



AOP 12.18: ACADEMIC AMNESTY FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Academic Operating Policy (AOP) is to assist graduate students in their pursuit of graduate education by giving them the option of invoking academic amnesty.

POLICY/PROCEDURE

Academic amnesty is designed to provide those graduate students previously enrolled at Mississippi State University the opportunity to have up to 9 hours of previously completed graduate courses eliminated from the computation of their grade point average upon successful readmission.

To be eligible for the program, an individual must not have been enrolled as a graduate student at Mississippi State University for at least three years. Academic amnesty may be requested through the student's academic dean's office after either provisional admission to a graduate program or provisional readmission has been granted by the department. Upon successful completion of at least 9 credit hours with a 3.0 or higher GPA provisional admission is removed, and the student can then invoke academic amnesty.

With notification from the Dean of The Graduate School, the Registrar's Office will update the student's academic record showing all courses and grades to be included in academic amnesty and recalculate the graduate GPA accordingly. Academic amnesty will be applied to the student's record only once and the new grade point average will be noted on the transcript at the end of the semester during which the request was approved.

The student is permitted to retake courses that were included as part of the 9 hours of coursework eliminated under the academic amnesty. All courses and grades will remain a part of the student's academic record. A notation will appear on the transcript indicating the student was approved for academic amnesty. Those courses approved for academic amnesty and then granted cannot be revalidated or applied toward the completion of another graduate degree.

The academic amnesty policy is applicable only to credits earned at MSU as part of current curriculum requirements to earn a degree. Students must be advised that the academic amnesty provision pertains only to Mississippi State University and will not necessarily be honored by other institutions of higher learning.

REVIEW

This AOP will be reviewed every four years or whenever circumstances require an earlier review by the Executive Vice Provost with recommendations for revision to the Provost and Executive Vice President.

REVIEWED BY:

/s/ Russell Carr 9/19/2025
Chair, Graduate Council Date

/s/ Peter Ryan 2/25/2026
Executive Vice Provost Date

/s/ David Shaw 10/20/2025
Provost and Executive Vice President Date

/s/ Stacy Haynes 2/13/2026
President, Robert Holland Faculty Senate Date

/s/ Tracey N. Baham 2/25/2026
Associate Vice President, Institutional Strategy & Effectiveness Date

/s/ Joan Lucas 2/27/2026
General Counsel Date

APPROVED BY:

/s/ Mark E. Keenum 3/23/2026
President Date