

ACADEMIC POLICIES

Much of the material contained in this section gives details pertaining to the Whiting School of Engineering (WSE) or University-wide policies. However, there are graduate student issues and policies that are department specific. In those instances, students are referred directly to their department administrator or department handbook/website for further information.

A Note about PhD Education:

Ph.D. education is fundamental to the University's teaching and research mission. For an intellectual community of scholars to flourish, it is important to acknowledge the principles that underlie the compact between Ph.D. students, the faculty, and other members of the University community.

Ph.D. Specific Policies may be found here (<https://e-catalogue.jhu.edu/university-wide-policies-information/academic-policies-information/phd-specific-policies/>).

Annual Review Policy

Feedback and Mentoring are crucial to the success of a graduate student. As such, there is a Homewood Annual Review policy (<https://homewoodgrad.jhu.edu/academics/policies/>). At least once per academic year, all full-time Homewood graduate programs are required to provide a written review to: (a) all doctoral students, and (b) all master's students conducting thesis research. Annual reviews should be completed before the start of the next academic year, barring unexpected circumstances.

Departments and advisors should hold space for discussion about the student's professional development goals and ways to develop strategies to achieve those goals. This review must include the opportunity for the student to offer self-evaluation. Students who fail to attain a program's minimum level of academic or research performance may be placed on academic probation or dismissed using the procedures outlined in the Homewood Schools Policy for Graduate Student Probation, Dismissal, and Funding Withdrawal (<https://homewoodgrad.jhu.edu/academics/policies/>) (http://homewoodgrad.jhu.edu/academics/policies/). In making these decisions, particularly that of dismissal, the program will take into consideration extenuating circumstances beyond the student's control.

The Whiting School of Engineering has established a Guide to Effective Annual Reviews (<https://engineering.jhu.edu/graduate-studies/academic-policies-procedures-graduate/#accordion-panel-10>) to assist both advisors and students make these annual reviews a useful tool in the development of each student.

Student Enrollment Statuses

Graduate students in the residential, fulltime, WSE (Engineering) degree programs based at Homewood are initially enrolled as full-time and are given a Resident status. Prior to a student changing their registration status, approval from the student's degree program and appropriate office(s) must first be secured. Degree-seeking WSE residential program graduate students are not permitted to be enrolled in another degree-seeking program outside of JHU at the same time they are enrolled in a degree-seeking degree at JHU.

Residency Requirements

WSE Master's Students: Every full-time program WSE Master's student must register as a full-time resident graduate student for at least two semesters (does not have to be consecutive). Combined bachelor's-master's degree students are exempt, as are those who enter a WSE master's degree program after two or fewer semesters following completion of a JHU undergraduate degree.

WSE PhD Students: Every full-time PhD Student must register for a minimum of two consecutive semesters as a full-time, resident graduate student.

Special Note re: WSE PhD students: In order to be registered#full-time, a WSE PhD student must engage in a full-time program of courses, seminars, research, and/or teaching as approved by the department/program or appropriate designated faculty in alignment with degree requirements and be registered accordingly through SIS in every semester/term. Remote fulltime, resident status approval is extremely rare, and is only granted after program petition to- and approval by -the WSE Office of Graduate Education and Lifelong Learning, and is typically only granted for non-coursework students, or by determination of a special accommodation under ADA through the Student Disabilities Office). 'Residency' refers to the exclusivity and singular focus of a student's time and effort in pursuit of their degree while present in the rigorous and stimulating academic environment of active labs and depts and research groups on campus- interacting with faculty, staff, postdoctoral fellows. and fellow graduate students in a consistent manner that provides optimal learning and research productivity. The Chair/Head of the department/program or appropriate designated faculty determines, for each of its students, what constitutes a program of full-time or part-time study for each semester/term of a student's enrollment.

Credit and Enrollment Expectations for Residential Program WSE Graduate Students

All WSE Graduate Students enrolled in Homewood-based full-time programs must be enrolled in at least 9 credits to maintain full-time status in each fall and spring semester.

PhD students typically are expected to enroll in at least 20 credits per fulltime, resident semester (the bulk of the credits are to capture research effort).

Summer term is not a *required* enrollment term, but PhD students (and occasionally master's students conducting research, etc.) who are expected to continue working on their degree through the summer must register. There is no summer tuition fee for PhD students, but master's students generally incur tuition fees for course registration during the summer. Any JHU funded graduate student working on research/writing for their degree full-time over the summer should enroll in at least 6 credits of their program's summer research/graduate course (students should consult with their academic program for more information).

Most graduate students enrolled in research-oriented engineering degree programs (M.A., M.S., M.S.E., Ph.D. etc.) are full-time students. However, part-time study consistent with residency requirements is permitted with advanced permission in many engineering departments. Students should consult with individual departments and OIS (if visa-sponsored) to determine the requirements for part-time study (<https://>

homewoodgrad.jhu.edu/graduate-board/new-grad-board-residency-page/).

Part-Time Status Exceptions for Residential Program WSE Graduate Students

New Whiting School graduate students starting their full-time program in a part-time status are extremely rare, and are only allowed when the chair/head of a department or the director of a degree program makes a qualified written request to, and receives approval from, the Dean's office

Students already matriculated in their degree program who wish to change to a part-time status after completing at least one to two semesters of full-time study may ask for permission of their program, and the Office of International Services (<https://ois.jhu.edu/>) (OIS), when applicable, to change status.

Students will generally not be eligible to switch to part-time status if they are working primarily on the Homewood campus or working full-time on research for their degree. Part-time graduate students must still meet their degree residency requirements (p. 1) before they receive an advanced degree.

Part-time has two major components:

1. a student cannot be part-time without prior approval from their department, and from OIS (when applicable for visa-sponsored students)
2. a part-time student cannot take more than 2 classes in a semester, or they will be automatically put back to full-time status (note that for WSE graduate students, part-time is any credit load below 9 credits (not including 9 credits) in the fall/spring semesters, and below 6 in the summer term).

Process:

Part-Time Non-Visa-Holding Student:

If student is approved by their program to be part-time and is not a visa holder, their academic program only needs to send an notice to the Homewood Registrar's office to authorize the status change.

Part-Time Visa-Holding Students

Visa-holders (F-1, J-1, etc.) wishing to change their enrollment status to part-time in their final term must work with OIS (<https://ois.jhu.edu/>) to determine eligibility for a Reduced Course Load authorization. Eligible students must complete both of the below steps:

1. Ensure their academic department has submitted documentation to the Homewood Registrar's office to make the official switch to part-time status (departments can approve from an academic perspective and do not need to wait for OIS approval for RCL).
2. Secure a Reduced Course Load authorization from OIS.

Note that once #1 has been completed, students can adjust their schedules in SIS during the add/drop period even if OIS is still reviewing the RCL application. Academic enrollment approval is not the same as OIS approval.

Part-Time Tuition

For current tuition information, visit Homewood Student Accounts (<https://studentaffairs.jhu.edu/student-accounts/tuition-fees/>).

- WSE graduate students who are part-time in a full-time program are charged a minimum tuition fee up to 3 credits. Any additional credits taken by a WSE graduate student who is part-time in a full-time program will be charged by the credit.*

Part-Time Health Benefits

Students in WSE full-time programs who are in a part-time status are automatically enrolled in student health benefits, and may be responsible for assessed premium(s).

Part-Time Payroll

Not all students who are part-time can be on student payroll. Please consult with the Office of Experiential Learning (<https://studentaffairs.jhu.edu/studentemployment/>) (formerly Office of Student Employment) for more information.

Visiting Graduate Students (non-degree students)

In some cases, graduate students from other institutions of higher education may participate in a visitation or residency at the Homewood Campus (<http://homewoodgrad.jhu.edu/academics/visiting-grad-student-scholar-policies/>). (<https://engineering.jhu.edu/admissions/graduate-admissions/full-time-programs/how-to-apply/visiting-students-scholars/>) These students are designated as visiting, and are not candidates for a Johns Hopkins graduate degree.

Visiting Graduate Students primarily take courses.

Visiting Graduate Scholars primarily pursue research.

Visiting Non-Degree Learners have already attained a bachelor's degree, are not enrolled at another institution, and wish to take courses at Homewood (KSAS and WSE only) for a maximum of two consecutive semesters.

Visiting Graduate Application (non-degree)

All visiting students (non-degree) must apply through their intended program of study and through the online application.

