**Registration and Enrollment Requirements**

**Registration**

A **graduate** student:

* must be registered for any session during which he/she is taking courses, or taking examinations, required in his/her degree program.
* must be registered for a minimum of three semester hours when preparing a thesis or dissertation.
* must be enrolled in at least three credit hours and pay all required fees in the semester in which he/she graduates.

A **doctoral** student:

* must be enrolled in at least one credit hour in the semester in which he/she graduates.
* Is permitted to enroll in one semester credit hour in his/her final semester only once.

A **continuing** student in good academic standing may register in one of three ways:

* online, with the department or program office,
* with the Office of the Registrar during registration, or
* early to increase the probability of enrollment in available courses.

The Office of the Registrar provides the instructor the names of all students who are officially registered and have paid all required tuition and fees in each class. A student should confirm with the instructor that his/her registration has been properly recorded within the first week of classes. A student is responsible for attending the correct courses for which he/she is registered. A student may not attend classes in which he/she is not registered unless the student has been approved to audit the course.

**Continuous Enrollment**

Unless on an approved leave of absence, a graduate student in a degree program must maintain continuous enrollment during the fall and spring (long session) semesters of each academic year. A student who fails to register in any given long session will be permitted to re-enroll through his/her program office in any two subsequent semesters if the student was in good academic standing at the time of last enrollment. A thesis/dissertation student must enroll in at least three thesis or dissertation hours before graduating. Once a student has enrolled in thesis or dissertation, he/she must maintain continuous enrollment (not necessarily in thesis or dissertation hours) of at least three semester hours during consecutive long semesters unless granted a leave of absence. Some programs may require additional semester hours.

**Leave of Absence**

A student who formally requests and is granted a leave of absence will be exempt from the readmission requirements. A request for a leave of absence must be made through the department or program to the Dean of Graduate Studies and is recorded on the student's academic record by the Office of the Registrar. The leave of absence does not alter the time limits placed on graduate degrees.

**Readmission**

Beginning in the Fall 2009 semester, if a student was previously enrolled at UT Dallas, the student may be eligible to return to the University without reapplying through admissions.

To be eligible for the new policy, the student must have previously enrolled for at least one semester. A student is considered enrolled if he/she was enrolled in one or more courses after the census day for a semester. The student also must have left the University in good standing and must be in good standing with all institutions of higher education he/she formerly attended.

**Admissions**

The following guidelines describe whether or not a student must apply or submit a re-entry form:

* Previously **graduate degree-seeking**, returning as **graduate degree-seeking**
  + If different programs and/or different plans, must reapply and waive fee unless filing premium application
  + If same program, same plan, and in good standing, must submit re-entry form
* Previously **graduate non-degree- seeking,** returning as **graduate degree-seeking** 
  + Must reapply and pay fee
* Previously **graduate degree-seeking**, returning as **graduate non-degree-seeking**
  + If in good standing, must submit re-entry form
* Previously **graduate taking undergraduate courses** (GRU), coming back as **graduate taking undergraduate courses** (GRU)
  + Must submit re-entry form

**Registrar**

If the student qualifies Readmission policy, the student must submit a re-entry form and return to the Office of the Registrar by the last day of late registration.

In addition, the student must submit official transcripts for all institutions of higher education he/she attended after last attending UT Dallas. If official transcripts are not received by Census Day, the student will be automatically dropped from any currently-enrolled courses.

**In Absentia Registration for Graduation**

In absentia registration for graduation (i.e., registration for no course work) may be arranged for candidates who have completed all degree requirements except for the submission of final approved copies of thesis or dissertation. A graduate student may not register in absentia with grades of Incomplete on his/her transcript (see related, nonrefundable fee).

