

Program of Study/Committee form deadline prior to preliminary oral examination

The Graduate Council voted to change the requirement that a Ph.D. student's first POSC must be completed the semester before their preliminary oral exam. Due to feedback that this deadline seemed arbitrary and did not fit the needs of many students, the Council voted to change the POSC deadline to at least three months prior to the preliminary oral exam for Ph.D. students. The POSC deadline remains unchanged for master's degree students.

The Graduate College will allow students to take their preliminary oral exams following either the previous or the current policy through the fall 2020 semester. Starting Jan 1, 2021, students will need their POSCs approved three months prior to the date that they wish to take their preliminary oral exams.

Changes to POSC and Prelim Exam Deadline (Graduate Council docket)

6.1 - POS Committee

6.3 - Developing the Program of Study

Dismissal of postdoctoral scholar due to lack of funding

The Graduate Council added verbiage to the postdoc portion of the Graduate College Handbook to cover dismissal of a postdoc due to lack of funding. This wording mirrors the dismissal of a graduate assistant due to lack of funding.

Postdoc Dismissal due to loss of funding (Graduate Council Docket)

10.4.3 – Dismissal due to loss of funding

Change to the use of undergraduate credit on students' POSCs

Staff from some of the academic colleges requested that the Graduate College explore ways to allow concurrent graduate/undergraduate students to maintain their undergraduate aid while they are working toward both of their degrees. To continue to receive undergraduate aid, students would need to delay their concurrent status so that they remain classified as undergraduates. Because students are classified as graduate students as soon as they become concurrent, the Graduate College decided to instead pursue changing how undergraduate credits can apply toward a graduate degree.

Financial Aid Office expressed concern over the current policy that allows nine credits of undergraduate work at Iowa State to count toward a graduate degree if students did not use those credits toward their undergraduate degrees because the policy encourages undergraduates to take courses that are not eligible toward their undergraduate degrees. The change approved by Council will allow six credits from an Iowa State student's undergraduate degree to be used toward the graduate degree when the student is not concurrent, whether those credits counted toward the undergraduate degree or not.

Students who already have nine credits of undergraduate credit applied toward meeting their graduate degree requirements as allowed under the previous policy will be allowed to continue to use those credits until they graduate from their program, as long as they complete their graduate degree within the Graduate College's recommended time-to-degree limit (See [Ch. 4.4.5](#)). Beginning Jan 1, 2021, all newly-formed POSC forms must comply with the policy as outlined in the Graduate College Handbook.

[Use of undergraduate credit on POSC](#) (Graduate Council Docket)

6.3.2 - Graduate Courses Taken as an ISU Undergraduate

Bridge funding for arrival of new child

The Graduate Council voted to extend the current bridge funding policy to provide short-term funding for up to 12 continuous weeks of leave for all graduate assistants, predoctoral scholars, and postdoctoral scholars who will be adding a child to their family through birth or adoption.

[Arrival of New Child Change](#) (Graduate Council Docket)

[Request for Bridge Funding: Arrival of New Child](#)

Exceptions to graduate faculty status policy update

In response to a specific request from a department, the Graduate Council reviewed and altered this policy to allow non-tenure track faculty an avenue to qualify for full graduate faculty status after evidence of long-term service to the university, contributing to many graduate student committees, and service to the academic department.

[Change to associate graduate faculty status](#) (Graduate Council Docket)

[Appendix G - Graduate Faculty Membership & Associate Membership](#)

MFA expired course policy

A department requested that the Graduate Council consider MFA students within the existing expired course policy. The policy only differentiated between master's and Ph.D. students, so MFA students were considered under the master's portion of the policy despite the fact that MFAs are often considered terminal degrees and require more credits than a typical master's degree. In conjunction with departments that offer MFA degrees, the Council voted to allow MFA students to use 24 total credits that are over 10 years old, as long as no more than 10 of those credits are over 17 years old. This is similar to the Ph.D. policy, but a little more restrictive.

[MFA Expiration Policy](#) (Graduate Council Docket)

6.3.4 – Expired Courses