

ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE AND GRADES

Graduate Academic Standards

It is the responsibility of the Graduate Academic Performance Group (GAPG), operating with the authority of the Committee on Graduate Programs (CGP), to monitor minimum academic standards for graduate students and special students in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Faculty. The GAPG reviews the academic records of all graduate students at the end of each term (including the summer session), giving particular attention to students with cumulative ratings below 3.5 to 4.0. Consideration is given to low grades and factors affecting a student's ability to meet the requirements for the degree program in which they are enrolled.

Students should consult with their specific graduate degree program regarding grade expectations for remaining in good standing. These expectations differ among graduate programs and in general are different from those for undergraduate degree programs. A passing grade in a particular class or classes may be one of many factors a program considers in evaluating whether a student is making adequate progress in the program. Note that in most departments and graduate programs, grades consistently below B are not normally considered an acceptable measure of progress towards degree objectives. It is each department's responsibility to inform students about academic performance requirements and expectations.

Recommendations for action by the GAPG are made by departmental graduate committees. Unless extenuating circumstances are found, students who are not making satisfactory progress towards a degree may be denied permission to continue or may be warned that without substantial improvement the following term, they may be refused further registration. In addition, departmental graduate committees may recommend to the GAPG that a student be allowed to register only for a less advanced degree.

More detailed information concerning procedures followed by this standing faculty committee may be found in the online publication, Graduate Policies and Procedures (<https://oge.mit.edu/gpp/admissions-and-registration/academic-performance>).

Graduate Academic Standards for Federal Student Financial Assistance

Per federal regulations, a graduate student is eligible to receive federal student financial assistance if the student is enrolled at least half-time per term and maintains satisfactory academic progress in their course of study.

Federal student financial assistance for graduate students includes: Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education Grants, Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loans, Federal Direct PLUS

Loans for Graduate and Professional Degree Students, and Federal Work-Study.

An MIT graduate student must achieve all of the following academic standards to qualify and maintain federal student financial assistance:

- Have a cumulative grade point average (GPA) exceeding 4.0 on MIT's 5.0 scale
- Pass 67% of cumulative credit units attempted (defined as "pace")
- Make satisfactory progress in their academic milestones, as evaluated by their graduate program; and
- Not exceed five terms of enrollment for a Master's candidate and 13 for a PhD or ScD candidate

Dropped subjects are not included in the GPA or pace calculations. Transfer credits, which carry no grade, are not included in the GPA calculation, but the number of transfer units a student has is included in the pace calculation. Grades from incomplete units are not included in the GPA calculation, but incomplete units are included in the pace calculation. Grades for repeated units are included in the GPA calculation, but repeated units can only be counted once in the pace calculation.

At the end of each term, the Graduate Academic Performance Group (GAPG) considers the academic performance of all enrolled graduate students and decides on the appropriate action for students not making satisfactory academic performance (e.g. academic warning or denial of further registration).

If a student is placed on academic warning, a set of requirements (academic plan) is set forth and communicated to the student so that they may continue to be eligible for enrollment.

Students on, or eligible for, federal student financial assistance who are placed on academic warning by the GAPG are concurrently placed on federal financial aid warning or federal financial aid probation by Student Financial Services (SFS).

- Students are put on federal financial aid warning if they were not on academic warning in the prior term, but have been placed on academic warning by the GAPG. Students on federal financial aid warning may continue to receive federal student financial assistance for the following term. Federal financial aid warning status has no effect on the amount of financial aid a student is eligible to receive from MIT, the federal government, or any other source during the federal financial aid warning term.
- Students are put on federal financial aid probation if they were on academic warning in the prior term and continue to be placed on academic warning by the GAPG. Being on federal financial aid probation allows students to retain eligibility for federal financial aid; however, students may only be placed on federal financial aid probation after a successful appeal. At MIT, the GAPG review of a graduate student's academic progress

constitutes the required appeal process. Graduate students are encouraged to engage with and provide relevant information to their academic programs during the GAPG review. Any decision by the GAPG other than requiring the student to withdraw from MIT constitutes a continuation of the student's academic plan and enables students to be placed on federal financial aid probation. Federal financial aid probation status has no effect on the amount of financial aid a student is eligible to receive from MIT, the federal government, or any other source during the federal financial aid probation term.