

Major Changes to the Graduate Council Bylaws

revised September 2009

The bylaws that govern graduate programs in the School of Medicine have been revised and approved by Graduate Council (June 2009) and by Faculty Council (September 2009). These changes are effective as of September 9th 2009. The new bylaws were posted to the Graduate Studies website on September 9th at url <http://www.ohsu.edu/xd/education/schools/school-of-medicine/academic-programs/graduate-studies/faculty/upload/ByLaws-Rev-9-2009.pdf>. The major changes are described here.

Note. In all cases the time limits have been described in terms rather than years (in some cases both) because some MS programs are in session for 3 of 4 terms.

1. Changes to Graduate Faculty (article IV-section A; page 2)

Added that faculty with Masters Degree/MPH or equal degree can be Graduate Faculty (in the past, Graduate Faculty had to hold a Doctorate). However, we also added that faculty mentors must now hold an equal or higher degree than the student's proposed degree (section IV.D.2.a page 3).

Added a New level of Graduate Faculty- (Section A, page 2). The Affiliated Graduate Faculty-so that faculty without primary appointments at OHSU can mentor students. These appointments are limited to 3 years, are renewable indefinitely, and limit affiliate graduate faculty participation to the graduate program sponsoring them.

2. New Graduate Programs (Article V-section B and C; page 4).

List detailed requirements for approval of new programs. These are for use of Graduate Council and though they may overlap, are separate from, the information required by the OSU system. The purpose is to ensure that there is no redundancy among programs. Questions about core competencies are now required for all educational programs by the university.

3. Review of Graduate Programs (Article VI-section C; page 6).

Graduate Council will review programs every 5 years- this is new- we used to review courses only on a 2 year cycle. Although we approved new programs, we did not review them once approved. This will bring graduate programs into line with all educational programs at the university. The wording is deliberately vague, allowing programs the flexibility to conduct the review as they see fit (internal vs external advisors). However, the Associate Vice Provost for Academic Affairs will need these reviews to reporting to the OSU and accreditation systems so Grad Council will work with that office to decide what core information will be included in these reviews. Graduate Council will phase in the 5 year review cycle over the next 6 months, and programs will be informed about the schedule of this rotation (until then please keep to the course review cycle).

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4. Academic Expectations (Article IX).

Students will still be placed on academic probation for a GPA less than 3.0. However, given that it is almost impossible to recover once a grade of D or F is earned, programs now have the option to immediately recommend dismissal for one failing grade (D or Less) without placing the student on academic probation first (section B; page 11).

Also added a time limit for PhD students to take examination for advancement to candidacy to 12 terms (3 years). There was no previous policy concerning this exam. Now, a delay of more than 1 year (past the traditional 2nd year) is now considered failure to progress and provides programs with grounds for recommending dismissal should they wish to take that action (section F; page 14).

5. Leave of Absence (Article IX. section K; page 18).

Policy is changed primarily to accommodate some of the Masters Programs who need more flexibility for their employed students. The policy now limits the number of terms that can be taken (previously there was no limit-but the clock did not stop) but is more flexible in that programs can request the 'clock stop' during a leave of absence. This decision must be made by the program when the request for leave of absence is made and it cannot be added in retrospect. Note that students must still be in good academic standing to request a leave of absence.