Interested Whiting School of Engineering (WSE) applicants should apply here (<https://engineering.jhu.edu/admissions/graduate-admissions/full-time-programs/how-to-apply/visiting-students-scholars/>).

Visiting Graduate Student/Non-Degree Learner Enrollment

US/non-visa sponsored Visiting students/non-degree learners may be enrolled on a full- or part-time basis with the approval of the chair of the department and the dean of their respective school. Visa-sponsored Visiting graduate students need to register full-time for every semester they are visiting JHU. All categories are limited to two consecutive terms of either full- or part-time study.

All non-degree visiting graduate students/visiting graduate scholars must register in every semester that they are here for the visiting student course AS.990.890/EN.990.890, there is no tuition charge for this course. Failure to register may result in the student's removal from payroll, loss of health insurance, visa compliance issues, and/or lapses in university services/access.

Combined Bachelor's/Master's Students

Combined Bachelor's/Master's Student refers only to undergraduate students who have been accepted for concurrent study in a WSE Homewood-based full-time graduate program while still completing their undergraduate requirements.

Most combined students will switch to graduate status to complete degree requirements. Combined students cannot both apply for and start their combined status in the final semester of their undergraduate status.

Degree Conferral Timing

A student cannot be conferred with their WSE master's/graduate degree before they have been conferred with their JHU bachelor's degree. With prior approval a student may confer with their bachelor's and master's/graduate degrees in the same semester with degree requirement signoff from undergraduate advising and the student's degree programs. Note that there is not a combined diploma, each degree is separately conferred.

Change of Status Process and Timing

In order for a student's status to change from undergraduate to graduate, a Change of Classification Form for Combined Students must be completed. Academic Staff in the student's chosen graduate program are responsible for signature and submission of this form to the Homewood Registrar's office for students who have:

- Completed eight semesters of full-time undergraduate student at JHU (or the equivalent for transfer students), **or**
- Completed undergraduate degree requirements prior to the eighth semester of full-time undergraduate study at JHU (or the equivalent for transfer students).

For complete information, please visit Graduate & Postdoctoral Affairs (<https://homewoodgrad.jhu.edu/academics/combinedconcurrent-bachelors-masters-policies/>) and WSE Combined Bachelor's/Master's Program (<https://engineering.jhu.edu/academics/combined-bachelors-masters/>).

Postdoctoral Fellow Appointments

Postdoctoral fellows are at the university to undertake a research program in cooperation with a member of the faculty. All appointment postings, interviews and hiring decisions are arranged through the individual departments, but the official appointment letters from the WSE are issued from the Office of Graduate Education and Lifelong Learning. **No offer is official unless it comes from either the Vice or Associate Vice Dean of Graduate Education and Lifelong Learning. Proof of successful PhD completion and eligibility for employment in the United States will be required before any appointment may begin.**

Visit <https://engineering.jhu.edu/studentaffairs/postdoctoral-fellows/> for more information.

Academic Leave of Absence Policy Statement

The Johns Hopkins University ("University" or "JHU") is committed to maintaining a welcoming, inclusive, and caring environment for all students. The University grants or requires a leave of absence under appropriate circumstances to support students' necessary time away for medical, service, hardship, or academic reasons. The Office of the Provost provides leadership and support to

University officials acting under this Student Leave of Absence Policy's (the "Policy") procedures and related divisional procedures, including consulting with and providing guidance to deans and their designees, registrars, and others to support consistent and fair application of this Policy across the University.

The University complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act ("ADA") and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 which afford protection from discrimination for otherwise qualified students with disabilities. The University will engage in an interactive, individualized process with each Covered Student to determine if there are any adjustments that can be made in accordance with the ADA and Section 504.

Full Policy

The full policy (<https://policies.jhu.edu/doc/fetch.cfm/TBIXLPii/>) can be found in the JHU Policy and Document Library.

WSE Graduate Student Process

Graduate Students in WSE must schedule a consultation with the WSE Office of Engineering Student Support and Advocacy (WSE) (<https://engineering.jhu.edu/studentaffairs/navigatingnonacademicissues/>) prior to completing their LOA application. International students must contact OIS before filing for LOA. Additional information regarding the process for Graduate Students requesting a LOA can be found on the WSE (<https://engineering.jhu.edu/studentaffairs/navigatingnonacademicissues/leavesofabsence/>) webpages.

Note that PhD students wishing to file for a leave from their work (non-academic/degree-related) appointments should consult the PhD Union Collective Bargaining Agreement (<https://provost.jhu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/TRU-UE-Local-197-Johns-Hopkins-University-Contract-2024-2027-SIGNED.pdf>) for more information on types of leaves available. They will additionally need to connect with their academic program with any questions and for process.

Important Notes:

Prohibition of Any Degree Activity While on LOA

- While on a LOA, graduate students cannot work on their degree in any way, including searching for a new advisor or doing any preparatory activities for a current/rotational/potential advisor.

Probations, Written Guidances, Dismissals and LOAs

- If a student is about to be put on probation or is on probation (or a written guidance) they cannot avoid the action with an LOA. Rather, it pauses the action until the student's return from their LOA status.
- If a student is about to be dismissed from their graduate program, a LOA cannot stop the action. Students are encouraged to work with the WSE Office of Engineering Support and Advocacy during any such period, and may appeal the outcome of a probation, etc, but cannot avoid the outcome after all appeals have been exhausted.

Nonresident (NR) Status

Nonresident (NR) status is a full-time status typically reserved for students who are completing non-coursework degree requirements/experiences off-campus. The Nonresident Application is available here (<https://homewoodgrad.jhu.edu/graduate-board/enrollment-status->

change-forms/). There are different forms WSE graduate students depending on degree level.

Students who are enrolled in University Student Health Benefits (<https://studentaffairs.jhu.edu/student-health/insurance/school-insurance-plan/>) are encouraged to contact the Office of the Homewood Registrar prior to entering into a NR status.

Additionally, international students should always consult with OIS before making any travel plans or status changes.

Nonresident Status for Whiting School of Engineering Graduate Students (residential programs)

WSE MASTER'S STUDENTS- NR STATUS

Master's students enrolled in the fulltime, residential programs in WSE are generally only eligible to apply for one of the three Nonresident Statuses if they have no outstanding coursework (**defined as having either no assignments/tests required for a class in which a student is currently enrolled in the proposed semester of NR status- and/or having any coursework/projects in progress towards resolving an Incomplete grade) or any course exams to complete.** Exceptions may be granted with documented program/advisor support, but a student in NR status cannot typically remain enrolled in a course while in NR status.

- **NR WSE Master's thesis/capstone/project completion:** to qualify for consideration of this status, a master's student should be nearly finished with their degree work and have no coursework left to complete towards their degree except research/internship. They only have to finish their essay/project/capstone/present their final project in their degree program and has a very limited need/or no need to be on campus in their final semester. This status will not be approved if the program does not verify that the student is reasonably expected to complete their degree in the one semester of NR status and otherwise supports the student's application to switch to NR status. The expectation is one semester of non-resident status, but two may be allowed with an emailed extension appeal to the Office of Graduate Education and Lifelong Learning with documented program support for the extension. Typically, master's students pay the NR tuition and health insurance while in this NR status and do not receive any funding support or tuition discounts from WSE.
- **NR WSE Master's study away:** to qualify for consideration of this status, a master's student has an opportunity to be actively engaged in their master's *research* (not an internship or co-op) at a non-JHU facility (with program approval). Typically, master's students pay the NR tuition and health insurance while in this NR status and do not receive any funding support or tuition discounts from WSE.
- **NR WSE Master's internship/co-op:** to qualify for consideration of this status, a master's student is engaged in a program-sanctioned internship/co-op that will directly inform their master's degree completion. Typically, master's students pay the NR tuition and health insurance while in this NR status and do not receive any funding support or tuition discounts from WSE.

Tuition and Health Benefits while on Nonresident Status

Nonresident students are charged 10% of full-time tuition per semester. Please note that students who are enrolled in JHU's student health benefits plans are responsible for paying the premiums and Nonresident tuition themselves.

Students on NR status are automatically enrolled in the student health benefits plans. For this reason, students who are enrolled in University Student Health Benefits (<https://studentaffairs.jhu.edu/student-health/insurance/school->

[insurance-plan/](https://studentaffairs.jhu.edu/student-health/insurance/school-)) are encouraged to contact JHU Student Benefits prior to entering into a NR status.

Additionally, international students should always consult with OIS **before** making any travel plans or status changes.

