Probation and Termination

Graduate Studies

Grounds

For all graduate students at UNL, probation or termination recommendations may be made under the following conditions:

- Failure to make academic progress as defined in the program’s graduate student handbook
- Violations of the Student Code of Conduct (http://stuafs.unl.edu/dos/code)
- Failure to satisfy Scholastic Grade Requirements (https://catalog.unl.edu/graduate-professional/graduate/credit/grades)
- Failure in qualifying examinations, preliminary examinations, comprehensive examinations or final degree examinations
- Failure to master the methodology and content of one’s field in a manner that is sufficient to complete a successful thesis or dissertation
- In fields leading to licensure or certification, ethical misconduct or lack of professional promise in the professional field
- Failure to satisfy conditions required for removal of probationary status or provisional admission

Graduate Committees employing additional conditions for probation or termination must specify these conditions in writing and inform all students affected by these conditions.

Process

How It Happens

Graduate students who do not maintain satisfactory progress may be placed on probation, terminated from a degree program, and/or denied permission to continue graduate studies in the University.

1. Probation or termination is initiated when the student’s advisor or supervisory committee submits a recommendation to the departmental Graduate Committee.
2. If the Graduate Committee approves a recommendation for termination, the graduate chair must communicate it in writing to the Dean for Graduate Studies and the student.

After Termination or Dismissal

Students dismissed from the University due to violations of the Student Code of Conduct are ineligible to reapply for graduate study at UNL.

Students whose UNL graduate program has been terminated may apply for admission to another degree program or admission as a non-degree seeking student only with the approval of the Dean for Graduate Studies.

Termination Appeals

Standard Appeal Procedure

In all cases, appeals are made in writing to the appropriate advisor, committee, or council.

1. The initial appeal is to the student’s advisor.

2. Doctoral students with an established supervisory committee: If denied, the appeal may be submitted to the student’s supervisory committee.

3. If denied, the appeal may be submitted to the departmental or interdepartmental area Graduate Committee administratively responsible for the student’s graduate program.

4. If denied, an appeal may be made to the campus Graduate Council as described below. Normally this is the final appeals body; for exceptions see NU Executive Graduate Council section below.

When the appeal concerns graduate-level qualifying examinations, comprehensive examinations, or final examinations, the student is responsible for making reasonable efforts to ascertain the results of the examination within 30 days after its completion, and the student’s written initiation of the appeal must be filed within 30 days following the student’s receipt of notification of the evaluation.

When the appeal concerns a termination of program, the student’s written initiation of the appeal must be filed within 30 days following the student’s receipt of the official written notification by Graduate Studies.

Graduate Council As Appeal Board

A. When a student’s graduate program consists of registration essentially or entirely on one campus, the Graduate Council of the campus administratively responsible for the program will constitute the appeal board.

B. When a student’s graduate program includes substantial registrations on a campus other than the one administratively responsible for the program, three members of the Graduate Council for the other campus will be designated by the Dean for Graduate Studies on that campus to augment the Graduate Council on the campus administratively responsible for the program. In this case, the augmented Council will constitute the appeal board. The decision concerning augmentation of a campus Graduate Council for a specific appeal involving registrations on a campus other than the one administratively responsible for the student’s program will be made by the Deans for Graduate Studies on the campuses involved.

Appeal to the NU Executive Graduate Council

1. There is no absolute right of appeal to the Executive Graduate Council. The Executive Graduate Council will accept appeals only in those cases where in the exercise of its sole discretion it shall first find that one or more of the following grounds for accepting the appeal exist:

   a. That the campus Graduate Council has violated some element of fair procedure (i.e., has failed to allow the parties concerned to present their cases fully to their campus Graduate Council);
   b. That the campus Graduate Council has failed to examine or give adequate weight to important evidence relevant to one party’s position;
   c. That the campus Graduate Council has given undue weight to evidence not pertinent to the case; or
   d. That some gross miscarriage of justice would be perpetrated if the decision of the campus Graduate Council is allowed to stand.

   A decision by the Executive Graduate Council not to accept jurisdiction of an appeal shall be final and is not subject to further appeal.

2. Appeals to the Executive Graduate Council must be made in writing and must specifically outline the grounds for the appeal. Such appeal must be made within 20 working days of the day the decision of the
campus Graduate Council is received (working days shall not include those days the University is not in session).

3. The Executive Graduate Council must make a decision to hear the appeal or not to hear the appeal within 30 working days after receipt of the appeal. Acceptance or denial of jurisdiction over the appeal will be made in writing.

4. The decision of the Executive Graduate Council on the merits of the case will be made and transmitted to the concerned parties within 40 working days after the decision to hear the appeal.

5. No person who was a member of the department or campus Graduate Council involved in the case will be eligible to participate in the decisions of the Executive Graduate Council either to decide whether the case should be heard or to decide the merits of the case. However, the Dean for Graduate Studies may replace members of the Executive Graduate Council not eligible for participation in the decision to hear the appeal or in the appeal itself.