**Dates of Early, Regular and Late Registration**

Registration dates and procedures are listed in the online Comet Calendar and the Academic Calendar. This online resource contains important dates and information that will be useful throughout the semester. Failure to consult and be aware of these dates and procedures does not excuse a student from information or regulations contained therein. **The University reserves the right to make changes to both calendars at any time.**

**Paying Fees as a Part of Registration**

A student is not registered or eligible to attend classes until all tuition and fees have been paid in full or until the student has arranged installment payments with the Bursar. If a student's registration has been canceled for nonpayment, a reinstatement fee and a late fee will be charged (see online course schedule for current fees). A student who does not pay in full or arrange for installment payments by the payment deadline in the online Comet Calendar or the Academic Calendar may have his/her registration canceled. A student who has not completed the payment of all tuition and fees by the end of the semester will be subject to one or more of the following actions at the university's option:

* • bar against readmission at this institution
* • withholding of grades, degree and official transcript
* • all penalties and actions authorized by law.

**Auditing Courses**

Auditing allows a student to observe the instruction of a course without earning credit. Computer Science and Engineering courses, Geoscience courses, Physical Education courses, Foreign Language courses, online courses, and any courses that charge a lab fee may not be audited. Participation and discussion is at the discretion of the instructor. Auditing grants only the privilege of hearing and observing and does not grant credit or access to online course tools.

A student may pick up an Audit Form in the Office of the Registrar beginning the first day of classes through census day. Students may audit courses only by obtaining permission of the instructor and by completing audit registration procedures. Please consult [http://www.utdallas.edu/student/registrar/](http://www.utdallas.edu/student/registrar) for more detailed audit procedures and associated fees.

All applicants for auditing graduate courses should have documentation indicating the completion of a baccalaureate degree. Exceptions to this policy may be granted only upon application to the Dean of Graduate Studies. Under no circumstances will a student be allowed to audit Studio/Ensemble courses.

**Orientation**

Orientation is designed to assist new students with an understanding of university rules and regulations and to provide information about registration procedures, academic programs, and student life. Attendance at Orientation is required for all F and J status international students and is strongly recommended for all new students as a means of efficient matriculation into the University. International students with F or J status will not be allowed to register without an authorized International Student Orientation form. All newly appointed TA's are required to attend TA Orientation held immediately prior to the start of the fall and spring semesters.

**Undergraduate Registration for Graduate Courses**

An advanced undergraduate who is within 30 hours of completing the baccalaureate degree may petition his/her Undergraduate Associate Dean to take graduate courses. Approvals will be subject to the conditions outlined in the following sections.

**Graduate Courses Applied Toward an Undergraduate Degree**

With the approval of the student's Undergraduate Associate Dean, up to 12 semester hours of graduate work taken as an undergraduate may be used only for completing any baccalaureate degree at UT Dallas. Pass/fail grading will be permitted in this category but must be approved by the instructor prior to the start of class. The student must declare at the time of registration for the course, on a form provided by the Undergraduate Associate Dean, how each approved course is to be applied and may not change option once declared.

**Graduate Courses for Possible Future Use as Graduate Credit**

Pass/fail grading options are not permitted in this category. An undergraduate may take up to 12 semester hours of graduate courses to reserve for possible application toward a graduate degree. To register, an undergraduate student must obtain permission from the instructor, from the graduate advisor of the program in which the course is offered and from the Dean of Graduate Studies. Such courses with an earned grade of B or better will be eligible for application to the student's graduate record when the student is admitted to a graduate program. Courses so taken will not apply to the student's undergraduate record and will not affect the student's undergraduate GPA. The student must declare at the time of registration for the course, on a form provided by the Undergraduate Associate Dean, how each approved course is to be applied and may not change option once declared.

**Graduate Courses Taken in Fast Track Options**

Pass/fail grading options are not permitted in this category. A number of programs at UT Dallas offer an accelerated Fast Track option that allows students to take graduate level classes while still undergraduates. Specific admission requirements for Fast Track programs can be found within descriptions of majors. Undergraduate students at UT Dallas who have been admitted to Fast Track programs at UT Dallas leading to baccalaureate/master's degrees may, with the permission of the student's Undergraduate Associate Dean and graduate advisor, take a maximum of 15 specified semester hours of graduate work as an undergraduate. The graduate hours may be used to complete the bachelor's degree and also to satisfy requirements for the master's degree. When this option is chosen, credit for the fast track hours used for an undergraduate degree will not be computed in the graduate GPA. However, they reduce the total number of graduate hours required to earn the respective degree. The student must declare at the time of registration for the course, on a form provided by the Undergraduate Associate Dean, how each approved course is to be applied and may not change option once declared. Exceptions to the 15-hour maximum may be granted by petition to the Deans of Graduate and Undergraduate Education submitted through the relevant program's director of graduate studies.

