**
  A graduate degree program that may be completed entirely by taking courses offered at off-campus locations.
- **Off-campus Fees**
  Students registering in off-campus courses are assessed the program tuition, the technology fee and the institutional fee but are not assessed other university fees the matriculation, health or athletic fees unless the student is also registered in more than three credits offered on-campus.
- **Off-campus Premium Tuition**
Certain programs are approved to assess a premium tuition which is an amount above the standard tuition assessment. If a program or some courses in a program which is approved to assess a premium tuition, the premium tuition is also assessed if the courses are offered off-campus.

SCHEDULING OF OFF-CAMPUS COURSES
An academic unit must have been approved to offer programs off-campus. If an academic unit, not previously approved to offer a program at an off-campus center or location, wants to offer a degree program, the unit must develop and submit a proposal for approval consideration. The scheduling of courses is not permitted unless or until approval is granted per the approval procedures. Off-campus courses must adhere to the same number of clock hours of instruction as on-campus courses. A three credit hour course must include no fewer than 2250 minutes of instructional time.

STUDENT ADMISSION
Students must be admitted to the College of Graduate Studies as degree-seeking, non-degree-seeking or transient, and be eligible to register prior to being approved to register in off-campus classes.

RESIDENT CREDIT
Courses taken off-campus will count toward the residency requirement for Master’s and Education Specialist degree programs. Credit earned off-campus will not count toward residency credit for doctoral programs unless taken in an off-campus center or location that is an approved site to offer doctoral coursework.

OFF-CAMPUS COURSE GRADING
Grades assigned in off-campus courses must conform to the requirements of the uniform grading system by the Board of Regents. Course instructors must report final grades to the Registrar’s Office consistent with the reporting deadlines for courses offered on-campus.

SECTION 30 - ONLINE PROGRAMMING

ONLINE PROGRAMS
Online programs offered by Georgia Southern University or in collaboration with other institutions of the University System of Georgia can be found at https://cogs.georgiasouthern.edu/admission/online-programs/

GEORGIA ON MY LINE PROGRAMS (GOML)
Georgia On My Line provides online and distance education offerings from the 35 colleges and universities in the University System of Georgia.

GOML degree programs offered by Georgia Southern:
- M.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction - Accomplished Teaching (36 semester hours) - http://cogs.georgiasouthern.edu/admission/graduateprograms/education-programs/curriculum-and-instruction-accomplished-teaching-m-ed/
- M.Ed. in Instructional Technology (36 semester hours) - http://cogs.georgiasouthern.edu/admission/graduateprograms/education-programs/instructional-technology-m-ed/
SECTION 31 – STUDENT NAME AND ADDRESS CHANGES

NAME CHANGE FOR FORMER GEORGIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS
Students who have earned a degree from Georgia Southern University who apply for graduate school admission with a different last name (probably due to marriage), will no longer be required to submit official documentation of the name change, if Graduate Admissions can verify that the student has the same date of birth and social security number. Graduate Admissions reserves the right to require official name change documentation.

NAME CHANGE FOR NEW GEORGIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AND ADDRESS CHANGE
If a person is in the admission process, a request for an address change may be directed to Graduate Admissions who will require name change documentation. Continuing students need to send name change requests to the Registrar’s Office. Once a student has matriculated, all subsequent address changes may be made through WINGS at https://my.georgiasouthern.edu/.

SECTION 32 - PURGING OF RECORDS
Files of graduate students whose course work or admission has expired are subject to being purged when the student becomes inactive or has completed the degree for which they were admitted consistent with the University System of Georgia Board of Regents Records Management requirements. Departments should keep all records for a period of three (3) years.

SECTION 33 - ACADEMIC COMMON MARKET
At its 1972 annual meeting, the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) created the Commission on Regional Cooperation to explore and develop new areas of interstate sharing of educational programs and facilities among states in the South. One of the first undertakings of the Commission was the establishment of a regional Academic Common Market. The Common Market, first operational in 1974, is an interstate agreement for sharing academic programs across state lines. As a result, students have access to selected programs not offered in their home states without having to pay out-of-state tuition charges.

