

General Regulations and Procedures

This section includes Graduate School procedures and regulations applicable to all graduate students regardless of degree classification. Requirements unique to the master's and doctoral degrees are stated in the section titled Degree Requirements. For information about specific degree programs the student should consult the appropriate degree program description. Requirements unique to the non-degree classifications are stated in the section in this chapter titled "Nondeclared Students—Non-Degree".

APPLICATION FOR GRADUATE STUDY

Information regarding graduate degree programs offered at SIUC can be found on the Graduate School home page at www.siu.edu/gradschl; see the link "Academic Degree Programs". Under the link "Degree Program Information", there is basic information relating to each program – areas of specialization, tests required, terms for which that program admits students, application deadlines, and departmental contact information.

Applying to a Degree Program

The Application for Admission to Graduate School can be found on the Graduate School home page at www.siu.edu/gradschl; see the link "Admissions". This application is required for admission to *all* programs. A copy of the application will be sent to the department(s) to which the student is applying. Check the department's home page for a list of required materials. All application materials must be returned to the department. See departmental contact information for complete mailing address.

Items routinely required are: Application for Admission to Graduate School (electronic), departmental application form, application fee, official academic credentials, letters of recommendation, test score if required, and Statement of Purpose. Departments may require other materials.

Application Fee

The Graduate School has a \$50.00 non-refundable application fee for nondeclared graduate students. In addition, all programs require a non-refundable application fee of \$45.00 which must be submitted with the Application for Admission to Graduate Study. If you are applying to more than one program, a fee must be paid to each program.

Transcripts

Students are required to submit official transcripts from all U.S. schools attended during their last two years of undergraduate study, and also for all graduate work completed. Some departments may require transcripts from all schools attended as an undergraduate student. Any student wishing to be considered for Graduate School fellowships must submit to the department an official transcript for *every course* taken as an undergraduate and / or graduate student.

Transcripts from institutions where the student received neither a degree nor enrolled for more than 12 semester hours of undergraduate credit are not required, provided that the grades obtained at such institutions are recorded upon the transcript of the college which granted the student's degree (please note: this does not apply to transcripts submitted for fellowship competitions).

All transcripts submitted for admission to a degree program must be sent directly to the department to which you are applying. See departmental contact information for complete mailing address.

Students applying for nondeclared admission are only required to send one official transcript showing either a bachelor's, master's or Ph.D. earned. They should be sent directly to Graduate School Admissions - Nondeclared, Woody Hall B103, Mailcode 4716, SIU, Carbondale, IL 62901. Any transcripts submitted in person must be received by the student directly from the institution attended, and must be submitted to the Graduate School in an unopened envelope.

Transcripts submitted will not be returned nor forwarded to other institutions.

In accord with the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, no non-Southern Illinois University Carbondale person, firm, or agency may have access to an applicant's or a student's credentials without written consent of the individual concerned. Graduate students shall be permitted to examine their own records upon request. Such requests should be made by the student to the dean of the Graduate School.

Test Scores

The Graduate School does not require any graduate tests for admission. Individual departments may require, at their discretion, the GMAT, GRE, MAT, or other appropriate standardized tests for admission. Check the website of the department to which you are applying or contact the department directly for more information. Information is also listed on the Graduate School home page under "Degree Program Information", but should be verified by the department.

Deadlines

While the Graduate School does not have an application deadline, many departments do. The deadlines may be as early as December 1st for the following fall semester. Please check the department to find out what application deadlines they may have. These deadline dates are also listed under “Degree Program Information” on the Graduate School home page, but should be verified with the department. Regardless of any deadlines, applicants should submit materials to the department as far in advance as possible, to have the best chance to be considered for admission and funding.

Requirements

The admission requirements of the Graduate School and the department must both be met before the student is admitted to a degree program, and both the Graduate School and the department may specify conditions. Most departments require additional materials such as letters of recommendation; these should be forwarded directly to the department. The student will be informed by the Graduate School of the resultant admission status after this process has been completed.

Terms of Admission

Please note that some departments may not admit students for all semesters. Some allow admissions for fall semester only, and some for fall and spring terms only. For more information, check with the department to which you are applying or also check the Graduate School home page “Degree Program Information”.

