

**Commission on Graduate and Professional Studies and Policies
Resolution to Update the Graduate Catalogue
CGPSP 2024-25C**

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| Resolution Proposal Form Sent to University Council Cabinet | March 31, 2025 |
| First Reading by Commission on Graduate & Professional Studies & Policies | April 2, 2025 |
| Approval by Commission on Graduate & Professional Studies and Policies | April 16, 2025 |
| First Reading by Faculty Senate | April 5, 2025 |
| Approval by Faculty Senate | April 18, 2025 |
| Staff Senate Comment | April 11, 2025 |
| Administrative and Professional Faculty Senate Comment | April 11, 2025 |
| Graduate and Professional Student Senate Comment | April 7, 2025 |
| Undergraduate Student Senate Waived Right to Comment | April 16, 2025 |
| First Reading, University Council | April 21, 2025 |
| Approved, University Council | May 5, 2025 |
| Approved, President | Date |
| Approved, Board of Visitors | Date |
| Effective Date | Upon Approval |

WHEREAS, the Degrees and Policy Committee (DAP) and Non-Thesis, Course-only (NTCO) Master's Committee has reviewed existing policies in the Graduate Catalogue and recommends updates to enhance clarity, consistency, and inclusivity in graduate admission and academic standards and;

WHEREAS, the current policy on Accelerated Undergraduate/Graduate Degree Programs requires revision to remove redundant or unclear language and to align with best practices for academic progression; and

WHEREAS, the credential qualifications for graduate admission at Virginia Tech may be broadened to recognize applicants who have earned an integrated master's degree or higher, even in the absence of a baccalaureate degree, provided the degree was awarded by an accredited institution; and

WHEREAS, the Plan of Study submission policy needs to be revised to standardize among all types and lengths of Master's degree programs;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Graduate Catalogue be updated to reflect the changes summarized below.

1. The current policy on Accelerated Undergraduate/Graduate Degree programs (<https://catalog.vt.edu/graduate/graduate-policies/#admissiontext>), specifically the final bullet point which currently reads, "Courses must not be taken pass-fail if a graded option is available" be struck out and removed from the policy.

2. The committee recommends the following changes to the current VT Graduate Catalogue section on admission criteria be revised as follows:

“Admission to the Graduate School is contingent upon receipt of a four-year baccalaureate degree (or three-year degree recognized by the Bologna process) from an accredited institution of higher education recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and listed in the Database of Accredited Postsecondary Institutions and Programs or an international equivalent. **For applicants whose initial post-secondary degree is an integrated master’s degree or higher (i.e., no baccalaureate degree was awarded), the earned graduate degree is sufficient to satisfy the graduate admission contingency if earned from an institution of higher education accredited by a recognized U.S. institutional accrediting agency or an international equivalent, as verified from official transcripts.** Additional requirements beyond those of the Graduate School vary across academic units.

3. **The Committee recommends modifying the current** language in the graduate catalog on repeating courses in the plan of study: “Courses may not be repeated if a P grade is earned; or ~~without permission of the Graduate School~~ if a grade of C- or better is earned **and the student GPA is 3.0 or better.**”

4. The committee recommends replacing the current Plan of Study language for Master’s degrees in the Graduate Catalog:

The current language:

The Plan of Study is due by the end of the second academic semester for most master's degree students (based on full-time enrollment). For the Master of Architecture or Master of Urban and Regional Planning degrees, the Plan of Study is due before 30 credit hours are completed. For bachelor's/master's students, the Plan of Study is due by the end of the first full semester of graduate study.

The proposed language:

The Plan of Study provides a clear sequence of courses to be taken across the semesters, allowing students to track academic progress, meet graduation requirements, and align selected courses to individual goals and desired outcomes.

Each graduate student’s plan of study should be submitted to the Graduate School for approval, following the guidelines of their academic department, as early as possible and no later than the end of the term preceding their intended graduation term. Individual degree programs may establish an earlier submission deadline, if desired.



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Staff Senate

<http://www.staffsenate.vt.edu/>

April 14, 2025

To: Vice President of Policy and Governance

The Staff Senate Committee on Policy and Issues has reviewed and approves CGPSP Resolution 2024-25C if appropriate changes are made to the wording of the wording of the body of the resolution in the “Whereas” statements. Please see below our additional feedback and questions.

The current wording of the “Whereas” statements is a little confusing. It is our understanding that these statements should provide the background and justification for the proposed action in the “Be it resolved” section (<https://governance.vt.edu/VideoTutorials/How%20to%20Write%20a%20Resolution/story.html>). Currently the second “Whereas” states that the current policy “...is updated for clarity and consistency...”. Are these not the updates that are being proposed below? If so, this policy has not been updated until the resolution is approved. Similar issues exist in the third and fourth “Whereas” statements. They say that certain items “...can be modified...” and “...should be revised...” but these items are actually outlined in the “Be it resolved” section. We are not sure that it is appropriate to cite these changes in the “Whereas” sections of the resolution. Additionally, the third “Whereas” statement appears to be incomplete in that it ends by saying “...include students who have earned a master’s degree from; and...”. “From” where or what?

The first proposed change appears to have a duplication of wording at the end of the sentence.

The third proposed change is missing a word and should read “The Committee recommends modifying the current language in the...”. Additionally, in the Graduate Catalogue the sentence following the modified sentence should probably start with “If” or “When”.

As a point of curiosity relating to the third proposed change, why is it problematic if a student wants to repeat a course to improve their grade?

We have no further comment.

**Thank you,
Amber Robinson, Chair Staff Senate Policies and
Issues Committee**



Graduate and Professional Student Senate (GPSS)

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Comment on CGPSP 2024-25C:

The Graduate and Professional Student Senate has no comments on CGPSP 2024-25C - Resolution to update the Graduate Catalogue. We support the changes as described in the resolution.

On behalf of the Graduate and Professional Student Senate,
Ronnie Mondal
President



Administrative and Professional Faculty Senate

<https://governance.vt.edu/ap-faculty-senate.php>

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April 17, 2025

To: Vice President of Policy and Governance

From: A/P Faculty Senate Policies and Issues Committee

The A/P Faculty Senate Policies and Issues Committee has reviewed and approves/endorsees the Commission on Graduate and Professional Studies and Policies 2024-25C to Update the Graduate Catalog.

We have no further comment.



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ADHOC COMMITTEES

Staff Senate

<http://www.staffsenate.vt.edu/>

April 28, 2025

To: Vice President of Policy and Governance

The Staff Senate Committee on Policy and Issues has reviewed the revised version of CGPSP Resolution 2024-25C and approves this version with the following comment.

In order for the resolution to be in the proper format, the word “and” needs to be added after the semi-colon at the end of each “Whereas” statement except the last statement before the “New, therefore, be it resolved” section.

We have no further comment.

**Thank you,
Amber Robinson, Chair Staff Senate Policies and
Issues Committee**