NR Restrictions and Requirements

Nonresident students are permitted access to campus, faculty advising and most JHU services, however, they are not permitted to enroll in courses, with these three exceptions:

1. International students who file for Curricular Practical Training F1 (CPT1) through the OIS may register for a course entitled "Engineering Research Practicum" (WSE), and/or
2. enrollment in EN.500.603 Graduate Orientation and Academic Ethics, and/or
3. enrollment in AS.360.625 Responsible Conduct of Research.
4. enrollment in a required departmental course by an internship/co-op student or a special WSE-dept required course for a student who followed an JHU-exiting advisor to another institution.

Requests for exceptions 2, 3, 4, and any other rare exceptions must be petitioned to and then authorized by the student's respective Office of Graduate Education via an emailed request. Departmental/advisor written documentation reinforcing the need for an exception is required.

While in Nonresident Status, students are required to online enroll in EN.910.600 for each semester, even if registered in any of the above courses.

The maximum amount of time that a master's student may retain Nonresident Status is 1-2 semesters. Upon reaching this limit, the student will be required to register for either part-time status (as appropriate) or full-time Resident status until degree completion.

Work Assignments while on Nonresident Status

While registered as NR, students may work up to 19.9 hours per week during the academic year if employed by Johns Hopkins University in any capacity (intersession or summer employment can be full-time, however). If working, NR students must be classified as salary (not stipend) and paid hourly.

WSE PHD STUDENTS- NR STATUS

The WSE PhD program is a full-time, residential program designed to foster a collaborative and fully immersive educational experience.

To maintain their fulltime, resident status, PhD students must be confirmed by the Chair/Head of their PhD department/program or by an appropriate designated faculty (advisor/DGS) to be working on their degree requirements primarily on-campus. In order to be registered full-time, a PhD student must engage in a full-time program of courses, seminars, research, and/or teaching as approved by the department/program or appropriate designated faculty in alignment with

degree requirements and be registered accordingly through SIS in every semester/term.

Remote fulltime, resident status approval is extremely rare, and is only granted after program petition to- and approval by -the WSE Office of Graduate Education and Lifelong Learning, and is typically only granted for non-coursework students, or by determination of a special accommodation under ADA through the Student Disabilities Office). 'Residency' refers to the exclusivity and singular focus of a student's time and effort in pursuit of their degree while present in the rigorous and stimulating academic environment of active labs and depts and research groups on campus- interacting with faculty, staff, postdoctoral fellows. and fellow graduate students in a consistent manner that provides optimal learning and research productivity. The Chair of the department/ program or appropriate designated faculty determines, for each of its students, what constitutes a program of full-time or part-time study for each semester/term of a student's enrollment.

If a program determines that a PhD student is unable to meet the full-time residency requirements in a given semester, the PhD student will be informed that they are no longer eligible to be classified as a fulltime and resident student, and after consultation with the student and their advisor to ensure everyone's full understanding of the requirements and to explore other status options to see if they would be more appropriate (such as a potential LOA or part-time status), the department will make the decision whether or not to switch the student to nonresident status.

If the decision by the student's department is to switch the PhD student to non-resident status, and/or the PhD student elects to switch to NR status on their own, there are three potential sub-categories from which to choose:

- **NR WSE PhD Dissertation Completion:** The PhD student is very nearly finished—just has some writing to do/defend—but needs to leave campus to start work or for some other personal reason and cannot/will not be present on campus to meet full-time residency academic/research engagement expectations. The time to degree expectation is one semester, but two may be allowed. Typically, in this sub-category of NR status, the PhD student pays the NR tuition themselves, and does not receive any stipend or health benefits support, but there is no prohibition against a program or advisor funding any portion of the student's tuition or providing stipend/insurance funding as long as the student remains eligible for payroll at JHU. A PhD student in NR status is not eligible for doctoral funding under the PhD Collective Bargaining Agreement. An expected date for defense should be listed on the department's request to switch their PhD student to this sub-category of NR status.

- **NR WSE PhD Study Away:** The PhD student has the opportunity to be actively engaged in their PhD work but at a non-JHU facility; typically either (1) following their advisor to another university after their advisor leaves JHU, or to work on research at either (2) another institution of higher education with a collaborator of their advisor or (3) at a national lab linked to the research and directly informing the student's dissertation and with the advisor's academic and research oversight and permission. In this subcategory of NR status, the PhD student typically is financially supported in some way by PI/ department/host facility (NR tuition, some stipend (does not need to be at the full level of doctoral funding) health benefits support provided for student) as long as the student remains eligible for payroll at JHU (as pre-approved by the international travel/HR/ export control team at JHU and with approval by the WSE Associate

Vice Dean for Graduate Education and WSE HR), but they are not eligible for doctoral funding under the PhD Collective Bargaining Agreement. PhD NR Study Away students should discuss and document all plans with their department/advisor in advance for mutual clarity. **Policy language updated August 12, 2026 after publication.*

- **NR WSE PhD Internship/Co-op:** In this sub-category of NR status, a PhD student will be pursuing a full-time impermanent employment opportunity that may be only tangentially relevant to their degree, which will keep them from being able to engage in their academic program in a full-time, resident manner. The expectation is that they will return to campus in a residential capacity to complete their degree upon completion of the internship/co-op. In this subcategory of NR status, the PhD student typically pays their own NR tuition and receives no stipend or health benefits support. If the internship/co-op experience will inform the student's degree, there is no prohibition against the dept/advisor providing funding as equitable to their advising group and situation as long as the student remains eligible for payroll at JHU, but the PhD student is not eligible for doctoral funding under the PhD collective bargaining agreement while in NR status. Time in this status is typically approved for a maximum of one year, but can be renewed for a second year with an emailed extension appeal to the Office of Graduate Education and Lifelong Learning (Associate Vice Dean Christine Kavanagh) with documented program support for the extension (total of 4 semesters, not including but covering 2 summers as well).

Tuition and Health Benefits while on Nonresident Status

Nonresident students are charged 10% of full-time tuition per semester. Please note that students who are enrolled in JHU's student health benefits plans are responsible for paying the premiums and Nonresident tuition themselves unless noted above.

Students on NR status are automatically enrolled in the student health benefits plans. For this reason, students who are enrolled in University Student Health Benefits (<https://studentaffairs.jhu.edu/student-health/insurance/school-insurance-plan/>) are encouraged to contact JHU Student Benefits prior to entering into a NR status.

Additionally, international students should always consult with OIS before making any travel plans or status changes.

WSE NR Restrictions and Requirements

Nonresident students are permitted access to campus, faculty advising and most JHU services, however, they are not permitted to enroll in courses, with these three exceptions:

1. International students who file for Curricular Practical Training F1 (CPT1) through the OIS may register for a course entitled "Engineering Research Practicum" (WSE), and/or
2. enrollment in EN.500.603 Graduate Orientation and Academic Ethics, and/or
3. enrollment in AS.360.625 Responsible Conduct of Research.
4. enrollment in a required departmental course by an internship/co-op student or a special WSE-dept required course for a student who followed an JHU-exiting advisor to another institution.

Requests for exceptions 2, 3, 4, and any other rare exceptions must be petitioned to and then authorized by the student's respective Office

of Graduate Education via an emailed request. Departmental/advisor written documentation reinforcing the need for an exception is required.

While in Nonresident Status, students are required to online enroll in EN.910.600 for each semester, even if registered in any of the above courses.

The maximum amount of time that a master's student may retain Nonresident Status is 1-2 semesters. Upon reaching this limit, the student will be required to register for either part-time status (as appropriate) or full-time Resident status until degree completion.

WSE Work Assignments while on Nonresident Status

While registered as NR, students may work up to 19.9 hours per week during the academic year if employed by Johns Hopkins University in any capacity (intersession or summer employment can be full-time, however). If working on campus, NR students must be classified as salary (not stipend) and paid hourly. Rare exceptions must be approved by Associate Vice Dean Christine Kavanagh.

WSE NR Application Procedures

Master's Students are required to complete and sign a NR application form indicating that they meet the requirements as stated above. The form should be signed by the department, acknowledged by OIS (if applicable), and will be reviewed by the WSE Associate Vice Dean for Graduate Education and Lifelong Learning (or other WSE designee). Results will be sent by email.

Master's Students should talk to their dept academic advisor/DGS/academic staff and apply for Nonresident status well in advance of the first semester for which it is desired. When requesting a change of status for the current term, such petitions should be submitted no later than the end of the second week of the semester.

