

Policy Proposal

Prior to presenting at the Graduate Studies Committee (GSC) for review, please provide answers to the following questions, as relevant. Please contact Matthew Boots (mboots1@iu.edu) with any questions.

Title: Graduate Student Misconduct Policy

GSC presenter: Sarah Lubienski

This proposal is for a...

- program change
 new program
 policy change
 new policy

Include responses to each question, as relevant:

1. What are you proposing and why?

Proposed new policy to be placed in our graduate Bulletin:

In accordance with the IU Student Code and with the professional expectations and obligations within the field of education, the School of Education is committed to fostering a community of mutual respect and integrity. School of Education graduate students who are suspended for academic or personal misconduct, including summary suspension, through the Office of Student Conduct will be dismissed from their graduate program. A student suspended for misconduct may reapply to the program at the conclusion of their suspension term or, in the case of summary suspension, upon successful re-admission to the university, at which point the program faculty and Associate Dean of Graduate Studies will determine if readmission should be granted. In rare cases, exceptions to program dismissal may be made upon recommendation of the program coordinator and department head and approval by the Associate Dean of Graduate Studies.

Rationale: This proposed policy—which has been vetted by the General Counsel’s office—would give us the authority needed to dismiss a graduate student who has displayed academic or personal misconduct at a level severe enough to be suspended from the university. The policy would also allow for exceptions to dismissal if faculty feel that the suspended student should be allowed to return.

A couple of years ago we had a case in which a student was harassing other students, and due to the severity of the harassment of one particular peer, the student was suspended from IU for a year. The program faculty felt this student was a serious detriment to the student community and should not be allowed back into the program. However, the IU General Counsel’s office said that, since the School of Education had no policy stating otherwise, the student had the right to continue in the program and we would be on thin legal ground if we attempted to dismiss him.

2. How will this impact enrollment?

Suspensions of SoE graduate students are extremely rare (e.g., approximately one every few years), so impact will be negligible.

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3. How will this impact students' time to degree?

NA

4. How will this impact specific student populations and/or DEI issues?

A main goal of this policy is to enhance protection for populations that may be prone to harassment from peers due to their gender, race, religion, differential abilities, sexual identities, etc.

5. How will this impact School of Education resources, including faculty loads?

This can ease the burden of faculty and administrators who would otherwise need to navigate the return of a difficult student who was suspended.

6. How will this be effectively sustained over time?

NA

7. What was the departmental vote tally for this proposal? (e.g., "12 in favor, 2 opposed, 3 abstained")

NA