Updating Admission for Future Terms

All admissions are for the specific term indicated. Should a student wish to update their admission to a future term, they must contact the Director of Graduate Studies in the department to which they are applying. The petition to update can only be granted within one calendar year of the initial admission term and only with the agreement of the department and the Graduate School. A new application form will be required, as well as official transcripts for any course work completed since the original application. After one year, the student must submit new application materials. Records for students who have applied will be kept for approximately two years.

Admission of Faculty Members

No one who holds a faculty appointment at any of the academic ranks—lecturer, instructor, assistant professor, associate professor, and professor—shall be admitted to a graduate degree program at any level, or be eligible to register for courses to be taken for graduate credit, in the graduate degree program in which the faculty member holds the appointment. If a faculty member has been admitted to a graduate degree program in some unit other than the one in which such appointment exists, no member of the faculty of the unit in which the appointment is held may be a member of that colleague’s thesis committee, graduate program committee, dissertation committee, or any other examining committee. (See also faculty appointments in the section titled Financial Assistance.)

Admission of International Students

This school is authorized under federal law to enroll non-immigrant alien students. A student from abroad is subject to all requirements for admission established by the Graduate School. For other information concerning international students, inquiries should be sent to the Graduate School Admissions Office, Woody Hall B103.

To allow ample time for visa and other departure procedures, the applicant should have an application and all supporting documents on file with the University no less than six months prior to the proposed entry date. Some departmental deadlines may require an even earlier application.

International students must be enrolled in a program leading to a graduate degree. They cannot be admitted as nondeclared students.

If the above requirements are satisfactorily met and the student is admitted to a degree program, the applicant will be required to certify that personally adequate financial resources will be available to undertake and continue in a program of study.

Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). All applicants whose native or first language is not English must take the TOEFL test no more than 24 months prior to the term for which the applicant is seeking admission. A minimum TOEFL score of 550 (paper); 213 (computer), 80 (internet) is required for Graduate School admission; higher scores may be required for admission into specific degree programs. The IELTS exam is also acceptable (a minimum score of 6.0).

Exemptions to the TOEFL requirement are: (1) an applicant who has recently completed a bachelor’s degree (four years attendance and completion of at least 100 semester hours of graded coursework) at an accredited institution in the United States; (2) an applicant who has completed a master’s degree at an accredited institution in the United States, who obtained a TOEFL score of at least 550 immediately prior to beginning graduate studies and who has been in residence in the United States continuously prior to application to SIUC. Verification of the earlier TOEFL score by the degree granting institution is mandatory.

Official TOEFL scores will be sent only to the Graduate School Admissions Office. A photocopy of the examinee’s score should be sent by the student to the department of application.

Conditional Admission of International Students. Conditional admission of international students will be considered on an individual basis. The student must be applying to a program which requires only the Graduate School minimum of a 550 / 213 / 80 score on the TOEFL exam. Departments which require a higher TOEFL will not use this option; for those programs, the required score must be submitted in advance before an application will be considered. Please note that some programs will not allow this option.

In most cases, the student must submit a recent TOEFL score, to be used for placement in English language classes, before a conditional admission can be considered. The department to which the student is applying, must also agree to use this option. The student must be acceptable for admission based on all other academic criteria, with the possible exception of a graduate test score such as the GRE or MAT.

Before this option can be considered, the student must submit all required application materials to the department, including a recent TOEFL, however low. Departments may confer with the Graduate School Admissions Office with regards to using this admissions option. Graduate admissions will coordinate with the CESL Office to arrange for the student's enrollment in CESL classes, and will issue a conditional Graduate School I-20, guaranteeing the student admission to the graduate degree program following completion of the required English language classes.

Academic Requirements. If a foreign-born applicant has recently completed a four-year bachelor's degree program at an accredited institution in the United States of America (minimum of 100 hours of graded coursework), the applicant may be given the same consideration for admission to a graduate degree program as a United States citizen, in regard to both academic requirements and the use of English as a foreign language.

Applicants who have completed the equivalent of a four-year bachelor's degree at a recognized institution in any other country must have an academic record equivalent to a 2.70 grade point average (A = 4.00) on their last two years of study for admission to a master's degree program.