PhD students in WSE can request NR status on their own, or, their department will submit the status change request based on the program's determination of whether a student meets the fulltime, residency requirement for a given semester. The form should be signed by the department, acknowledged by OIS (if applicable), and will be reviewed by the WSE Associate Vice Dean for Graduate Education and Lifelong Learning (or other WSE designee). Results will be sent by email.

PhD programs/PhD Students should talk to their dept academic advisor/DGS/academic staff about the correct status and for the application link; and should apply for Nonresident status well in advance of the first semester for which it is needed. When requesting a change of status for the current term, such petitions should be submitted no later than the end of the second week of the semester.

Course Information and Academics

The below policies apply to both continuing and new students, unless noted specifically otherwise.

Registration

All students must register before they can attend classes or use university facilities. All students matriculated in a residential graduate program must be registered in every semester of their program, and in the semester they are conferring with their degree. Summer term enrollment expectations are covered in the 'residency' policy sections of the WSE graduate catalogue. Detailed instructions about registration will be provided to all students before the registration period each semester/term. If the student has not been notified at least two weeks before the start of classes for any fall or spring semester should immediately

contact their respective academic department, and the Office of the Homewood Registrar.

Graduate students who are funded and who are planning to pursue their degree work fulltime over the summer months need to register for at least 6 credits of their program's summer research course. This includes nonresident students who are fully funded by their program over the summer. Please consult with your academic program for more information

Students who for any reason do not complete their registration until after the prescribed registration period are required to pay a late registration service fee. The late registration fee schedule is posted under Term Dates & Deadlines (<https://studentaffairs.jhu.edu/registrar/students/graduate-registration/>) on the Office of the Homewood Registrar's website. Graduate students must obtain permission from the chair of their department to register after the second week of classes.

Students will not be allowed to register if there are unpaid bills from a previous term. The student is required to pay tuition or make financial arrangements with the Office of Student Accounts before registering for a given term.

Visit <https://studentaffairs.jhu.edu/registrar/students/graduate-registration/> and <https://registrar.jhu.edu/idr/> for more information.

Withdrawal by Lack of Registration

Students who are not registered by the end of the fourth week of a given semester and either

1. have *not* responded to correspondence from their department, advisor, Office of Academic Affairs, and/or Office of the Homewood Registrar about their intention to remain in the program, **or**
2. *have* responded to correspondence but have *not* made effort to maintain a valid student status (defined as either enrolled or on an approved leave of absence), will have been deemed to have withdrawn themselves from the university and will be processed as a withdrawn student in the student information system (SIS). It is important to note that paying tuition is not the same as registering for classes.

Grades and Final Course Grade Appeal Policy

Letter Grades (A through F)

Changing letter grades of A through F to a Passing grade is not permissible at any time.

All other grade change requests (e.g., B to A) are acceptable only within one year of semester end date. Change requests beyond one year can only be changed as a result of clerical error and must be accompanied by a written explanation/justification from the course instructor.

Incomplete Grades (I)

Students who are confronted with compelling circumstances beyond their control that interfere with the ability to complete their semester's work during the normal course of a term may request an incomplete grade from the instructor. Approval of such a request is neither automatic nor guaranteed. Procrastination or distraction by other pursuits are not regarded as compelling circumstances, and extensions in these

situations are unfair to students who have completed their course requirements within the allotted time.

If the instructor agrees to grant an incomplete grade, the instructor and student must establish a timetable for submitting the unfinished work, but no later than the end of the third week of the subsequent semester. See below for specific information about graduating students. When entering an incomplete grade in SIS, the instructor must also enter a reversion grade. This is the grade that the student will receive if the missing work is not completed. For example, if the student, based on the coursework completed by the end of the semester, would receive a C+ grade without the missing work, then the grade of I/C+ is entered on the transcript. If the incomplete grade is not resolved within the allowed period (the end of the third week of the subsequent semester), the incomplete grade is automatically converted to the reversion grade (a C+ in this example).

Note that the student and instructor must officially note the agreement through an incomplete contract in SIS.

Incomplete grades do not affect a student's grade point average, which is based upon the grades that are available for the term. However, students with two or more incomplete grades on their record at the start of a semester may be prevented from making changes to their registration for the semester without the approval of the student's respective program/graduate affairs office.

Students who are on academic probation are not typically allowed to take incomplete grades in courses and must secure prior approval of their respective program and graduate affairs office for any exceptions.

Students who are in good academic standing have until the end of the third week of the next semester to finish incomplete work. Exceptions to this deadline require a petition from the instructor, and appeal to the student's respective graduate affairs office before the end of the third week of the following semester. When appealing to change the deadline, faculty members must specify a new date for completion of the work which must be before the end of the current semester. Incomplete grades cannot typically be held over into a third semester in order to complete the missing work, nor can incomplete grades be resolved by retaking the course.

Dropping a course with an Incomplete grade is not permissible at any time.

Changing an Incomplete grade to a final grade (A through F, Pass) may be done by the instructor if during the designated timeframe. After that deadline passes, grade change requests must be sent via a grade change form to the student's cognizant Dean's Office of Graduate Academic Affairs (Renee Eastwood, KSAS/Christine Kavanagh, WSE) for review and approval.

SPECIAL RULES FOR GRADUATING STUDENTS

Students with incomplete grades in required courses at the date of degree conferral will not graduate. Students with incomplete grades in courses that are not required for degree completion may still graduate. However, the deadline for completion is abbreviated; students must resolve incomplete grades within 30 days after the date of degree conferral which is when the university closes their graduate record.

In-Progress Grades (IP)

This is a rare grade type, and is typically reserved for courses in which it is expected that the assigned work will require more than one semester to be completed, but the course itself will meet for only one semester.

Dropping a course with an IP grade is permissible only with the approval of the instructor, and the Dean's Office.

Changing an IP grade to a final grade (A through F, Pass) is acceptable at any time before the student's departure from the university, and requires the instructor's approval.

Missing Grades (MR, X)

A missing grade (denoted by an MR or an X on the transcript) appears if the instructor has not submitted a grade within the defined grading period for the semester.

- An instructor may submit a Grade Change form directly to the Office of the Homewood Registrar to change a MR or X grade to a final grade.
- Dropping a course with a MR or X grade is not permissible at any time.
- Changing a course with a MR or X grade to Audit is not permissible at any time.

Audit (AU)

When a graduate student enrolls in a course with Audit status, they must reach an understanding with the instructor in writing as to what is required to earn the AU grade notation. If the student does not meet those expectations (e.g., fails to attend class), the instructor will notify the Office of the Homewood Registrar in order for the student to be retroactively dropped from the course. Dropped coursework does not appear on the student's transcript.

Changing a course registration from Audit (student receives no letter grade) to Credit (student receives letter grade), or from Credit to Audit is permissible during the official deadlines for each semester. Registration changes beyond this deadline are not permissible.

Changing a final grade (A through F, Pass, I, IP, MR, or X) to AU is not permissible at any time.

The following ASEN Graduate Courses **cannot** be taken for Audit:

- Graduate Research
- Dissertation Research
- Master's Thesis
- Master's Essay
- Independent Study

These courses can only be taken as P/F or for a letter grade, at the instructor's purview.

Grading basis for graduate courses deliberately includes both letter grades and P/F grades. Instructors should have the widest discretion possible in grading graduate students' work; therefore both grading bases are available to the instructor for courses at the graduate level. While policies in most departments vary, most graduate students receive letter grades or Pass/Fail grades for their research. Some programs have restrictions on how many P/F classes can count towards their graduate degree programs. Students should consult their department chairs and instructors to determine their grading requirements.

Final Course Grade Appeal Policy

Grading is a matter of the professional judgement of each instructor, and the final grade in a course reflects the instructor's assessment of a student's mastery of the course material. Given this, though, there are exceptional circumstances in which students have the right to request the reevaluation of a disputed final course grade; such as (1) clerical/calculation error, and (2) violation of or inconsistency in adherence to the faculty's own established grading policies, or (3) arbitrary grading, defined as documented evidence that work by one student was graded substantially differently than other students' work without any justification. Appeals should be on an individual basis and a petition based on a disagreement with the judgement of the instructor in their grading absent evidence of an error or policy violation is not eligible for adjudication under this policy.

Absent significant extenuating circumstances, final course grade appeals must be initiated in writing no later than one month after the last day of the term/semester in which the class was completed (please visit the university registrar's site for 'end of semester/term' dates: <https://registrar.jhu.edu/academic-calendar/>). If no 'end of semester/term' date is posted clearly, then the default is one month from the last day of class (not final exam/project) in the semester/term (ex. Intersession and/or Fall/Spring/Summer terms I or II courses).

