

Grades and Grading Policies

The graduate grading system used by UALR is: A, excellent; B, acceptable; C and D, below acceptable standards; F, failure; I, incomplete; IP, in progress, CR/NC, credit/no credit; AU, audit; and W, withdrawal. The Graduate School uses the cumulative grade point average (GPA) *for the program in which the student is currently enrolled and any other courses taken while enrolled in the current program* as the standard measure for retention and graduation requirements. The GPA is determined by assigning quality points to each letter grade (A=4, B=3, C=2, D=1, F=0, multiplying by the number of credit hours in the course, and dividing by the total number of hours attempted. The semester grade report shows both the semester GPA and a cumulative GPA based on all graduate work taken at UALR.

If grades are posted, it is done in such a way that students can identify only their own grades. Students in debt to the University will not receive a semester grade report until the debt is satisfied. A formal process to appeal a final grade decision is found online at <http://www.ualr.edu/www/handbook/handbook/html> and as described in the UALR student handbook.

Academic Probation

Graduate students who do not maintain at least a 3.0 cumulative GPA (B average) on all courses *in their current program* are on academic probation at the end of the semester, regardless of whether or not they receive notification. Students who fail to remove the probationary status by raising their GPAs during their next enrollment periods or whose GPA cannot be raised to 3.0 or better within 12 credit hours are subject to dismissal from the Graduate School. For part-time students, the “next enrollment period,” may, if approved by the program coordinator, be defined as the next 12 hours. Note: Some programs may have higher GPA or course program performance requirements.

Program Advising

All degree-seeking students should work closely with their program advisors to prepare a plan of study. For doctoral students, the process may involve filing an Advancement to Candidacy notice.

Students seeking degree should meet with their advisors immediately after being admitted. The program’s advising form lists degree requirements and the plan of study for satisfying them.

Graduation Requirements and Policies

All UALR graduate degree programs require at least 30 hours of graduate credit and graduate certificate programs require at least 12 hours of graduate credit. All programs require a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 on all graduate courses *taken for or during that program* for graduation. In extremely rare circumstances and with the approvals of their graduate coordinators and the Dean of the Graduate School, students can take up to nine hours beyond their program requirements to achieve the minimum GPAs.

Doctoral programs require a residency as described in the sections on specific degrees. The Residency Plan Form must be submitted before the end of the first semester of the residency.

All requirements must be completed within seven consecutive calendar years for master's degrees and within ten consecutive calendar years for specialists and doctoral degrees. Time lost for military service is excluded from the time requirements.

Individual programs may have additional graduation requirements or higher credit hour or GPA minimums. Students should check the graduation requirements for specific programs listed in this Catalog.