The determination of the applicant's grade point average shall be the responsibility of the Graduate School.

Applicants for doctoral programs must meet the regular academic requirements for admission to a doctoral program.

Qualification for Assistantship with Teaching Duties. Every non-native English speaker assigned a graduate assistantship with teaching duties must pass an examination of oral English skill before undertaking classroom duties.

There are two parts to the exam: an interview and a teaching sample. The procedures for this exam are described below. The exam is given by a three person committee: a department representative, a Center for English as a Second Language representative, and a Graduate School representative.

The *interview* begins by asking the student general information. The interview covers reasons for choosing Southern Illinois University, the student's chosen field of study and major emphasis, plans for graduation and the future, and also information about the nature of the projected teaching assignment.

For the *teaching sample*, the student gives a 10 to 15 minute teaching presentation on a topic related to his/her assistantship duties. The interviewers act as potential students in the relevant setting, asking the kinds of questions likely to be posed by students in such a setting.

Upon completion of the oral exam, the interviewers rate the student independently on three sets of scales:

- a. comprehension (how well the student understood what was asked)
- b. speaking/fluency (how grammatically and fluently the student spoke)
- c. pronunciation/accent (is the accent a barrier to communication)

The result of the oral interview is a consensus of all three interviewers, arrived at immediately upon comparison of the ratings.

There are three outcomes for the exam:

1. Pass, which allows the student to serve as a teaching assistant without restriction.
2. Conditional assignment, which limits the student's potential assignments. Limits are specifically tailored to the student's performance level, e.g., (for example: grading only, help sessions, laboratories under close supervision, one-on-one tutoring sessions, or to relatively advanced classes within the major subject).
3. Failure.

Students who fail, or are given a conditional assignment, may be re-tested the next semester or when potential teaching assignments change.

The Graduate School sends letters detailing the results of the examination to the student's academic department, and a copy is placed in each student's graduate assistant file.

REGISTRATION

Only those students who have been officially admitted by the Graduate School will be permitted to register.

Some degree programs require their students to have an advisor's signature before registration. Please consult the designated major department about advisement. Nondeclared non-degree students are technically self-advised and may begin registration for the admitted semester after the registration period begins.

The *Schedule of Classes* for a particular semester is available online via SalukiNet (salukinet.siu.edu).

Students are strongly encouraged to complete their registration before the beginning of classes. After the beginning of the term, the student must have the approval of the Graduate School to register late and will be required to pay a late registration fee. In addition, after the first week of classes, registration or program

changes involving adding a course must have the written approval of the instructor of each course as well as the approval of the Graduate School.

Information concerning registration dates and deadlines for the first time the student attends the University will be sent when the student is admitted to the Graduate School. Continuing students should consult the *Schedule of Classes* for each semester to find deadlines and dates for registration.

Registration Methods

During the advance registration period (see registration calendar for dates in the *Schedule of Classes*) graduate students may register by several methods described below. Nondeclared students may use any of the methods. Degree-seeking students may be required by their departments to have an advisor's signature and thus are limited to the options of Mail Registration or in person at the Graduate School.

MAIL REGISTRATION

Nondeclared graduate students may mail in a course request form. Degree-seeking students should contact their graduate advisor to sign the course request form as a prerequisite to the process. Mail to Graduate Registration, Graduate School, Woody Hall B104, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, IL 62901-4716.

PHONE REGISTRATION

Nondeclared students may phone in their registration during office hours and during the advance registration period. Degree-seeking students whose departments do not require an advisor's signature may also phone in their registration. The telephone number is 618-453-2969.

Phone registration will be discontinued effective Fall 2009.

WEB REGISTRATION

Nondeclared students and permitted degree-seeking students may register online via SalukiNet (salukinet.siu.edu) during the hours of 7:15 A.M. to 7:50 P.M., Monday through Friday, to register for classes or to add/drop. To begin the registration, a student needs an ID and a PIN number or password. If you are not yet admitted to the Graduate School or do not have department approval to register or there is some other problem situation, the computer states that you are ineligible to register.

REGISTRATION AT THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

The Graduate Registration Center is located at Woody Hall B104. All students may register in person from 8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M., Monday through Friday. After the first week of classes, students are required to have the instructor's and the graduate dean's permission to add courses and must come to the center to process a registration or add.