Students should first attempt to resolve the matter informally between them and their instructor(s). If this does not resolve the issue, then the student should bring the matter to either the DGS (Director of Graduate Study) in their program or the department chair/head. If, after raising these issues, there is still no resolution, the student may bring their concern to the Office of Graduate Education and Lifelong Learning, Associate Vice Dean Christine Kavanagh). It is important to note that following this path does not necessarily mean that the student's desired outcome is guaranteed. The decision of the Office of Graduate Education and Lifelong Learning is final and there is no further appeal available.

If a grade appeal is initiated in good faith, no retaliatory or disciplinary action will be taken against the appellant and appropriate measures will be taken to protect the appellant from retaliation. No division, school, department, or center shall discriminate on the basis of sex, gender, marital status, pregnancy, race, color, ethnicity, national origin, age, disability, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, veteran status or other legally protected characteristic. Students are strongly encouraged to immediately report any concerns of discrimination/retaliation to OIE (<https://oie.jhu.edu/>) directly.

Add/Drop

The Homewood Registrar's website (<https://studentaffairs.jhu.edu/registrar/students/graduate-registration/>) has detailed timelines, deadlines, and approval requirements for add/drops. Note that all withdrawals will be noted with a W on the student's transcript. Students are encouraged to reach out to instructors and their depts for permission for enrollment changes well in advance of published deadlines and not to start the process on the actual day of the deadline.

The refund schedule (<https://studentaffairs.jhu.edu/student-accounts/refunds/>) can be found on the Student Account website.

Registration Holds

A registration hold will be placed for students who have not obtained clearance from the Office of International Services (OIS), Student

Accounts, Student Health Insurance or Student Health and Wellness Offices. Students should meet with the office that placed the hold so that the hold can be removed. Students who have an advisor's hold on their registration must have their advisor release the hold online.

Transferring and Double Counting Courses

Transferring Non-JHU Courses towards a WSE Residential Graduate Degree

Up to three (3) non-JHU graduate-level courses may be applied towards a WSE residential graduate degree at the discretion of the WSE degree advisor/dept/program. Courses should have been completed in the past 5 years. Documentation (for example, a course syllabus) should be collected by the program to evaluate course relevance and appropriateness and the permissions should be included in all degree clearance paperwork/audits in Stellic.

- **Programs do not need to check if these 3 courses were used towards any other degree, and retain independent discretion to allow less than the 3 course maximum or to opt out of transfer/double-counting permissions.**
- Students are encouraged to secure permission from their WSE master's/PhD program faculty advisor to transfer a course as early as possible in their time at JHU to avoid issues as permission is NOT guaranteed, and a transcript from any relevant academic institution must be included with conferral completion paperwork submitted to the Academic Affairs office.
- EXCEPTION: WSE master's students in a department#approved study abroad program can transfer in additional coursework (i.e., beyond three courses), but for ALL students, at least half of the courses/credits applied to the WSE master's degree must be taken/earned at Johns Hopkins. Again, individual graduate programs reserve the right to enforce stricter policies.

Double Counting JHU Courses

The Whiting School of Engineering has established the following policies on double-counting JHU coursework for all students in the full-time (Homewood) programs and the part-time Engineering for Professionals (EP) programs. If an individual program adopts double-counting policies that are stricter than these, the program's policies override the schoolwide policies. Students are encouraged to refer to individual program policies. **With bachelor's/master's; master's#/master's double#counting; bachelor's-PhD; or Master's-PhD (master's degree was completed prior to the PhD or any master's courses taken by a PhD student before they are in PhD primary status in SIS) double-counting across any number of degree programs, a student can reduce the number of master's/PhD courses required by up to two (with approval of the programs involved). Beyond that, the remaining courses must be unique to the degree program.**

- With a 10#course master's degree program, for example, eight of those courses must be unique to the program and not applied to a different degree at any level. A student can double#count any number of JHU undergraduate courses toward various master's degrees (but at most, two to each master's program) and they can double-count the same course across any number of degrees pursued (with the approval of the programs involved). Programs can document justified exceptions for PhD double-counting per the permission of the department head/chair/DGS.
- Special PhD Note: If a PhD student is picking up a WSE master's degree 'along the way' they can double-count any number of graduate courses (as approved by their program's DGS) that they've taken to

meet their PhD program degree requirements if they are determined to apply towards the master's degree requirements by the program.

- Courses taken prior to the start of the PhD as the primary degree in SIS (i.e. while the student is still a bachelor's/master's student) are subject to the full double-counting policy above.

Additional Combined Bachelor's-Master's Double Counting Guidance

Coursework not applied to a bachelor's degree:

For students who are either in a WSE combined bachelor's/master's degree program or have already earned a Whiting School of Engineering or Krieger School of Arts and Sciences bachelor's degree and are seeking a WSE master's degree, *any* successfully completed WSE graduate-level coursework (as defined by the WSE graduate program) not applied to the JHU undergraduate degree may be applied to the WSE residential program graduate degree, regardless of when that course was taken (i.e., before or after the undergraduate degree has been conferred) with the permission of the master's faculty advisor.

- At least half of the courses/credits applied to the WSE master's degree must be taken/earned at Johns Hopkins. Again, individual graduate programs reserve the right to enforce stricter policies.

Research and Scientific Writing Courses

Through the Center for Leadership Education graduate students may enroll in writing courses designed to assist with dissertation and grant writing. Students may enroll for this course at no additional charge. The course is offered in the fall and spring semesters however, space is limited. For additional information go to <https://engineering.jhu.edu/cle/>.

Transcripts

Transcripts may be requested from the Office of the Homewood Registrar. A request for one copy is normally processed within one to three business days of receipt of the request. Requests for multiple transcripts require additional processing time. Standard delivery of transcripts is by U.S. Mail first-class. Visit <https://registrar.jhu.edu/credentials/transcripts/> for information on ordering transcripts. Partial transcripts of a student's record will not be issued.

Official and/or unofficial transcripts of work at other institutions that the student has presented for admission or evaluation of credit become the property of the university and cannot be copied or reissued. If a transcript of this work is needed, the student must obtain it directly from the issuing institution.

Summer and Interession Courses

Summer Courses: while most summer courses offered at the Homewood Campus are undergraduate level courses, graduate students may enroll in these courses with permission from their department chair and the course instructor. Fulltime PhD students taking approved courses generally have their tuition covered under their doctoral funding. Typically, master's students are charged additional tuition for summer courses. In special cases, graduate students may also take courses at other divisions of the institution.

Graduate students who are funded and pursuing their degree fulltime over the summer months need to register for at least 6 credits of their program's summer research course. This includes nonresident students who are fully funded by their programs over the summer. Please consult with your academic program for more information.

Interession Courses: graduate students are eligible to enroll in Interession coursework. Grades are generally given on an P/F scale. Some students use this period to participate in research, independent study, or internships. A list of Interession offerings is published in late November or early December. A special form, available in the Homewood Registrar's Office, is used for Interession registration. Students should register before winter break. Students who register for research, independent study, or an internship during Interession must have the approval signature of their faculty sponsor and academic advising office. There may be costs with no financial aid associated with courses taken in interession. Students are encouraged to check with their academic dept. prior to registration.

Visit <https://summerprograms.jhu.edu/program/interession-program/> for more information.

Course Re-Take Policy

At the discretion of the Homewood graduate program, a graduate student may retake a course, but the original attempted course and grade will remain on the transcript. This applies whether the initial effort occurred while the student was an undergraduate student or a graduate student.

Academic Standing

The below policies apply to all new and continuing graduate students in the Whiting School of Engineering, unless specifically noted otherwise.

Academic Review Policy

This policy applies to all full-time WSE doctoral students and master's students conducting thesis research. Each graduate program is required to publish its own policies and standards with respect to academic standing. At the end of each semester, all full-time Homewood graduate programs are expected to review the academic records of their graduate students to evaluate academic progress. For more information, please review the Homewood Schools Graduate Student Academic Review Policy (<https://engineering.jhu.edu/graduate-studies/academic-policies-procedures-graduate/#accordion-panel-10>).

WSE has established a Guide to Effective Annual Reviews (<https://engineering.jhu.edu/graduate-studies/academic-policies-procedures-graduate/#accordion-panel-10>) to assist both advisors and students make these annual reviews a useful tool in the development of each student.