Graduate programs at UT Dallas will accept admission to a Fast Track program as satisfying Graduate Record Exam (GRE) criteria for admission to the graduate program. The School of Management requires students to meet its graduate admission requirements including completion of the Graduate Management Admissions Test (GMAT) prior to receiving the baccalaureate degree.

**Course Numbering System**

All courses are identified by a four-digit number preceded by the name (or abbreviation) of the program. Courses beginning with a number 5 or greater are graduate courses. The second digit of the course number identifies the credit hour value. Courses with a V in the second position are variable credit hour courses.

The number of lecture hours per week and the number of laboratory hours are given in brackets following the course description: (2-4) means two hours of lecture and four hours of laboratory each week.

**Frequency of Course Offerings**

One of the following Frequency of Course Offering codes is found at the end of each course description in this catalog:

S = at least once each long semester  
Y = at least once a year  
T = at least once every two years  
R = based on student interest and instructor availability

**Religious Holy Days**

The University of Texas at Dallas will excuse a student from class or other required activities, including examinations, for the travel to and observance of a religious holy day for a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property tax under Section 11.20, Tax Code, Texas Code Annotated.

The student is encouraged to notify the instructor or activity sponsor as soon as possible regarding the absence, preferably in advance of the assignment.

The student, so excused, will be allowed to take the exam or complete the assignment within a reasonable time after the absence:  a period equal to the length of the absence, up to a maximum of one week.  A student who notifies the instructor and completes any missed exam or assignment may not be penalized for the absence.  A student who fails to complete the exam or assignment within the prescribed period may receive a failing grade for that exam or assignment.

If a student or an instructor disagrees about the nature of the absence [i.e., for the purpose of observing a religious holy day] or if there is similar disagreement about whether the student has been given a reasonable time to complete any missed assignments or examinations, either the student or the instructor may request a ruling from the chief executive officer of the institution, or his or her designee. The chief executive officer or designee must take into account the legislative intent of TEC 51.911(b), and the student and instructor will abide by the decision of the chief executive officer or designee.

**Grades and Grade Point Average**

The following grade scale is used in graduate course work at the university:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Grade** | **Description** | **Grade Points per Semester Hour** |
| A |  | 4.00 |
| A- |  | 3.67 |
| B+ |  | 3.33 |
| B |  | 3.00 |
| B- |  | 2.67 |
| C+ |  | 2.33 |
| C |  | 2.00 |
| F | Failure | 0.00 |
| I | Incomplete | \* |
| P |  | \* |

\*The grades P and I do not produce grade points.

**Grade of I: Incomplete**

An Incomplete grade of I may be assigned, at the discretion of the instructor, for work unavoidably missed at the semester's end. The student must obtain a Grade of Incomplete/Documentation Form in the office of the student's degree program. The instructor assigning an incomplete grade must furnish a description of work required to complete the course. An incomplete must be completed eight (8) weeks from the first day of the subsequent long semester. The completed form must be signed by both the student and the instructor, and the appropriate Associate Dean, Graduate Advisor, or Department/Program Head, and must be retained with the student's academic record. If the required work to complete the course and to remove the grade of I is not submitted by the specified deadline, the grade of I is changed automatically to an F. Extension beyond the specified limit can be made only with the permission of the Dean of Graduate Studies. A student may not re-enroll in a course in which an I has already been assigned.

The instructor alone will be responsible for determining whether the requirements for completion are met and for assigning the grade in the course. If the instructor who assigned the incomplete is no longer associated with the University when the work is completed, the head of the department or program may assign a committee of appropriate faculty to evaluate the material and/or obtain any other information that may be required to assign the grade in the course. Upon completion of the evaluation of the required work, the symbol I must be converted into a letter grade (A through F or P) by the instructor, head of the department or program, or Graduate Advisor as indicated above.