LATE REGISTRATION

A late registration fee of \$15 shall be assessed to all students taking on-campus classes who register the first day of classes or later. This fee shall be non-refundable and cannot be waived, except when it is clearly shown that the late registration was caused by faculty or administrative action. Off-campus classes and registration in 599, 600, and 601 shall be exempt from such fee.

OTHER TYPES OF REGISTRATION IN GRADUATE COURSES

The following discussion concerns students who are either nondeclared for various reasons or are undergraduates wanting to take graduate-level courses.

Nondeclared Students—Non-Degree

A person may apply for admission to the Graduate School as a nondeclared student when the applicant does not seek a graduate degree or has applied too late to be admitted to a degree program for the term for which admission is sought, or does not meet the minimum GPA requirements for admission to a graduate degree program at this time.

If a nondeclared student is admitted to a degree program at a later time, the director of that program may petition the graduate dean that graduate courses completed while the student was nondeclared be applied toward fulfillment of degree requirements. The student will be subject to the rules and regulations of the Graduate School and the department concerned including the completion of at least 9 hours after being admitted to a master's degree program from nondeclared status.

Please note that nondeclared graduate students are not eligible for Graduate School fellowships or tuition waiver scholarships. Nondeclared students may request an exception to hold an assistantship for one semester under some circumstances. Contact the Assistantship Office for details. Loans may be available for one 12 month period only, beginning when the student first enrolls in the nondeclared category and ending 12 months later. To determine eligibility, contact the Financial Aid Office.

REGULAR NONDECLARED

A person who seeks admission as a regular nondeclared graduate student must have been awarded a bachelor's or higher degree. A student admitted as a regular nondeclared student may enroll in graduate courses as long

as the student meets retention standards of the Graduate School. Please note that funding is not available after one year.

LATE-ENTRY NONDECLARED

An applicant to a degree program who meets Graduate School admission standards but whose materials are received too late for processing may be granted late-entry, nondeclared status for the term for which admission was originally sought. The application papers will continue to be processed for admission to a degree program for the term following the one originally applied for. Whether or not work taken by a student who is nondeclared because of late application will later count toward a degree will be decided by the Graduate School and the department concerned.

TEMPORARY NONDECLARED (CLASSES TAUGHT OFF-SIGHT OR WEB-BASED PROGRAMS ONLY)

A student may register as a temporary nondeclared student for one semester only. If the student wishes to enroll in graduate courses after this time period, the student must apply for and be admitted, either to a degree program or to regular nondeclared status. Complete admission paperwork must be submitted before subsequent registrations will be allowed.

Undergraduate Student Registration in Graduate Courses

GRADUATE CREDIT

An undergraduate student who wishes to register for a graduate course (400- or 500-level course) for graduate credit must file the standard application for admission to the Graduate School and submit a request for graduate credit. Forms are available in the Graduate School Admissions Office, Woody Hall B103. If the student is academically eligible for admission to a degree program, the student will be allowed to register as an undergraduate for graduate courses for graduate credit when within 12 semester hours of completing requirements for the bachelor's degree. Permission of the instructor teaching the course must be obtained, and for 500-level courses, the permission of the Chair of the department offering the course.

An undergraduate student who meets these qualifications will be allowed to take graduate courses for graduate credit for one semester or one summer term. If, at the end of the term, the student has not received the bachelor's degree, permission to enroll in graduate courses for graduate credit will be withdrawn until after the bachelor's degree has been conferred.

UNDERGRADUATE CREDIT

The Graduate School has the responsibility of approving the registration of undergraduate students in 500-level courses for undergraduate credit. Undergraduate students should only be encouraged to take 500-level courses if they are properly qualified. In dealing with these requests the following procedures must be followed.

The chair of the department offering the course, in collaboration with the instructor who is teaching the particular course, should forward a letter to the Associate Director of the Graduate School, Woody Hall B114, indicating their approval for this student to enroll in the 500-level course for undergraduate credit. Since such a request should only be made for superior students, the letters should include such information as: (1) undergraduate GPA (at least 3.0 required); (2) general description of the student's academic work; and (3) why this course would be beneficial. The student must go to the same office to obtain permission to enroll upon receipt of the letter by the Associate Director. If permission to enroll has been granted by the Associate Director, this will be indicated to the registration center. Accordingly, the student should bring the request form or add/drop slip to the Graduate School.

