

Section: Graduate Student Policies

Policy Number: 713

Subject: Dismissal of Doctoral Students Policy

Effective Date: November 4, 2008

Dismissal of Doctoral Students

Background

The Psychology faculty strive for all students to be successful in their graduate programs. However, on occasion faculty may believe it is not in the best interest of the student, program, or department for a student to continue. Dismissal of students from a graduate program must follow appropriate university guidelines and be consistent with student code. This policy is intended to address the manner in which a recommended dismissal proceeds forward from the department to the School of Graduate Studies.

Policy

- 1) One of the doctoral areas of specialization (Experimental and Applied Psychological Sciences or the Combined Psychology Program) would convene as appropriate (e.g., via a steering committee meeting) to vote to recommend dismissal of a doctoral student. Program committees must ensure they are recommending dismissal of a student for reasons outlined in the appropriate program handbook and / or as stated in university policies. Program committees must also ensure due process in any dismissal procedures.
- 2) Upon recommendation of the specialization area (EAPS or the Combined Program), the program chair of the appropriate specialization area will forward the recommendation for dismissal to the entire psychology faculty.
- 3) The psychology faculty will vote on whether to approve the dismissal. This vote may be conducted either at convened faculty meeting or via e-mail. Not all faculty need to vote and a simple majority of those voting is needed to uphold the dismissal recommendation. If voting occurs outside of a convened meeting, faculty must vote within 2 working days of the recommendation being put forward for a vote.
- 4) Assuming support for the dismissal, the Psychology Department Head will write a memo to the Dean of Graduate Studies recommending the student be dismissed from the Psychology PhD program. Note that this dismissal would preclude a student from requesting a transfer to the other specialization area. If a transfer

would be appropriate, this should be explored on a case-by-case basis prior to a recommendation for dismissal moving forward.

- 5) If faculty do not vote to uphold the dismissal recommendation, specific reasons for non-support must be provided. In instances in which the faculty cite lack of adequate due process as a reason for non-support, the program committee recommending dismissal should address these concerns and then, may again move forward with a recommendation for dismissal. If concerns other than due process ones are raised, those faculty raising the concerns must take responsibility for the student and for addressing those concerns. If these faculty then decide the concerns cannot be remediated, they can again recommend to the entire faculty that the student be dismissed.
- 6) Per university policies, the dismissed student retains the right to appeal the dismissal.