



Graduate School Academic Fresh Start Policy

Responsible Official: Provost

Responsible Office: Graduate School, College of  
Graduate and Continuing Studies

Policy Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide the requirements for the Graduate Academic Fresh Start Program.

Policy Statement

A former ETSU graduate student who previously had a poor academic performance at ETSU such that they would be unable to achieve academic good standing at ETSU in the desired program even if upon returning they earned grades of B or higher in the first semester may be eligible for admission into a new graduate program or for readmission into the student's previous graduate program under the Graduate Academic Fresh Start Program. A student may only be granted one (1) Graduate Academic Fresh Start.

A student who was dismissed for academic misconduct is not eligible for Graduate Academic Fresh Start Program.

I. Eligibility for Graduate Fresh Start Program.

A former ETSU student is eligible for admission under the Graduate Academic Fresh Start Program if the individual has not been enrolled at ETSU for at least two academic years.

II. Application and Petition for Readmission.

Students applying for admission under Graduate Academic Fresh Start must follow all normal processes for admission to the Graduate School under the Graduate Admissions Policy. A former ETSU student can petition to enter/reenter a graduate program and to take new coursework in their previous classes with grades of B- or less that adversely affected the individual's GPA. This petition must include a personal statement that addresses professional and/or personal growth during the time absent from the Graduate School, as well as information that will inform the program of current potential for academic success. The Petition is submitted to the Associate Dean for Admission in the Graduate School.

III. Unconditional Admission with Provisions.

If an individual is admitted under the Graduate Academic Fresh Start program, the individual receives an unconditional admission with provision(s) which include:

- A. the individual must earn a grade of “B” or better in each graduate course for the first 12 credits in the program; and
- B. program admission committees may impose additional conditions of admission with approval by the College of Graduate and Continuing Studies.

There will be no consideration of a petition to waive any provision(s) of admission. The student’s catalog of record will be the catalog for the year of the Graduate Academic Fresh Start admission/readmission.

#### IV. Transcripts.

The student’s transcript will reflect all courses taken and grades received; however, previous graduate coursework that is not covered in section V will be excluded from the GPA calculations and earned hours calculations. The transcript will include one of the following designations: “Admitted under Graduate Academic Fresh Start” or “Readmitted under Graduate Academic Fresh Start,” as appropriate. Once the transcript is changed, the change cannot be reversed.

#### V. Previous Graduate Credits.

At the discretion of the program admission committee, up to six (6) graduate credits previously earned at ETSU may be applied in a graduate certificate program or up to nine (9) graduate credits previously earned at ETSU may be applied to the student’s new program of study.

These credits should be identified at the time of application and they will be included in GPA calculations. These credits will affect Matriculation Limits and cannot be considered for revalidation if they exceed Matriculation Limits. Thus, a student may need to retake a course if the degree is not completed within Matriculation Limits.

#### VI. Financial Support.

##### A. Graduate Tuition Scholarships.

A student admitted or readmitted under Graduate Academic Fresh Start Program are not eligible for Graduate Tuition Scholarships.

##### B. Graduate Assistantships.

A student admitted or readmitted under Graduate Academic Fresh Start Program may be considered for graduate assistantships if he or she meets the eligibility requirements in the GA Handbook.

##### C. Financial Aid Generally.

This policy is independent of financial aid regulations. Therefore, a Graduate Academic Fresh Start applicant should check with an ETSU Financial Aid counselor with regard to his or eligibility for

Authority: Focus Act, Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-8-203, et. seq.

### Defined terms

*A defined term has a specific meaning to this policy.*

Graduate Academic Fresh Start	A program that may allow former ETSU graduate students with poor academic performance to petition to enter/reenter graduate study and avoid having their previous low grades adversely affect the GPA calculation.
Matriculation Limits	Matriculation Limits are time limit as defined by the Graduate School Policy on Graduate Degree and Certificate Requirements.

### Policy History

Effective Date: formerly part of Graduate Admissions policy  
Revision Date: 01/05/2020

### Procedure (s)

Before applying, a student should contact the graduate coordinator of the program of interest and the appropriate College of Graduate and Continuing Studies graduate program specialist to discuss this policy and the application process. The application deadline is set by each program and is published on the Graduate School website. The procedures for the Graduate Academic Fresh Start application and review process are as follows:

I. Procedure for Applying for the Graduate Academic Fresh Start Program.

The procedure for a student to apply for the Graduate Academic Fresh Start Program under this policy is as follows:

- A. Submit a completed application and all required materials by the program deadline;
- B. Pay a nonrefundable application fee; and
- C. File a petition for Graduate Academic Fresh Start with the College of Graduate and Continuing Studies.

II. Procedure for Review of Application.

After a prospective student's has: (1) submitted a completed application and petition; (2) paid the application fee; and (3) submitted supporting documentation required by this policy, a Graduate Specialist reviews the application and required documentation to confirm the minimum requirements are met. The program admission committee reviews the documents and makes a recommendation to the Dean of the Graduate School or the designee. Notification of admission or denial follows the same procedures as the Graduate School Admissions Policy.

#### Procedure History

Effective Date: formerly part of Graduate Admissions policy

Revision Date: 01/05/2020

#### Related Form(s)

[Petition for Graduate Academic Fresh Start](#)

#### Scope and Applicability

Primary: Academic

Secondary:

*(Choose from the following list of the primary and secondary (if any) groups to which this policy and procedure applies: Governance; Academic; Students; Employment; Information Technology; Health and Safety; Business and Finance; Operations and Facilities; Communications and Marketing; or Advancement.)*