OPERATIONS
SREB employs a staff member to coordinate the activities of the Commission on Regional Cooperation, including the Academic Common Market. Each of the 14 states participating in the Common Market has designated a state coordinator for the program. In addition, each institution that has one or more academic programs in the Common Market has named an institutional coordinator as a contact person for that institution. At Georgia Southern University, this person is the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies.

Responsibilities of the Institutional Coordinator include:
1. Maintaining a record of all students certified to enter academic programs at the institution through the Academic Common Market;
2. Facilitating the enrollment process for Common Market students by waiving out-of-state fees;
3. Publicizing the Academic Common Market to the student body at large.
UPDATING PROGRAM OFFERINGS
One of the primary functions of the Academic Common Market is to assist states in offering together what they cannot offer individually. Programs may be added to and removed from the Market on an annual basis in order to reflect the changing needs of participating states.

Throughout the year, states are asked to indicate to SREB the kinds of programs that are unavailable through their own institutions and to which they want to gain access in other states. This information is shared with other states, which can then determine if they have programs that would be appropriate for the Common Market. On this basis, states recommend programs from their own institutions to be included in the Common Market.

These recommendations are compiled and circulated among the states. If one or more states select a given recommended program, it is included in the Market for residents of the state(s) that select it. Information concerning the programs offered by Georgia Southern University through the Academic Common Market is available in the College of Graduate Studies.

PROGRAM ADMISSION
A student desiring entrance to a program offered through the Common Market should do the following:

1. The student must first be accepted for admission as a prospective candidate into a degree program accessible through the Academic Common Market. Unless this procedure is followed as a first requirement, all other preparations could be wasted effort should the student not be accepted by the institution.
2. The student must then contact the coordinator in the home state and request resident certification to be supplied to the participating institution. Each state has developed its own forms and procedures for certifying students.
3. After certifying the residency of an applicant, the state coordinator sends a copy of the completed residency form to the student, the institutional coordinator at the receiving institution, and to SREB.
4. The institutional coordinator then makes arrangements with the appropriate officials at the participating institution so that the student is not charged out-of-state tuition fees.
APPENDIX LIST

I. Academic Calendars: http://em.georgiasouthern.edu/registrar/resources/calendars/
II. Graduate Programs Offered: http://cogs.georgiasouthern.edu/admission/all-graduate-programs/
III. Graduate Student Forms List: http://cogs.georgiasouthern.edu/student/forms
IV. Accepted Student/Graduation Checklist: http://cogs.georgiasouthern.edu/new-current-students/accepted-studentgraduation-checklist/
V. ETD: Electronic Theses and Dissertations: https://cogs.georgiasouthern.edu/etd-submission-links/
VI. AAUP Statement on Graduate Students: http://www.aaup.org/AAUP/pubsres/policydocs/contents/statementsongraduatestudents.htm
VII. Graduate Student Organization (Research & Travel Grants): http://cogs.georgiasouthern.edu/gso/
VIII. Records Retention Procedures: http://www.usg.edu/records_management/schedules/A/
IX. Graduate Committee - Schedule of Meetings: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1VyrLovDh0qagpk0AcS2mV0kzgOxwri-L/view
X. Graduate Committee Minutes and Agendas: http://em.georgiasouthern.edu/registrar/faculty-staff/committees/
XI. Graduate Faculty Model: http://cogs.georgiasouthern.edu/faculty-staff/graduate-faculty-model-2/
XII. Board of Regents Procedures for Development of New Programs: http://www.usg.edu/academic_affairs_handbook/section2/handbook/2.3_academic_programs/#p2.3.2_new_academic_programs
XIII. Policies for Graduate Assistantships: http://cogs.georgiasouthern.edu/new-current-students/graduate-assistantships-information/