Students who fail to attain a program's minimum level of performance may be placed on academic probation or dismissed using the procedures outlined in the Homewood Schools Policy for Graduate Student Probation, Dismissal, and Funding Withdrawal (<http://homewoodgrad.jhu.edu/academics/policies/>). In making these decisions, particularly that of dismissal, the program will take into consideration extenuating circumstances beyond the student's control.

Probations and Written Guidances

At any point in an academic year, if it is determined that a graduate student has failed to meet minimum academic, research, and/or TA degree requirements (when the TA is a degree requirement*), that student may be placed on academic probation or a 'preliminary probation' status, called a 'Written Guidance'.

Both statuses require a formal letter/email and an offer of a meeting between the student and either their faculty advisor, chair, and/or departmental director of graduate studies. If part of an annual review, the documentation from the review will suffice as notification provided all

required information is included. Both a Written Guidance and Probation letter should clearly outline the student's academic shortcomings, indicate the corrective measures necessary to remain in the program and state the length of the student's pre- or -formal probationary period with potential outcomes. Any funding/status ramifications for the student should be included as well. Written Guidances and Probations are not posted on a student's transcript.

Please see the full policy (<https://homewoodgrad.jhu.edu/academics/policies/>) for more information on process, appeals, etc.

**note that if a TA is also- or only- required as part of a PhD work assignment, performance issues may be addressed as well/solely as per the PhD CBA (collective bargaining agreement).*

Dismissal

Dismissal After Probation

This must be done with a formal letter/email citing the reason for dismissal and requires an offer of a meeting between the student and their faculty advisor or the departmental director of graduate studies. Academic dismissal will be noted on the student's transcript only at the request of the program and with the approval of the cognizant Dean. A student may appeal this decision.

Dismissal Without Probation

A student may be dismissed without a formal probation period under three circumstances:

1. If they met the conditions for dismissal based on coursework as stated by the academic program in its department handbook or on its website;
2. If they failed an oral or written examination for which successful completion is necessary to continue in the program (as stated in the program's degree requirements), or failed to meet any condition resulting from a qualifying or GBO exam; or
3. has been found to have committed academic or research misconduct and expulsion is the outcome of the deliberations as outlined in the Homewood Graduate Academic Misconduct Policy (https://krieger.jhu.edu/hwgradaffairs/wp-content/uploads/sites/35/2018/08/Homewood-WSE_KSAS_-WSE-EP_KSAS-AAP-Graduate-Academic-Misconduct-Policy-2018SU.pdf) or the University Research Integrity Policy (https://www.jhu.edu/assets/uploads/2017/08/university_research_integrity_policy.pdf). Under these circumstances, programs are expected to follow the same procedures for Dismissal After Probation.

In addition, students are also subject to immediate dismissal on non-academic grounds in accordance with the Johns Hopkins Student Conduct Code (<https://studentaffairs.jhu.edu/policies-guidelines/student-code/>) as well as all applicable policies at the university policies page. (<https://www.jhu.edu/university-policies/>)

Academic Dismissal Consequences

When a student is dismissed from the University, several consequences follow:

- The Office of the Homewood Registrar (<https://studentaffairs.jhu.edu/registrar/>) cancels the student's registration for the next semester, and authorizes a reversal of tuition assessed for that semester. This does *not* mean that the student directly receives a refund. For example, if the student has been funded by the department, the department would be eligible for the refunded funds.

Additionally, any refund amount is subject to the refund schedule (<https://studentaffairs.jhu.edu/student-accounts/refunds/>) published by the Office of Student Accounts.

- Notation of dismissal may be placed on the student's transcript at the request of the program and with the approval of the cognizant Dean.
- The Office of Student Financial Services (<https://finaid.jhu.edu/graduate-aid/>) suspends financial aid to the student, and work-study aid.
- The Office of International Services (<https://ois.jhu.edu/>) performs duties as required by U.S. federal regulations regarding persons not eligible to study at the University.
- Eligibility for student health benefits (<https://studentaffairs.jhu.edu/registrar/students/student-health-benefits/>) will end. Please contact the Office of the Homewood Registrar for specific information.
- The student loses access to university services, property, and nonpublic spaces.

Please see the full policy (<https://homewoodgrad.jhu.edu/academics/policies/>) for more information on process, appeals, etc.

Readmission Following Dismissal

The terms for readmitting a student who has been dismissed for academic reasons are established by individual departments. The readmission process should be described in the dismissal letter, if deemed appropriate. Students who have been dismissed should discuss the readmission process with their advisor. The terms for readmitting a student who has been dismissed for reasons other than academic/research/TA performance are decided by the student's cognizant Dean's Office of Academic Affairs.

Please see the full policy (<https://homewoodgrad.jhu.edu/academics/policies/>) for more information on process, appeals, etc.

Withdrawal

Once a student withdraws from the University, their student transcript is closed, and changes to their academic record will not be permitted. International students must consult with Office of International Services (<https://ois.jhu.edu/>) to ascertain their visa obligations before withdrawing from the university. Students who withdraw from their program must be formally readmitted, at the discretion of the department, before they may return to the university. If readmitted, they do not pay a second application fee, but must satisfy the residency requirement for the degree following readmission (even if previously satisfied), and pay all outstanding fees.

Please see the full policy (<https://homewoodgrad.jhu.edu/academics/policies/>) for more information on process, appeals, etc. Note that the same ramifications as listed under 'Academic Dismissal Consequences' apply.

Voluntary Withdrawal

Students wishing to withdraw from the University must send an official email to their department, citing their last day of engagement in the program. The department will then file a Termination/Withdrawal Form with their respective Graduate Affairs office. Graduate students are encouraged to consult the chair and/or DGS of their department and OIS (if applicable) prior to submitting their written notice.

Withdrawal by Lack of Registration

Students who are not registered by the end of the fourth week of a given semester and either:

- have *not* responded to correspondence from their department, advisor, Office of Academic Affairs, and/or Office of the Homewood Registrar about their intention to remain in the program, **or**
- have responded to correspondence but have *not* made effort to maintain a valid student status (defined as either enrolled or on an approved leave of absence), will have been deemed to have withdrawn themselves from the university and will be processed as a Withdrawn student in the student system (SIS).

It is important to note that paying tuition is not the same as registering for classes. For more information, please see the Student Enrollment Statuses (p.) information under Academic Policies.

Withdrawal Consequences

Any outstanding fees will be followed up with the student/their department by the Office of Student Accounts. Students who withdraw from their program must be formally readmitted, at the discretion of the department, before they may return to the university.

Degree Requirements

The below policies apply to both continuing and new students, unless noted specifically otherwise.

Academic Requirements for Graduate Degrees

Information for degrees administered by the Homewood Graduate Board is located at <https://homewoodgrad.jhu.edu/graduate-board/degree-requirements/>

Information for degrees administered by the Doctor of Philosophy Board is located at <https://provost.jhu.edu/education/graduate-and-professional-education/doctor-philosophy-board/>.

Doctor of Philosophy (WSE)

In addition to any departmental/divisional PhD requirements, PhD students must meet the following to be considered eligible to apply for graduation:

- A minimum of two consecutive semesters as a full-time, resident graduate student.
- Completion of registration in the semester during which degree requirements are met (*note: students completing in a Summer term generally should have been registered for the summer graduate research course, but it is allowable if the last official semester of registration is the Spring semester immediately prior to degree conferral*).
- Certification by a department or program committee that all school, departmental, program, and/or committee requirements have been fulfilled.
- A dissertation approved by at least two referees appointed by the department or program committee, and submitted to Electronic Theses & Dissertations (<https://www.library.jhu.edu/library-services/electronic-theses-dissertations/>).
- Successful completion of a Graduate Board Oral (GBO) examination as determined by the department or program committee. This is classified as either a preliminary or a final examination.

- University time-to-degree is 9 years, non-inclusive of approved LOA semesters. The Whiting School expected time-to-degree is 7 years, noting that a degree is not guaranteed, and continuation in and successful completion of the program will be based/contingent upon satisfactory academic progress and completion of required PhD milestones. Students who may be still working on their degree beyond the 7 years must have their advisor and dept petition the WSE Dean's Office of Graduate Education and Lifelong Learning (Associate Vice Dean Christine Kavanagh) to extend. If a student needs to petition beyond the university's deadline of 9 years, the student's advisor and dept must petition the Doctor of Philosophy Board. Contact Associate Vice Dean Christine Kavanagh for more information.