**Grade Changes**

*Faculty Initiated*

After a final grade has been recorded by the Registrar, faculty may change grades only to correct a clerical error or replace a grade of “incomplete.” A faculty-initiated change of a final grade requires the written approval of the instructor, the department or program head, Associate Dean of Graduate Studies, and the School Dean. Such grade changes must be submitted by the end of the eighth week of the long semester after the grade was awarded. Any grade change initiated after this deadline requires the written approval of the instructor, the department or program head, the School Dean, and the Dean of Graduate Studies.

*Student Request*

A student has the right to request a review of the grades received in any class.

Students must petition for a grade review by the end of the eighth week of the long semester after the grade was awarded. The request must be submitted in writing to the appropriate faculty member, who then has the remainder of that semester to take action.**Pass/Fail Grading**

The pass/fail option is intended to encourage a student to take courses in topics outside his/her major area where the student would be competing with a significant number of students who are majoring in these outside areas. Subject to the constraints stated below, a student may elect to take certain courses either by letter grade (A, B, C, F) or pass/fail grade (P/F). The pass/fail option should be exercised at the time of registration. In any courses in which letter grades are given to one or more students, any student wishing to take the course on a pass/fail basis must obtain the approval of the instructor and his/her graduate advisor on the Pass/Fail form. This completed form must be submitted to the Office of the Registrar no later than Census Day. No change of grade designation from grade to pass/fail or pass/fail to grade can be made after the Census Day designated in the online Comet Calendar and the Academic Calendar.

A student may not elect to take the following types of courses on a pass/fail basis:

* • core courses and their prerequisites required for the student's degree
* • elective courses in the student's major area
* • more than 20 percent of the hours earned at UT Dallas for any master's degree (excluding casebook, internship, practicum, independent study, research, reading, thesis or dissertation requirements)

Only pass/fail grades are given for independent study, research and reading courses, and for thesis and dissertation.

**Final Examinations**

If a final examination is given in a course, it must be given at the time scheduled by the Registrar’s office during the final examination period. A final examination must not last more than 2 hours and 45 minutes. Students for whom three or more final examinations are scheduled in one day may petition to take the additional final examinations on different days.

**Academic Good Standing**

Registration in the graduate programs beyond the first semester (or summer session) is contingent on the student's being in good academic standing based on three main factors:

• Satisfactory progress in meeting admission conditions that were imposed at the time of admission.

• Maintenance of a 3.0 cumulative grade point average in graduate courses in the degree program.

• Satisfactory progress in meeting program degree requirements.

If, at the end of a semester, a student's cumulative grade point average is below 3.0, the student will be placed on academic probation. The student must earn sufficient grade points during the next two semesters of registration to raise the cumulative grade point average to at least 3.0 exclusive of incomplete (I) grades. Failure to achieve this 3.0 cumulative grade point average will result in immediate dismissal from the University.

**Course Load**

The minimum course load for a graduate student to be considered full time is nine semester credit hours of graduate coursework during each long term and six semester hours in any summer session.

Students who receive a research assistantship or a teaching assistantship must comply with course load requirements determined by the graduate program offering the assistantship.

**Schedule Changes: Dropping, Adding and**

**Withdrawing From Courses**

Dates and time limits for schedule changes can be found in the online Comet Calendar and the Academic Calendar.

A new student seeking to drop or add courses to his/her schedule must obtain permission from his/her graduate advisor in the degree program. Drop/Add forms may be obtained from advising offices.

Drop/Adds may not be processed after Census Day. Any drops prior to and including Census Day will not show on the student's transcript. Withdrawals after Census Day will show as a W (withdraw) on the transcript.

After the last day indicated in the online Comet Calendar and the Academic Calendar for a graduate student to withdraw, the course withdrawal will be approved only on a documented emergency basis for reasons extrinsic to curricula matters. To secure such approval, the student must complete a Drop/Add form and obtain the signature of the instructor certifying that the student was passing at the time of the proposed withdrawal. The student should then submit the Drop/Add form and a written petition detailing the nature of the emergency with written documentation from employer or doctor, as appropriate, to the graduate advisor and then to the Dean of Graduate Studies . If the petition is approved, the grade assigned by the instructor on the Drop/Add form will determine the grade which will appear on the student's transcript: a passing grade will appear as a W on the transcript; a failing grade will appear as an F. Students who cease to attend classes without securing approval in the manner prescribed above will receive the grade of F for that course. Courses may not be dropped after the last day of classes in the semester.