School of Law Courses

A graduate student may enroll for graduate credit in designated law courses if the student has permission of the dean of the School of Law and the dean of the Graduate School. Registration must be processed through the Graduate School and the grades will be reported on the Graduate School letter grade system (A, B, C, etc.).

A law student may register for law credit in graduate courses with approval of the dean of the School of Law and the graduate dean. Registration must be processed on School of Law forms and the grades will be reported on the Graduate School letter grade system.

A law student may not register for graduate courses for graduate credit unless the student has been admitted to the Graduate School in an approved concurrent program.

Residence-Center Credit

Credit earned at approved graduate residence centers and credit earned in off-campus courses for which graduate credit has been approved will be entered on a student's record as on-campus credit earned at SIUC.

Students enrolled for credit in approved residence-center master's degree programs or in specific residence-credit courses must have been officially admitted (either in a degree program or nondeclared) to the Graduate School at SIUC.

For information about specific programs and courses, the student should consult the appropriate department.

GRADUATE STUDENT COURSE LOADS

Financial Aid Awards

For financial aid *awarding* purposes, the following defines the number of semester hours for full-and half-time:

<u>Status</u>	<u>16-Week Semester</u>	<u>8-Week Session</u>
Full-time	12	6
Half-time	6	3

Graduate students enrolled in fewer than 6 hours for fall and spring semesters or 3 hours for summer session are not eligible to *obtain* student loans.

Enrollment Certification

The following semester hours of credit are to be used to certify full-time and half-time attendance of graduate students.

<u>Status</u>	<u>16-Week Semester</u>	<u>8-Week Session</u>
Full-time	9 or more hours*	3 or more hours
Half-time	6 hours	3 hours
Less than half-time	Less than 6 hours	Less than 3 hours

* Students who hold at least a quarter-time (25% FTE) graduate assistantship are considered as full-time if they have a minimum of 8 semester hours.

Minimum and Maximum Course Loads

Maximum coursework for graduate students is 16 hours each semester; 12 hours is considered normal load. The minimum and maximum loads for graduate students under various types of financial support are summarized below. To meet the minima below, a graduate student must enroll in graduate-level course(s) (typically a 400- or 500-level course; certain 400-level courses are not available for graduate credit). Audit work will not qualify to meet the minimum load. However, audit work is calculated in determining a student's maximum course load. Exceptions to these minima and maxima are possible only with the written permission of the graduate dean. If graduate students' enrollments exceed the maximum or fail to meet the minimum of hours required by their type of financial support, their registrations will be withdrawn and financial support will be terminated.

<u>Type of Financial Support</u>	<u>16-Week Semester</u>		<u>8-Week Session</u>	
	<u>Max.</u>	<u>Min.</u>	<u>Max.</u>	<u>Min.</u>
No financial support.....	16		9	
Graduate Assistantships				
1/2 time appointment.....	12	8	6	3
1/4 time appointment.....	14	8	9	3
Full-time University employees.....	8		6	
Graduate Fellowships	16	9	9	3
Full Veteran's Benefits.....	16	9	9	3
SIUC Scholarships	16	9	9	3

All University employees who wish to use the employee tuition and fee waiver (faculty and staff) and are classified as graduate students must seek approval of the Graduate School to enroll in more than 6 semester hours of courses.

CONTINUING ENROLLMENT REQUIREMENT

All students in a graduate program but not enrolled in classes by the Monday of the second week of the fall or spring semester will automatically be registered in and charged tuition for 1 hour of 601. This hour will be dropped if the student subsequently enrolls in a class that semester or is granted a leave of absence by his/her graduate program by the 8th week of the semester. Each program has its own policy of whether and when to grant leaves of absence. Students on leave are not required to enroll in 601 for the period of leave, but a leave of absence does not affect the time-to-degree requirements. The requirement of 601 enrollment ends when a student passes the six-years to complete a master's degree, without completing the degree, the five-years of doctoral candidacy, or officially withdraws from a program prior to completion of the degree, or graduates. Students who are granted extensions to these time limits would be covered by this revised 601 policy. Summer sessions are exempt from the continuous enrollment requirement.

