

MINUTES
MEETING OF THE GRADUATE COUNCIL
January 14, 2026

The Graduate Council met on Wednesday, January 14, 2026, at 3:30pm, 327 Brooks Hall.

Members present: Mary Ager, Alex Anderson, Vivian Appler, Matthew Bilskie, Melinda Brindley, Jennifer Brown, Ted Christensen, Kerstin Emerson, Jennifer Graff, Andrew Grundstein, Janette Hill, Jack Huang, Rebecca Matthew, Jeff Mullen, Priya Narayanan, Craig Osenberg, Geoffrey Sheagley, Bart Wojdynski. Graduate Student Association: Aina Aishat. Graduate School: Ron Walcott, Anne Shaffer, Cheri Bliss, Robin Bingham, Chazz Jordan.

Members absent: Jim Conklin, Luis Correa-Diaz, Kelly Dyer, Alexa Lamm, Sheba Mohankumar, Ginger Orton, Laura Rider, Alison Smith, Amy Stich. Graduate Student Association: Eben Boakye, Emerson Moon.

VP/Dean Ron Walcott called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

Committee Reports:

A. Appeals Committee
Craig Osenberg, Chair

Since the last report to the Graduate Council, the Appeals Committee has met once on January 7th. The Appeals Committee heard a grade appeal from a student within the School of Computing. Those in attendance were Craig Osenberg, Alex Anderson, Melinda Brindley, Jennifer Brown, Ted Christensen, Kerstin Emerson, Alison Smith, and Eben Boakye. The vote was to uphold the decision of the School of Computing; therefore, denying the appeal: 1 yes, 7 no.

B. Program Committee
Jeff Mullen, Chair

Since the last meeting of the Graduate Council, the Program Committee has reviewed and approved three proposals via Microsoft Teams. The Program Committee would like to bring the following action items to the Graduate Council for its approval.

Action Item 1: From the Mary Frances Early College of Education, a proposal to offer a new Area of Emphasis (AoE) in Elementary Education under the Master of Arts (MA) degree in Education. **Approved 19-0-0**

Action Item 2: From the Mary Frances Early College of Education, a proposal to terminate the Athens Campus based Tier I Leadership Area of Emphasis (AoE) under the Master of Education (MED) degree in Education Administration and Policy and Graduate Certificate (CERT). **Approved 19-0-0**

Action Item 3: From the Mary Frances Early College of Education, a proposal to change the name of the Area of Emphasis (AoE) in Quantitative Methodology to an AoE in Measurement, Data Science, and Statistics (under the MA, MED, and PhD degrees in Educational Psychology). **Approved 19-0-0**

C. Policy and Planning Committee
Bart Wojdynski, Chair

The PPC met on October 31 to review two policies related to probation and dismissal. Due to a lack of quorums, the documents were subsequently sent out for committee review. A proposed revision to TOEFL admission scores was also sent out for review. All proposed items passed PPC. The following action items are brought forward for vote.

Action Item 1: Proposed policy changes to “Probation & Dismissal.” *Approved 19-0-0*

Action Item 2: Proposed policy changes to “Dismissal Appeals.” *Approved 19-0-0*

Action Item 3: Proposed new TOEFL scores for admissions. Revision suggested to original proposal. Revised document follows. *Approved 19-0-0*

Information Items

- A. Curriculum Report: The Graduate School has approved 66 new courses, 95 course revisions, and 8 deletions.
- B. Next meeting: Wednesday, February 4, 3:30pm, 327 Brooks Hall.

Meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

TOEFL policy revised/approved during meeting:

Minimum TOEFL score requirement: For exams taken prior to January 21, 2026, overall score of 80 with at least 20 on speaking and writing. For exams taken on or after January 22, 2026: overall score of 4.5 with at least a 4 on speaking and writing.

Graduate Admissions

	Proposed TOEFL score	<u>Equivalent scores</u>	Current cutoffs
Overall	4.5	TOEFL 86+ (note that TOEFL 4 = 72+)	TOEFL 80 IELTS 6.5
Speaking	4	TOEFL 20-22 IELTS 6	TOEFL 20 IELTS 6
Writing	4	TOEFL 17-20 IELTS 6.5	TOEFL 20 IELTS 6