

(1) Restored Full Text

3.21.1 Graduate Admissions

A student who has taken the bachelor's degree or a degree in technology at any recognized college, university, or technical institution may be admitted as a graduate student and by permission of the graduate and research committee may pursue studies leading to an advanced degree. Admission to graduate standing is obtained by securing the approval of the dean of the appropriate college and of the chairperson of the department in which the student intends to do the major portion of his or her work.

The decision to admit a student to graduate studies ordinarily rests with the chairperson of the department in which the student wishes to major. This procedure is warranted by the specialized information from which the student's qualifications and his or her compatibility with the department must be judged. The departments set their recruitment policies without much intercommunication; they attract students from different sets of schools; and their forms of support -- and thus their needs for student help -- differ notably. Thus there is good reason to provide an overview of the admission standards which are observed in enrolling new students into graduate studies.

There are two categories of graduate students, namely regular graduate students and associate graduate students. Except for qualified Lehigh undergraduates, only those who have been officially admitted by the appropriate college either as regular or associate graduate students may register for graduate courses or take them for credit. Only regular graduate students are candidates for graduate degrees.

Applications for admission as a regular graduate student are accepted only up to thirty days before the start of classes. Applications for admission as associate graduate students are accepted during this 30-day period. Associate status may be offered to those who apply for regular student status but fail to qualify. Between the end of the regular admission period and the first day of classes there is a late admission period in which only associate applications are considered. Associate students admitted during this period and who are clearly qualified for regular admission may petition for regular status after the start of classes provided all documents have been received. There is no late application fee.

Applicants for associate status must complete a simplified application form that requires only an unofficial transcript and does not require letters of reference. The registrar will require an official final transcript before grades are released.

Associate graduate students must complete the first nine consecutive credit hours of courses numbered 300 or higher with at most one grade of "C", "C+", or "B-", all other grades of "B" or better in order to continue.

Individual departments may require more rigorous probationary standards. After the probationary period of nine credit hours is completed, an associate student must petition for regular student status in order to continue. This will require the submission of the regular admission documents if they have not been previously submitted.

Courses completed during a successful probationary period may count toward a graduate degree if they are part of an approved program.

In order to be considered for admission as a regular graduate student an applicant must satisfy at least one of the following conditions:

- a. have an undergraduate G.P.A. of at least 2.75;
- b. have an average of at least 3.00 for the last two semesters of undergraduate study;
- c. have scores at or above the 75th percentile on the GRE or other recognized test;
- d. have a graduate G.P.A. of at least 3.00 on a minimum of twelve hours of graduate work at other institutions, or
- e. have successfully completed the probationary conditions as an associate student as described above.

Satisfying the appropriate conditions above is necessary but not sufficient for admission as a regular graduate student. Individual departments may require higher qualifications.

If a department wishes to offer admission to a student who fails to meet any of the requirements, the department is required to submit its recommendation to the appropriate college office with an explanation. Cases that cannot be resolved by the chairperson and the dean will be referred to the graduate and research committee for a decision.

Undergraduate students who have achieved junior standing and a grade point average of 3.0 or greater may petition the Committee on the Standing of Graduate Students (SOGS) for permission to register for graduate level coursework. Undergraduate students may also request permission from the college administering the graduate program to apply course credits taken as an undergraduate toward a graduate degree. The following guidelines should be followed:

1. No undergraduate student may take 400-level courses during a term where the student's total credits are greater than 18 (including audits), with the exception of students enrolled in a 4+1 program.
2. Students requesting a second 400-level course in a given term must petition the Standing of Graduate Students committee and may not register for more than 15 credits total in that term, with the exception of students enrolled in a 4+1 program.
3. An undergraduate student may request permission to use no more than 12 credits taken as an undergraduate toward a graduate degree. These courses must be at the 300 and 400 level and beyond all undergraduate degree requirements. Courses at the 200 level must be approved by the course instructor, department chairperson, and the appropriate college dean to be considered eligible for graduate program credits. The course credits may not have been submitted as part of the requirements for a previous degree. A grade of B or better must be attained.
4. Students who elect to pursue a graduate degree at Lehigh University must apply to their program of interest through the graduate application process. Students may elect to reserve credits either before or after their official graduate application is completed, but before the baccalaureate degree is awarded.
5. All students receiving a graduate degree must be enrolled at least one full semester or summer as a regular-status graduate student prior to the awarding of a graduate degree.

(2) Synthesized Text (including current R&P and highlighting mistakenly deleted R&P)

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Cases that cannot be resolved by the chairperson and the dean will be referred to the graduate and research committee for a decision.

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4. Students who elect to pursue a graduate degree at Lehigh University must apply to their program of interest through the graduate application process. Students may elect to reserve credits either before or after their official graduate application is completed, but before the baccalaureate degree is awarded.
5. All students receiving a graduate degree must be enrolled at least one full semester or summer as a regular-status graduate student prior to the awarding of a graduate degree.

(3) Current R&P

Undergraduate students who have achieved junior standing and a grade point average of 3.0 or greater may petition the Committee on the Standing of Graduate Students (SOGS) for permission to register for graduate level coursework. Undergraduate students may also request permission from the college administering the graduate program to apply course credits taken as an undergraduate toward a graduate degree. The following guidelines should be followed:

1. No undergraduate student may take 400-level courses during a term where the student's total credits are greater than 18 (including audits), with the exception of students enrolled in a 4+1 program.
2. Students requesting a second 400-level course in a given term must petition the Standing of Graduate Students committee and may not register for more than 15 credits total in that term, with the exception of students enrolled in a 4+1 program.
3. An undergraduate student may request permission to use no more than 12 credits taken as an undergraduate toward a graduate degree. These courses must be at the 300 and 400 level and beyond all undergraduate degree requirements. Courses at the 200 level must be approved by the course instructor, department chairperson, and the appropriate college dean to be considered eligible for graduate program credits. The course credits may not have been submitted as part of the requirements for a previous degree. A grade

of B or better must be attained.

4. Students who elect to pursue a graduate degree at Lehigh University must apply to their program of interest through the graduate application process. Students may elect to reserve credits either before or after their official graduate application is completed, but before the baccalaureate degree is awarded.
5. All students receiving a graduate degree must be enrolled at least one full semester or summer as a regular-status graduate student prior to the awarding of a graduate degree.

(4) EXPLANATION FOR NEEDED CHANGE

This version of 3.21.1 incorporates the approved text from December 2025 (which edited a change of September 2023), as well as the original text that was accidentally deleted when the September 2023 change was implemented.

(5) EXPLANATION FOR WHY CHANGE ADDRESSES ISSUE

It combines the two versions as noted above.

(6) PROPOSAL HISTORY

September 17, 2026: Vice Chair Angela Hicks consulted with Parliamentarian Doug Mahony on process and Parliamentarian Mahony affirmed that in cases of administrative error, the Senate should correct the record at its next meeting and restore the mistakenly deleted text

September 15, 2026: Chair Jenna Lay and Vice Chair Angela Hicks reviewed past versions of R&P and past meeting documents to identify the source of the error

September 2, 2026: Sabrina Jedlicka, Deputy Provost of Graduate Education, notified the Senate Chair and Vice Chair of the mistake and requested consultation on process for restoring mistakenly deleted text

(7) PROPOSED IMPLEMENTATION DATE

Following notification at Faculty Senate Meeting on October 2, 2026.

(8) IMPACTS ON OTHER PARTS OF R&P