PHD GOOD-STANDING POLICY

PhD Good Standing Policy

A PhD student conducting research and/or in the writing phase of their degree program will not be able to remain in good standing with their academic and research progress if they do not have a research/dissertation advisor¹. As such, a student who is unable to secure a research/dissertation advisor within 4 months of either:

1. a curriculum/program requirement to find an advisor and/or
2. leaving/parting ways with a previous advisor

may be placed on probation or terminated from the PhD program due to a lack of faculty-advised progress.

If a student in this situation has found a new advisor before the deadline, but then is again- in the next 12 month period- without an advisor due to either #1 or # 2 above at any point in that 12 months, they will only be granted one additional 4 month period (**called the 4-month clock**) to find a new permanent advisor or they will be terminated from the PhD program due to an extended period of lack of academic/research progress.

Note that it is typically not the role of a department to find an advisor for a student, but program Directors of Graduate Study and Chairs/Heads are typically able and willing to offer guidance and suggestions for students who are looking for an advisor. Different programs may have specific policies pertaining to the timeline of advisor assignments and grace periods for students switching advisors, but typically should not have a grace period of less than 3 months for a student to find a new advisor. Students should consult with their departmental Academic Staff and/or Director of Graduate Study for guidance.

This policy applies to both continuing and new students.

When students enter the **4-month clock** period, their academic program typically issues an 'advisor transition' letter outlining deadlines, expectations, plans for interim advising support, etc. The letter will also include any interim transition rotation information (such as if a student is temporarily rotating in a potential advisor's lab) if available and relevant. A rotation does not guarantee permanent placement.

¹ A research/dissertation advisor is best defined as a departmentally-approved faculty member under whose guidance a student is conducting research/writing their dissertation and, in many cases, in whose lab/group the student is associated and expected to participate.

NOTE: As of April 17, 2024, JHU PhD students have unionized under TRU-UE Local 197. Please refer to the collective bargaining agreement (<https://provost.jhu.edu/education/graduate-and-professional-education/>)

phd-union/collective-bargaining-agreement/) for information about switching supervisors of *work* appointments.

WSE Master's Degrees

- Every student must register as a full-time graduate student for at least two semesters or satisfy an equivalent requirement approved by the appropriate department. (Combined bachelor's-master's degree students are exempt, as are those who enter a WSE master's degree program after two or fewer semesters following completion of a JHU undergraduate degree.)
- Every student must be registered in the semester during which degree requirements are met; this includes students who have no courses remaining in which to enroll but must resolve coursework for which an Incomplete grade was assigned.
- Every student must provide certification by a department or program committee that all departmental or committee requirements have been fulfilled.
- If the student is submitting a formal essay to the MSE Library to help complete master's degree requirements, the essay must be approved by at least one reader. (See the WSE Faculty Titles table, under "Thesis Supervision of Graduate Students," to determine who may serve as the reader/advisor. Additional readers, if required by program, need only program approval.)
- All courses applied to the master's degree must be at the 600-level or higher. Exceptions may be granted with program and dean's office approval, if a course was taken while an undergrad, or there is no 600-level equivalent for a 400 level course that meets degree requirements.
- Every student must earn the master's degree within five consecutive academic years (10 semesters). Only semesters during which a student has a university-approved leave of absence are exempt from the 10-semester limit; otherwise, all semesters from the beginning of the student's graduate studies—whether the student is resident or not—count toward the 10-semester limit.
- Every student must successfully complete the graduate academic ethics course (EN.500.603 Graduate Academic Ethics).
- Every student must complete training on the responsible and ethical conduct of research. (Please see the WSE Policy on the Responsible Conduct of Research (<https://engineering.jhu.edu/wse-research/resources-policies-forms/responsible-conduct-of-research/>)).

Time to Degree (TTD)

The TTD count begins with the first semester of registration as a matriculated student. Time spent on an approved LOA will not be counted toward the graduate student's TTD. Students unable to complete degree requirements within the required time limit are required to withdraw from the University.

Master's TTD: Every student must earn the master's degree within five consecutive academic years (10 semesters). Only semesters during which a student has a university-approved leave of absence are exempt from the 10-semester limit; otherwise, all semesters from the beginning of the student's graduate studies—whether the student is resident or not—count toward the 10-semester limit.

PhD TTD: University PhD time-to-degree is 9 years, non-inclusive of approved LOA semesters. The Whiting School expected PhD time-to-degree is 7 years, noting that a degree is not guaranteed, and continuation in and successful completion of the program will be based/contingent upon satisfactory academic progress and completion of required PhD milestones. Students who may be still working on their

degree beyond the 7 years must have their advisor and dept petition the WSE Dean's Office of Graduate Education and Lifelong Learning (Associate Vice Dean Christine Kavanagh) to extend. If a student needs to petition beyond the university's deadline of 9 years, the student's advisor and dept must petition the Doctor of Philosophy Board. Contact Associate Vice Dean Christine Kavanagh for more information.

Co-tutelle de Thèse

JHU will recognize dissertation research and subsequent dissertation submission for the purposes of a degree from JHU alone. It will sign no agreement that supports the concept of a student submitting the same work to different universities to receive two distinct degrees.

The University, however, wants to promote international exchange and in this spirit the Graduate Board has agreed to accommodate students with a desire to include faculty from a foreign university to participate in their research and defense process. Upon submission and review of a current curriculum vitae, the University will allow one advisor to be a faculty member of a foreign university and in certain cases will allow the committee to be expanded to include other faculty from a foreign university as long as the majority represent JHU. The University will provide no funds to cover expenses. Funding for travel would be up to the department or the foreign university. Please contact Associate Vice Dean Christine Kavanagh for more information.

All proposed co-tutelle agreements are to be submitted to the WSE Faculty Governance for review- there may be additional university permissions required. Please contact Associate Vice Dean Christine Kavanagh for more information.

Commencement and Degree Conferral

The below policies apply to both continuing and new students, unless noted specifically otherwise.

There are three official conferral dates each academic year for the University (December, May, August). The conferral date is printed on the diploma. A formal University Commencement Ceremony is held once per academic year, traditionally in May.

Students who have not satisfied all graduation requirements by the deadlines determined by the WSE Dean's Office of Graduate Education and Lifelong Learning (PhDs, D.Eng, Master's, etc.) and University Doctor of Philosophy Board (WSE PhDs) are not eligible to participate in the university commencement ceremony. Each division may hold their own graduate recognition ceremonies which do not signify university degree conferral.

Students who complete their degree requirements (1) in-between conferral periods or (2) in a conferral period before the diploma/transcript is updated may request an official statement of completion from the WSE Dean's Office of Graduate Education and Lifelong Learning. Individual academic programs are also typically able to generate letters of completion in support of post-graduation employment requirements, etc. Visit <https://studentaffairs.jhu.edu/registrar/students/graduation/> for deadlines and official conferral dates, and contact individual academic programs for more information.

Upon degree conferral, the graduate's record is closed. No changes thereafter can be made to the graduate's transcript.

A student will not be graduated with unresolved outstanding charges of misconduct or academic ethics violations.

Application for Graduation

All graduate students must submit an online Application to Graduate, through their SIS account, in order to generate degree conferral and receive a diploma. Students should consult with their degree program (academic program staff and/or the director of graduate study in their program), and the WSE engineering website respectively to determine current deadlines. The dates of these deadlines change each academic year.

In addition to submitting the general application to graduate, engineering students preparing to graduate from a master's degree must complete paperwork (typically called a degree/master's checklist) and/or a Stellic audit indicating the courses they intend to apply to their degree. This paperwork is/instructions are distributed to students by each department's academic program staff, and once completed should be returned to them for program clearance before they in turn submit the paperwork to the WSE Office of Graduate Education and Lifelong Learning for final signoff. All double-counting, transfer, and bachelor's/master's course exceptions/allowances must be approved by the student's program prior to the submission of their program's degree signoff and must be noted in each student's Stellic record, along with all documentation of approvals and exceptions.

Completing Graduation Requirements

Departmental graduation requirements vary; therefore, students are encouraged to speak with their departmental academic program staff to learn details of their requirements.