Continuing Enrollment—601. Registration in 601 (1 hour per semester) is required of all graduate students, whether in residence or not, who are not otherwise enrolled for fall or spring semester. Concurrent registration in any other course is not permitted.

Students registering for 601 are not assessed student fees and are not eligible for the benefits of any other programs such as Recreation Center use, Health Service and Student Medical Benefits, Students' Attorney Program assistance, etc. Students needing the above benefits that require fees may instead register for additional research, thesis, or dissertation hours.

TRANSFER CREDIT

All graduate credits earned by a student in good standing at an accredited university, which have not been applied toward fulfillment of requirements for another degree, are eligible for transfer to that student's degree program, subject to general limitations of Graduate School regulations, residency requirements for doctoral degree programs, and acceptance by the student's major department. All transfer credits are subject to final review by the graduate dean. No transfer credit will be given for work bearing a grade below *B* without express permission of the graduate dean in response to written petition from the student's department. No credit toward a degree may be earned by correspondence nor in off-campus courses at another university. In the case of a master's degree, the student must earn at least half of the credit applied toward fulfillment of degree requirements in courses offered by SIUC.

The department recommending the graduate degree shall administer all required general and final examinations, and a member of the graduate faculty at SIUC shall direct the student's master's thesis, required research paper, or doctoral dissertation.

GRADUATE GRADING SYSTEM

- A Excellent. 4 grade points.
- B Good. 3 grade points.
- C Conditional, not fully satisfactory. 2 grade points.
- D Poor, not satisfactory. 1 grade point.
- F Failure. 0 grade points.
- S Satisfactory. Used for thesis and dissertation credit and certain designated and approved 500-level research, internship, and practicum courses. Is not counted in calculating grade-point average.
- U Unsatisfactory. Used for thesis and dissertation credit and certain designated and approved 500-level research, internship, and practicum courses. Is not counted in calculating grade-point average.
- W Authorized withdrawal made through a program change. Work may not be completed. Refer to grade explanation below.
- INC Incomplete. Has permission of the instructor to be completed within a period of time designated by the instructor. Refer to grade explanation below.
- DEF Deferred. Used only for certain designated and approved 500-level courses of an individual continuing nature such as research, thesis, or dissertation. Refer to grade explanation below.
- AU Audit. No grade or credit earned. Refer to grade explanation below.
- WU Unauthorized withdrawal at instructor's discretion for student in good standing in class who stopped attending class during first 60% of the semester. This grade cannot be made up.

Grading System Explanation

Only courses for which the grades of *A*, *B*, *C*, or *S* have been received are acceptable in fulfillment of graduate degree requirements. The letter grades *A*, *B*, *C*, *D*, and *F* are included in computing the grade-point averages for academic retention. If a graduate student repeats a course with the permission of the graduate dean, both grades will be counted in the grade-point average. Graduate students will not receive graduate credit for Pass/Fail grades. They may not receive a grade of Pass/Fail in a 400-level course graded Pass/Fail on an elective basis.

400-level courses. Most 400-level courses may be taken for graduate credit. The Graduate Catalog will indicate those 400-level courses which may be taken for graduate credit. No grades of Pass/Fail may be given for a 400-level course for graduate credit. The instructor in a 400-level course which can be taken for graduate credit has the discretion to decide whether to require additional work for graduate credit.

Withdrawal. Except for the WU grade, a *W* indicates authorized withdrawal from a course prior to the date indicated in the *Schedule of Classes* for the term in which the course was taken. The student's record will reflect the courses from which the student had withdrawn with the symbol *W* and the week of withdrawal. Program changes to drop a course during the first two weeks of classes result in no entry being made on the student's record (consult the section titled "Withdrawal from Courses and from the University" for additional information on withdrawal procedures and deadlines).

Incomplete. An *INC* is assigned when, for reasons beyond their control, students engaged in passing work are unable to complete all class assignments. An *INC* must be changed to a completed grade within a time period designated by the instructor. *INC* is not included in grade-point computation.

