

The Commission on Graduate and Professional Studies and Policies

Resolution to retire presidential policy memoranda regarding graduate education and establish the Graduate Catalog as the definitive repository of official university policy governing graduate education and program-specific requirements

CGPSP 2025-26F

Resolution Proposal Form Sent to University Council Cabinet	February 4, 2026
First Reading by Commission	March 4th, 2026
Approval by Commission	Date
First Reading by Senate	Date
Approval by Senate	Date
Faculty Senate Comment	Date
Staff Senate Comment	Date
Administrative and Professional Faculty Senate Comment	Date
Graduate and Professional Student Senate Comment	Date
Undergraduate Student Senate Comment	Date
First Reading, University Council	Date
Approved, University Council	Date
Approved, President	Date
Approved, Board of Visitors	Date
Effective Date	Upon Approval

WHEREAS, Presidential Policy Memoranda have been used since 1977 to establish University policy; and

WHEREAS, Commission on Faculty Affairs resolution 2015-16B, Resolution on Shared Governance, was approved on February 1, 2016; and

WHEREAS, the Joint Resolution to Revise Shared Governance at Virginia Tech was approved February 15, 2021 and included approval of the Principles of Shared Governance which stated, “shared governance is the process by which the university community shares responsibility for reaching collective decisions on matters of policy and procedure”; and

WHEREAS, the charge of the Commission on Graduate and Professional Studies and Policies is to study, formulate, and recommend to the Faculty Senate policies and procedures concerning graduate and professional student academic matters; and

WHEREAS, the Graduate Catalog contains general student life policies; financial information; academic policies that govern the admission, enrollment and graduation of all graduate students; and requirements for earning a graduate degree or certificate;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Presidential Policy Memoranda shown below regarding graduate education be retired, their content having been captured in the 2025-2026 and earlier editions of the Graduate Catalog; and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Graduate Catalog is established as the definitive repository of official university policy governing graduate education and program-specific requirements; and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission on Graduate and Professional Studies and Policies will annually review any changes from the prior academic year's Graduate Catalog and, at the Commission's September meeting, approve as authoritative the current academic year's Graduate Catalog.

PPM Number	PPM Name	Graduate Catalog Mapping (2025-26)
5b	Graduate Students Must Maintain a 3.0 QCA on All Course Work	https://catalog.vt.edu/graduate/graduate-policies/#degreecertificaterequirementstext GPA Requirements section
5c	Independent Study (5970 Courses) to be Graded on Pass/Fail Basis Only	https://catalog.vt.edu/graduate/graduate-policies/#enrollmenttext Grading section
6c	Transfer of Courses to Satisfy Minimum Master's Degree Requirements	Updated with PPM 194; PPM 194 retired per CGPSP Resolution 2020-2021A
6d	Maximum of 12 Hours of 5970/5980 for 81 Hours Master's Degree Program	Does not belong in the Graduate Catalog; is addressed and managed through the program approval process (https://www.provost.vt.edu/executive-vice-provost/schev-compliance/schev-definitions.html).
8a	Revision in Graduate Student Grading	Updated with PPM 110
8b	Revision of Graduate Admission Policy	https://catalog.vt.edu/graduate/graduate-policies/#admissiontext Admissions Overview section
9b	Revision of Policy Concerning Graduate Course Work on Pass/Fail Basis	https://catalog.vt.edu/graduate/graduate-policies/#enrollmenttext Grading section
9c	Requirement of Final Examination for All Master's Programs	https://catalog.vt.edu/graduate/graduate-policies/#examinationtext Final Examination (Master's) section
15a	Option to Change from Master's Thesis to Non-Thesis Program	https://catalog.vt.edu/graduate/graduate-policies/#degreecertificaterequirementstext Change of Thesis Option section
15b	Unclassified Professional Student Category in College of Education	https://catalog.vt.edu/graduate/graduate-policies/#admissiontext Admission Classifications section

