Academic Success for Graduate Students
Office of Graduate Studies
Office of International Programs
Presentation Overview

1. Academic Standards and Grades
2. GPA Balancing and Transcript Review
3. Academic Probation
   - What is it?
   - What it means?
   - Your next steps
4. Study Schedule
5. Resources for Success
6. Creating a Plan of Action
- Grades: all student work is graded--letter grade or points
  - tests, quiz, assignment, paper, midterm, final, etc., etc.
- End of semester, professor adds up grades for a course grade

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<tr>
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<th>Grade Points</th>
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<tr>
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<td>C-</td>
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<td>C+</td>
<td>2.30</td>
<td>F</td>
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- Each course grade is assigned a numeric unit value: 3 units is common
- GPA stands for Grade Point Average
- The Grade-Point Average is determined using the total grade points and the unit value
Grades & Grade Point Average

- Other grades are:
  - CR: “credit”
  - NC: “no-credit”
  - RP: “Work in progress”
  - W: “Withdrawal”
  - WU: “Unauthorized Withdrawal”
  - I: “Incomplete”
  - IC: “Incomplete Charged”

- Grades to Avoid – Negative Effect on GPA (anything below B):
  - B- and below: 2.70 and lower grade points
  - WU = 0.00 grade points
  - IC = 0.00 grade points

- International students’ visa status!
ACADEMIC STANDARDS FOR GRADS

- GPA must be maintained at a minimum of 3.00 (no averaging: 2.99 ≠ 3.00)
- 3.00 GPA should be maintained in two areas
  - Study Plan courses
  - All Graduate courses
- Courses 100, 200, 300 not included in Grad GPA, some but not all 400 level courses are included.
Grad Students ≠ Undergrads

- Academic policies are more strict for Graduate Students

- Course Repetition
  - Must repeat a course if you earn less than the minimum grade required (normally a C is the minimum)

- No “grade forgiveness” for graduate students
  - Retaking a course earning a better grade will **NOT** remove the first grade from the grade-point average calculation.
  - Both grades are included in the grade-point average as separate grades

- Can only repeat a course once
What is Academic Probation?

- Students not meeting the academic standards whose Graduate GPA or Study Plan GPA fall below 3.00 go on Academic Probation.

- What is Academic Probation?
  - Your Graduate GPA is below 3.00
  - Negative influences on GPA:
    - Course grades that are B- or lower
    - WU grade
    - I grade that changes to IC (after 1 year)

- Students allowed 2 more regular semesters (Fall /Spring) to get out of academic probation before Disqualification
## Transcript

**Spring Semester 2015**

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**Enrollment Dates:** Aug 21, 2012 to Dec 10, 2012

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**Grad GPA:** 6.00 6.00 6.00 15.90 2.65

**Graduate Probation May 28, 2015**
GPA Calculator

- Use Resources Button on Graduate Studies Website

"I want to improve my GPA. What can do?"

Take control of your **studies** and **your life**!

- Reflect on the factors that may be contributing to your low GPA (academic and life)

*Take five minutes to complete the self-reflective “Academic Success Sheet” (P2)*
“How can I improve my GPA?”

1. 6 units = 6 hours in class & 18 hours study/WEEK!

2. Choose your courses carefully
   - Difficult vs. less difficult courses
   - Meet with Graduate Adviser to decide appropriate courses to take

3. Visit Professor to ask about the course content/structure

4. Use campus resources—tutoring, etc.
“What do high achieving students do?”

1. Manage your time more effectively
   - Establish a DAILY SCHEDULE FOR YOUR STUDY
   - Read assigned reading BEFORE class lecture
   - Find group of smart friends to study with

2. Be honest with your academic strengths and weaknesses
   - Sit in front of class
   - Be extra alert
   - Identify the types of assignments that take more time for you
     - Math? Writing? Test-taking?
   - Write down questions you have and research answers
   - Limit number of units/semester that you take
Develop a Study Schedule!

- Organize a daily/weekly schedule that outlines study times.
- It helps you become more organized.
- It holds you accountable for your own learning outcomes.
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Questions to Direct Your Study Time

○ What am I meant to learn?
○ How does this textbook reading relate to professor’s lecture?
○ What comments do I receive or mistakes do I keep getting on my work? What can I do to address these patterns?
Resources

- **Department resources**
  - Graduate Program Adviser
  - Program tutoring
  - Social clubs

- **Office of Graduate Studies**
  - Advising
  - Tutoring
  - Graduate Learning Specialist (GLS)
  - Graduate Student Success Center (GSSC), PLN 365
  - Workshops

- **College of Engineering and Computer Science**
  - Lillybeth Sasis, Assistant Dean
  - lsasis@fullerton.edu / 657-278-4881
Resources (cont’)

- **Student Health & Counseling Center**
  - Health Services: basic medical care
  - Counseling (CAPS) Free and confidential counseling/support
    [http://www.fullerton.edu/studentwellness/caps/clinical_services.php](http://www.fullerton.edu/studentwellness/caps/clinical_services.php)

- **Academic support from**
  - Peers
  - Study Groups
  - Social media sites

- **Be your own advocate. No one can fix this but you.**
Form a Plan of Action

- Ask yourself the following questions:
  - How many grades of A do I need to raise my graduate GPA above a 3.0?
  - How are the courses I’m taking this semester going to help me improve my GPA?
    - Are there any courses I should worry about?
  - Can I take courses during the summer?
  - What do I need to address, as shown on my academic success sheet?
  - What tools or resources are available to help me succeed, and how can I use them?
  - Who can I reach out to for help?
We are available to help you create your Plan of Action.

• Luis Molina, Advising Manager
  – lhmolina@fullerton.edu

• Lynn Winter, Evaluator/Advisor
  – lwinter@fullerton.edu