To complete the work from the original registration, a student should not register for the course again, but should complete the work for the original registration if the original registration is within the normal time limits established for the degree.

Deferred. When the work is completed in a course for which *DEF* has been assigned, the grade is changed to a letter grade by the instructor, except in the case of theses and dissertations. When a thesis or dissertation has been submitted to the Graduate School as approved, the grade is automatically changed to *S*. If a thesis or dissertation is found unacceptable and the student is dismissed from the program, the grade of *U* is automatically assigned upon receipt by the Graduate School of the action dismissing the student.

Audit. A student registering for a course on an audit basis receives no letter grade and no credit hours. The student’s registration must indicate audit registration and the same fees are paid as when registering for credit. During the first two weeks of a regular semester a student registered for a course for credit may change to audit status or vice versa through the official program change process. Thereafter, the change may not be made.

Changing of grades. At the completion of a course the final grade assigned to a student is the responsibility of the instructor of the course. Grades given at the end of the course are final and may not be changed by additional work or by submitting additional materials; however, clerical errors in recording grades can be corrected. To correct a clerical error, the assigned instructors should submit a grade change card together with an explanation and justification of the grade change for the approval or disapproval of the department chair, the appropriate college dean, and the dean of the Graduate School. In cases of theses and dissertations, for which *DEF* grades are given, the Graduate School changes the *DEF* grades upon presentation and acceptance of the thesis and dissertation and receipt of the departmental approval papers. In courses for which *INC* and *DEF* grades have been given, the assigned instructors has the responsibility of determining the final grade to be assigned and notifying the Office of Admissions and Records of the final grade by means of the grade change card.

WITHDRAWAL FROM COURSES AND FROM THE UNIVERSITY

Dropping Courses

Students officially registered for courses must withdraw formally. They must process an official withdrawal form. Outlined below are the procedures to be followed by graduate students when withdrawing from courses.

Deadlines for Dropping from a Course(s)

If Classes Meet for	*Deadline for Drop to Receive Refund	Deadline to Drop
13–16 weeks	2nd week	8th week
9–12 weeks	2nd week	6th week
8 weeks	2nd week	4th week
7 weeks	1st week	4th week
4–6 weeks	1st week	3rd week
2 or 3 weeks	1st day	1st week
less than 2 weeks	1st day	2nd day

*Students must drop a course or withdraw from the University by these deadlines to receive an account credit equal to a full refund of tuition and fees. Students who drop courses after the full refund deadline but remain enrolled in the University will not receive any refund. Students who withdraw from the University after the full refund period will receive an account credit equal to a pro-rata refund of tuition and fees through 60 percent of the duration of the enrollment period. An administrative fee will be assessed to all students who withdraw from the University and receive a pro-rata refund. The amount of the fee will be the lesser of 5 percent of all assessed charges, or \$100.

Students officially withdraw from courses through the program change process. This process starts with the academic adviser and is completed at the Registration Center. Graduate students may drop from a course through the 8th week of the fall and spring semesters. Drop deadlines for shorter sessions are correspondingly earlier (see schedule above). Official withdrawals during the first two weeks of the semester result in no entry being made on the student’s record. Official withdrawals after the second week but prior to the 8th week of classes will result in the course listed on the student’s record with the symbol *W* and the week of withdrawal. No drop from a course will be authorized after the 8th week of classes. It is the student’s responsibility to insure that the drop process is officially completed.

Withdrawal from the University

A complete withdrawal from the University may be authorized by the graduate dean through the Friday before the last week of classes. Students who withdraw from all classes will have a statement of withdrawal from the University and the week of withdrawal entered on their records. Students who find it necessary to withdraw from the University after school has started and who are on campus should contact the Graduate School in person to initiate the withdrawal process. If they are unable to come to campus, they may write the Graduate School asking that it process a withdrawal.

Students who advance register, including the paying of tuition and fees, and then find they cannot attend school must process an official withdrawal the same as do those who withdraw after school starts. In this case the process is the same as outlined in the paragraph above. Students who advance register but do not clear tuition and fees by the announced deadline date have their registrations cancelled by the University. Students who have deferred payment of tuition and fees must officially withdraw if they stop attending classes; the failure to pay deferred fees by the deadline date does not cancel one’s registration nor remove the obligation to pay the deferred fees.