23	Policy Changes Relating to Graduate Student Fees	https://catalog.vt.edu/graduate/graduate-policies/#enrollmenttext Enrollment Limits and Requirements section Note: PPM 23 references quarters. By the university changing to semesters, PPM 23 was made obsolete.
27	Specifications of Graduate Cooperative Education Program	https://catalog.vt.edu/graduate/graduate-policies/#enrollmenttext Graduate Cooperative Education Program section Updated by resolution, CGPSP 2022-23A Co-op Program Change, March 13, 2023.
60	Non-Thesis Options for the Master of Fine Arts Degree in Theatre Arts	https://catalog.vt.edu/graduate/graduate-policies/#degreecertificaterequirementstext Non-thesis Master's section
89	Departmental Designation on Graduate Diplomas	Governed by Registrar's Office policy https://www.registrar.vt.edu/academic-records/Diploma.html
110	Reinstating the "D" Grades for Graduate Credit	https://catalog.vt.edu/graduate/graduate-policies/#enrollmenttext Grading section
144	4000 & 5000 Level Courses	Superseded by PPM 254
145	Graduate Course Modifications	Governed by University Academic Curriculum Governance https://www.registrar.vt.edu/governance.html
160	New Graduate Degree Program Process	Governed by University Academic Curriculum Governance https://www.registrar.vt.edu/governance.html
187	Policy on Independent and Special Study Courses	https://catalog.vt.edu/graduate/graduate-policies/#degreecertificaterequirementstext Master's Degrees section

		<p>Note: The PPM 187 language regarding independent study restrictions was last listed in the 2004-05 Graduate Catalog. As of 2006-07, the Graduate Catalog does not specify limitations on Independent Study based specifically on the ≤33, 33-48, or >48 credit-hour requirement of a master's program. A review of University Council minutes from 2003-04 through 2005-06 did not provide any documentation of why or how this restriction was removed.</p>
188	Committee Approval of Theses and Dissertations	https://catalog.vt.edu/graduate/graduate-policies/#degreecompletiontext Thesis or Dissertation section
194	Transfer Credit for Master's Degrees	Retired per CGPSP Resolution 2020-2021A
195	Changing Advisory Committee Membership	https://catalog.vt.edu/graduate/graduate-policies/#degreecertificaterequirementstext Advisory Committees section
200	Residency for Doctoral Candidates	Superseded by PPM 267
229	Update to Policy No. 1: Evaluation of the Progress of Graduate Students	https://catalog.vt.edu/graduate/graduate-policies/#degreecertificaterequirementstext Satisfactory Progress Toward a Graduate Degree section
230	Awarding of a Graduate Certificate	https://catalog.vt.edu/graduate/graduate-policies/#degreecertificaterequirementstext Requirements for Graduate Certificates section Also governed by University Academic Curriculum Governance https://www.registrar.vt.edu/governance.html
238	Course Withdrawal Policy for Graduate Students	https://catalog.vt.edu/graduate/graduate-policies/#enrollmenttext

		Course Withdrawal/Resignation section and Resignation/Withdrawal section
254	<u>Revision on Policy on Graduate Credit for 4000 Level Course</u>	<u>https://catalog.vt.edu/graduate/graduate-policies/#admissiontext</u> Accelerated Undergraduate/Graduate Degree Programs section <u>https://catalog.vt.edu/graduate/graduate-policies/#degreecertificaterequirementstext</u> Master's Degrees section
261	<u>Defending Student Status for Qualified Graduate Students</u>	<u>https://catalog.vt.edu/graduate/graduate-policies/#enrollmenttext</u> Scheduling Examinations section The Bursar's Office tuition table includes information about the special SSDE tuition.
267	<u>Doctoral Residency</u>	<u>https://catalog.vt.edu/graduate/graduate-policies/#degreecertificaterequirementstext</u> Doctoral Residency section
283	<u>Inclusion of a Scholarly Ethics and Integrity Component in Graduate Education</u>	<u>https://catalog.vt.edu/graduate/graduate-policies/#degreecertificaterequirementstext</u> Requirements for Degrees section
291	<u>Graduate Continuous Enrollment</u>	<u>https://catalog.vt.edu/graduate/graduate-policies/#enrollmenttext</u> Continuous Enrollment section
292	<u>Graduate Leave of Absence</u>	<u>https://catalog.vt.edu/graduate/graduate-policies/#enrollmenttext</u> Leave of Absence section
293	<u>Graduate in Absentia Status</u>	<u>https://catalog.vt.edu/graduate/graduate-policies/#enrollmenttext</u>

		In Absentia Status section
307	Incorporating an Inclusion and Diversity Education Component into Graduate Education	Repealed by Board of Visitors Resolution 3/25/2025