WSE MASTER'S DEGREE COMPLETION

All WSE master's students must complete all of the following steps for the degree to be conferred, and to generate a diploma:

- An Application to Graduate must be submitted to the Office of the Homewood Registrar either online or on paper, depending upon status;
- Minimum of two consecutive semesters of registration as a full-time, resident graduate student;
- Completion of registration in the semester that degree requirements are met (noting that summer is not a required term for registration);
- Receive a passing grade in Graduate Academic Ethics and complete at least the Responsible Conduct of Research online course (students conducting research may need to complete additional requirements);
- Department-specific degree requirements checklist (completion certification) forms and/or Stellic audits must be submitted to and approved by the department academic program staff, and then those forms/Stellic audits must then be submitted to/confirmed by the WSE Office of Graduate Education and Lifelong Learning by the published deadline(s);
- If a formal master's essay, capstone, or project is used to complete degree requirements, the student should check with their academic program to determine if they must submit a properly-formatted document to the MSE Library Electronic Theses and Dissertations (<https://www.library.jhu.edu/library-services/electronic-theses-dissertations/>) system by the date listed on the WSE website; the emailed submission receipt (generated by the library) must be included in paperwork forwarded to the WSE Office of Graduate Education and Lifelong Learning.

WSE Master's Time to Degree Policy (<https://engineering.jhu.edu/education/graduate-studies/graduate-academic-policies-procedures/>)

Visit: <http://engineering.jhu.edu/graduate-studies/academic-policies-procedures-graduate/> for more information on deadlines and policies.

DOCTORAL DEGREE COMPLETION (WSE)

- A minimum of two consecutive semesters of registration as a full-time, resident graduate student;
- Completion of registration in the semester that degree requirements are met;
- Certification by a department or program committee that all school*, departmental, program, and/or committee requirements have been fulfilled;
- A dissertation approved by at least two referees appointed by the department or program committee** and submitted to the library. The dissertation must adhere to the Doctoral Board Dissertation Guidelines. (Referees must certify that the dissertation is a significant contribution to knowledge and worthy of publication)
- Successful completion of a Graduate Board/Doctoral Board oral examination. As determined by the department or program committee, this is classified as either preliminary or a final examination
- Completing the degree by the 7 years (WSE TTD) or 9 years University TTD (with permission).
- Meeting all individual program degree requirements (seminars, courses, teaching requirements, etc.)

**All Whiting School of Engineering doctoral students must complete coursework on academic ethics and responsible conduct of research. These courses do not count towards program degree requirements.*

***Referees (also known as readers) are responsible for signing the 'readers letter/report' that confirms that the dissertation is a significant contribution to knowledge and worthy of publication. At least one referee should be internal to the student's academic program, external referees (to the university) must be approved by the WSE Dean's Office/WSE Faculty Governance through the same process as external examiners participating in the GBO/DBO examination.*

DEGREE COMPLETION DEADLINES

Each year, the WSE Office of Graduate Education and Lifelong Learning (for WSE master's and D.Eng. students) works with the WSE faculty governance and Doctor of Philosophy Board to determine deadlines for submission of theses and essays for the following academic year. These deadlines must be met for a student to be listed as a degree candidate. Students can access the calendar of deadlines on the Homewood Graduate website and the websites of the WSE Office of Graduate Education and Lifelong Learning, or by contacting their department academic program staff.

- Students who complete and submit (with approval) their master's essay or doctoral dissertation after the end of a semester but before the first day of class of the next semester do not have to register for that next semester. (They will have to file for graduation in that semester, and will not be eligible for student payroll once they are no longer a registered student). These are called '**Pre-Semester Completers**'.
- Graduate students completing a final degree during the first eight weeks of the fall semester or the first four weeks of the spring semester will generate a tuition reimbursement for that semester to whatever entity covered the cost - the student, the department, the advisor, etc. This applies only to students for whom completion of a master's project, master's essay, master's journal submission, or doctoral thesis or for those resolving an incomplete is the sole

remaining degree requirement at the start of the final semester. These are called '**Grace Period Completers**'.

- If a student completes a Tuition Deferral Form indicating an expectation to complete the degree within a specific grace period, no payment is required to register for that semester. However, if the grace period deadline is not met that semester's tuition charge will be added to the student's account.
- Note that students who complete in the Grace Period for either the fall or spring semesters (or finish in the summer term), and are registered in the semester/term in which they completed are eligible to stay on student payroll until the degree conferral date.

GRADES TOWARDS DEGREE COMPLETION

Grades must be submitted in SIS by the posted deadline for each semester, including grades for courses that are required for graduation. Graduating students who are taking courses at cooperative schools or other divisions of the University must make arrangements with their instructors on the first day of class to have final grades submitted to the host school's Registrar and then to the Homewood Registrar by the Homewood grade submission deadline. If such an arrangement cannot be made, students should reconsider staying enrolled in the course, as it may risk their ability to confer in their chosen period.

Graduate Board *(To be replaced by the WSE Faculty Governance and WSE Office of Graduate Education and Lifelong Learning effective July 1, 2026)*

The Homewood Graduate Board (<http://homewoodgrad.jhu.edu/academics/graduate-board/>) is responsible for the administration of policies and procedures for the Doctor of Philosophy in the Schools of Arts and Sciences and Engineering.

The Graduate Board oversees:

- Graduate Board Oral (GBO) Examinations for WSE Ph.D. students: with the approval of the department chair, a GBO may be scheduled at any time during the academic year. Requests for a GBO examination must be submitted to the Graduate Board a minimum of three weeks before the examination is to take place.
- Dissertation/Thesis Instructions: The student is responsible for obtaining and observing the detailed instructions concerning submission of their dissertation/thesis from their departmental office, and the Homewood Graduate Board Office. Visit <https://homewoodgrad.jhu.edu/graduate-board/> for more information.
- Initial Ph.D. Degree confirmation
- Recommendations for conferral to the Doctor of Philosophy Board
- Vetting and recommending new PhD degree programs to the Doctor of Philosophy Board
- See the Homewood Graduate Post-Doctoral Affairs website (<https://homewoodgrad.jhu.edu/>) for more information.
- **After July 1, 2026, more information will be posted about redirects and any updates/changes to PhD policies and practices. Please contact Associate Vice Dean Christine Kavanagh for more information.**

Doctor of Philosophy Board

The Doctor of Philosophy Board (<https://provost.jhu.edu/doctor-philosophy-board/>) advises the Provost about University-wide issues pertaining to the PhD. It approves new degree programs and sets guidelines and policies that affect all PhD. students. The Board respects the strong tradition of local autonomy of the Schools, and seeks to

enhance the visibility and prominence of PhD. education across the University.

The Homewood Graduate Board submits its list of approved KSAS and WSE PhD conferrals to the Doctor of Philosophy Board for final university approval. No PhD degree is officially conferred until after the Doctor of Philosophy Board has approved and recommended conferral to the President of the University, and the President approves.

Dissertation and Thesis/Essay Submission ETD (ELECTRONIC THESES AND DISSERTATIONS)

An ETD is a digital version of a dissertation that is available to the public via the Internet. Universities and colleges in the United States and abroad have been moving toward this type of publication for the past decade. In the Fall 2013, Johns Hopkins launched its own ETD portal and process.

All thesis and dissertation submissions must be through the ETD process and portal. See the ETD page for more information, deadlines, and instructions. (<https://www.library.jhu.edu/library-services/electronic-theses-dissertations/>)

The student is responsible for obtaining and observing the detailed instructions concerning submission of their dissertation/thesis from their departmental office and ETD guidelines (<http://guides.library.jhu.edu/etd/>) of the Johns Hopkins Libraries and Museums. Students may also contact the ETD coordinator at etd-support@jhu.edu.

After submitting their dissertation to the ETD Submittal Tool (<http://etd.library.jhu.edu/>), the library will check the dissertation for proper formatting and either approve it or contact the student to make required changes. After the ETD is approved the student will receive an approval confirmation from the system. Students are required to forward this approval email to their departmental academic staff and cc the Associate Vice Dean for Graduate Education and Lifelong Learning in WSE (Christine Kavanagh) as appropriate, with the following items:

- The title of their dissertation typed in the body of the email in title case format with correct spelling and punctuation.
- The degree type and program/department
- A single PDF of the dissertation title page and abstract

The degree requirements are not complete unless the final ETD is submitted to the library by the published deadline and the above information and attachments are provided by the student via the email to the department and the WSE Office of Graduate Education and Lifelong Learning.

Graduate Alumni Enrollment

After degree conferral, WSE Homewood graduate alumni who wish to enroll for coursework that does not lead to a degree are considered Visiting Graduate Students, and should follow the application and enrollment information located at <https://engineering.jhu.edu/admissions/graduate-admissions/full-time-programs/how-to-apply/visiting-students-scholars/>. (<https://engineering.jhu.edu/admissions/graduate-admissions/full-time-programs/how-to-apply/visiting-students-scholars/>)