Refer to the section titled Payment and Refunding of Tuition and Fees in this chapter for information about the refunding of tuition and fees when withdrawing from the University. Refer to that section, also, relative to special considerations extended to students withdrawing from school for extended military service.

Retention

Any graduate student whose grade point average falls below 3.00 will be placed on academic probation. Faculty of a degree program-unit may determine its own grade point average requirements (above the grade point minimum for retention in their particular program.) All 400- and 500-level courses taken after a student is admitted to the Graduate School are considered graduate level, unless the course is specifically designated, Not for graduate credit, for all students. Grade point averages for doctoral students are based on graduate credit work completed at SIUC after admission to the doctoral program. Grade point averages for master's degree students and nondeclared graduate students are based on all graduate credit work completed at SIUC.

Any graduate student on academic probation whose grade point average remains below 3.0 for two consecutive semesters in which she or he is enrolled, excluding summer sessions, will be permanently suspended from the Graduate School, unless the department and the collegiate dean petition the graduate dean for an exception.

Graduation

Graduation ceremonies are held each year at the end of each semester and summer session. Degree candidates must apply for graduation with the Graduate School by the end of the second week of the semester or session in which the student plans to graduate. Late graduation applications for extenuating circumstances beyond the student's control will be considered through the end of the eighth week of fall and spring semesters, and must be supported in writing by the student's department chair or director of graduate studies. The dean of the Graduate School will make a final determination based on the written request. No applications will be considered beyond the eighth week of fall and spring semesters and the second week of the summer term. Graduation application forms are available in the Graduate School and may be obtained by mail by writing that office, or by downloading from the Graduate School web page: www.siu.edu/gradschl.

A \$25.00 graduation fee is established for all persons receiving degrees. The fee is payable at the time of application or the fee will be charged to the student's account. The fee does not cover the rental fee for the cap, gown, and hood, or the cost of the invitations. These items are ordered through the University Book Store in the Student Center and questions regarding them should be referred to the University Book Store. Doctoral students are required to pay a fee of \$90.00 to cover the cost of electronic submission of the dissertation. Master's degree students are required to pay a fee of \$80.00 to cover the cost of electronic submission of the thesis.

Submission of research papers, theses, and dissertations are due in the Graduate School office by the published deadline date. Contact the Graduate School for dates. Doctoral students must also submit the survey form of earned doctorates at the time the dissertation is submitted.

The Graduate School *Guidelines for the Preparation of Dissertations, Theses and Research Papers* is available at the Graduate School website (www.siu.edu/gradschl). Since each program has chosen a manual style that must be used in conjunction with the Graduate School guidelines, the student should contact the department for additional departmental information.

Although attendance at commencement is not compulsory, students who wish to graduate in absentia must notify the Graduate School in advance. This information is needed for seating arrangements and for mailing purposes. Graduate students may not attend commencement prior to degree completion; they may only attend the ceremony in which they are officially graduating.

Posthumous Degrees

A graduate degree may be awarded posthumously if, before the student's death, work for the degree had substantially been completed. This determination shall be the responsibility of the graduate dean in consultation with the administrative officers and faculty of the degree program in which the student had been enrolled.

Release of Student Information and Issuance of Transcripts

The University follows a policy for release of student information in compliance with federal regulations. More specific information may be obtained from the Office of Admissions and Records or from the Graduate School.

A transcript of the student's official educational record is issued by the Office of Admissions and Records under the following conditions: a transcript is sent, issued, or released only upon a student's request or explicit permission, except that such permission is not required when the University faculty and administrative officials or other educational institutions request transcripts for official purposes.

In addition, requests will be honored from a philanthropic organization financially supporting a student and from a recognized research organization conducting educational research provided the confidentiality of the transcript is protected. A transcript will be issued directly to a student upon request. The transcript will have the statement, *Issued to the Student*, stamped on its face. Transcripts will be sent to recipients other than the student as requested in writing by the student. A transcript fee of \$5.00 will be payable in advance for every transcript the student requests. A transcript will not be sent, issued, or released if a student owes money to the University as verified by the Bursar's office.