

*Certified 4/30/10g*

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**GPSC 6356 09F Use of Post-Baccalaureate Designation**

The sub-committee recommends the following changes to the admissions categories:

1. Create a Pre-Graduate enrollment category.
2. Students may take no more than 15 credit hours as a Pre-Graduate student.
- 3 The Pre-Graduate category and the existing Enrichment NDO category should be added to the Apply Texas Application.
4. The student handbooks should be changed to note that PB students will be treated as undergraduates for purposes of grievance procedures; Pre-Graduate and Enrichment NDO students will be treated as graduates.

**Explanation:**

Under current practices some departments and colleges allow Post-Baccalaureate students to enroll in their graduate classes, and some even require students to take a few graduate-level classes to prepare themselves for admission to a degree program. PB students are admitted through the undergraduate admissions office, and do not receive the same admissions scrutiny and advising as graduate students who apply to programs through departments and colleges. Creating new enrollment categories and adding these to the Apply Texas Application will give departments and colleges more control over students wishing to enroll in their classes, and should give students better advising.

We envisage the following practices connected with these new categories:

1. Students wishing to take graduate classes without pursuing a degree must apply to a department to be admitted to either of these enrollment categories (as is currently the case for other categories of graduate admissions).
2. Pre-graduate or Enrichment NDO students who later wish to enter a degree program in this or any other department must apply separately. Admission as a pre-graduate student is no guarantee that a student will be admitted as a graduate student.
3. If a student admits a student to a graduate program, it is up to the department to decide whether courses the student has taken as an Enrichment NDO or Pre-Graduate can count towards the degree.
4. Departments will need to enforce the credit-hour limit for Pre-Graduate students by placing enrollment stops on students who have reached 15 credit hours in this category. Enforcing these limits will prevent students from earning the hours needed for a degree without actually being admitted to a degree program.

5. The current PB category would be retained for all students who have earned a bachelors degree and wish to take undergraduate courses. In normal circumstances departments should not be enrolling PB students in graduate courses.
6. We suggest that PB enrollment should be reviewed in two years, and that the Graduate Dean's office should work with any programs still enrolling PB students for graduate classes to further reduce use of this category.
7. Departments should be educated about the Pre-Graduate and Enrichment NDO options for graduate studies, and should be encouraged to use these rather than enrolling PB students in graduate classes. They also need to be educated about the need to enforce credit hour limits for students in these categories.