

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

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

		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.
188	<a href="#">Committee Approval of Theses and Dissertations</a>	<a href="https://catalog.vt.edu/graduate/graduate-policies/#degreecompletiontext">https://catalog.vt.edu/graduate/graduate-policies/#degreecompletiontext</a> Thesis or Dissertation section
194	Transfer Credit for Master's Degrees	Retired per <a href="#">CGPSP Resolution 2020-2021A</a>
195	<a href="#">Changing Advisory Committee Membership</a>	<a href="https://catalog.vt.edu/graduate/graduate-policies/#degreecertificaterequirementstext">https://catalog.vt.edu/graduate/graduate-policies/#degreecertificaterequirementstext</a> Advisory Committees section
200	<a href="#">Residency for Doctoral Candidates</a>	Superseded by <a href="#">PPM 267</a>
229	<a href="#">Update to Policy No. 1: Evaluation of the Progress of Graduate Students</a>	<a href="https://catalog.vt.edu/graduate/graduate-policies/#degreecertificaterequirementstext">https://catalog.vt.edu/graduate/graduate-policies/#degreecertificaterequirementstext</a> Satisfactory Progress Toward a Graduate Degree section
230	<a href="#">Awarding of a Graduate Certificate</a>	<a href="https://catalog.vt.edu/graduate/graduate-policies/#degreecertificaterequirementstext">https://catalog.vt.edu/graduate/graduate-policies/#degreecertificaterequirementstext</a> Requirements for Graduate Certificates section Also governed by University Academic Curriculum Governance <a href="https://www.registrar.vt.edu/governance.html">https://www.registrar.vt.edu/governance.html</a>
238	<a href="#">Course Withdrawal Policy for Graduate Students</a>	<a href="https://catalog.vt.edu/graduate/graduate-policies/#enrollmenttext">https://catalog.vt.edu/graduate/graduate-policies/#enrollmenttext</a>

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

		In Absentia Status section
307	Incorporating an Inclusion and Diversity Education Component into Graduate Education	Repealed by <a href="#">Board of Visitors Resolution</a> 3/25/2025