A student who habitually withdraws from a significant fraction of his/her schedules may lose the right to withdraw or may be dismissed from the university for failure to make adequate academic progress.

Any student on a Teaching/Research Assistantship wishing to drop a course at any time during the semester must secure the signature of the Dean of Graduate Studies.

The Office of the Registrar, upon recommendation of the instructor and with the approval of the Dean of Graduate Studies, may require a student to drop a course for which the student has not satisfied the prerequisite.

UTD operates multiple sessions with different academic calendar and Census dates. If a student registers in a shorter session, it is the student's responsibility to review the online Comet Calendar and deadlines that affect the drop/add/withdrawal procedures. The same holds true for the summer session.

**Military Service Activation Interruption of Education**

Under certain circumstances, a student who is required to participate in active military services is excused from scheduled classes or other required activities and will be allowed to complete an assignment or exam within a reasonable time after the absence. The excused absence is permitted only if the student will miss not more than 25% of the total number of class meetings or the contact hour equivalent (not including the final examination period) for the specific course or courses in which the student is enrolled at the beginning of the period of active military service.

A student who withdraws from The University of Texas at Dallas because the student has been called to active military service has three options for the treatment of his/her transcript and tuition and fees. U.S. At the **student's** request:

1.       the Bursar’s office shall refund the tuition and fees paid by the student for the semester in which the student withdraws and records "withdrawn-military" (WM) on the student’s transcript; or

2.       the Registrar’s office may grant the student who is eligible under The University of Texas at Dallas’ guidelines (see "Incomplete Grades" section of the catalog for eligibility) an incomplete grade in all courses by designating "incomplete-military" (XM) on the student's transcript. (Please note: resolution of the XM grade(s) must occur within one year from "release from active duty" date on military orders); or

3.       the student may petition the instructor to assign an appropriate final grade or credit for a course if the student has, in the instructor’s  judgment, successfully completed a substantial amount of course work and demonstrated sufficient mastery of the course material.

**Readmission**

If otherwise eligible to register for classes at the University, a student called to active duty in the United States Armed Forces or the Texas National Guard (not including routine Texas National Guard training) shall be readmitted without reapplication or payment of additional application fees within one year of the "release from active duty" date on the student’s military orders. An eligible student will retain prior academic standing, course credits awarded and financial eligibility if the student meets current eligibility requirements other than continuous enrollment or other timing requirements.

**Withdrawal (Resignation) from the University**

A student who wishes to withdraw entirely from the University must complete the proper withdrawal form and procedures in the Office of the Registrar. The grade assigned by the instructor on the withdrawal form will determine the grade which will appear on the student's transcript:

• a passing grade will appear as a W on the transcript

• a failing grade will appear as an F.

Withdrawal after the final drop date requires the same procedures as listed in the previous paragraphs on Schedule Changes.

**Repeated Course Work**

A student who wishes to repeat a course must submit a Repeated Course Adjustment form to the Graduate Dean.

Up to three graduate courses may be repeated. However, no graduate course may be repeated more than once. When a course is repeated, both grades will remain in the student's record and will be included in any transcript. The higher grade will be used in computing the grade point average or credit hours for purposes of graduation. This policy does not apply to coursework specified in the catalog that can be repeated for credit. Students are advised to check with the Financial Aid office to determinehow and if grades earned in repeated coursework impact their financial aid eligibility status.

**Change of Address, Email, or Name**

For a name change, a student must fill out the name change form in the Office of the Registrar. A student must also bring a copy of his/her driver's license or marriage certificate for proof of name. Change of address and email may be completed online.

Electronic communication is the preferred means of communicating important academic information. A student is encouraged to set up a UT Dallas email account upon registration in his/her first term, and ensure the UT Dallas email account is kept current.

Most university administrative offices send all electronic correspondence only to a student's UTD email address and require that all official electronic correspondence be transmitted from the student's UTD email account. This requirement allows university personnel to maintain a high degree of confidence in the identity of the individual corresponding with a university official and in the security of the transmitted information.