

## **Graduate Council Policy on Graduate Program Modifications**

Approved by Graduate Council February 14, 2019

Endorsed by the Cabinet March 5, 2019

For new graduate programs, no major or substantive changes may be implemented until at least one academic year has elapsed following students' first matriculation in the program. This will ensure that a new program operates using the original admissions criteria and degree requirements approved by the campus and the Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs for at least one academic year before any changes are implemented. The Graduate Council will consider exceptions should the Council deem that exceptional circumstances warrant the request.

For continuing graduate programs, no major or substantive changes may be implemented for two academic years following the implementation of the most recent changes approved by the Graduate Council. That is, for continuing programs, a minimum of two academic years should elapse between implementation of significant modifications to the admissions criteria and/or degree requirements. This will help to provide greater continuity for advising and planning purposes and to minimize the number of sets of requirements applicable to students in a given program. The Graduate Council will consider exceptions should the Council deem that exceptional circumstances warrant the request.

Please note that students are admitted with catalogue rights. When programmatic changes are made, students (with faculty approval) may choose to adopt the revised standards and requirements. However, this adoption of new standards is not automatic. Graduate students have the right to complete their degrees according to the criteria in place at the time of their admission.

This policy is effective March 5, 2019.