



# Policy

## University Policy AC-24.01-05/14

**Policy Title:** Rigor of Graduate Degree Programs Policy

**Originator:** Dr. R. Podemski, Dean

**Responsible Office:** Graduate School

### Reason for Policy/Purpose:

To describe requirements for graduate programs at The University of West Florida (UWF) in order to ensure academic rigor.

### Who Does this Govern and Who Needs to Know this Policy?

All graduate department faculty and administrators.

### Policy Statement:

To ensure that all graduate degree programs at UWF are of the highest quality, are aligned with the goals of UWF, and are consistent with Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) guidelines, it is essential that all graduate degree programs:

- have an Academic Learning Plan (ALP) with measurable student learning outcomes as stipulated in UWF Academic Learning Plan Policies and Procedures.
- have a curriculum map consistent with UWF curriculum map guidelines that provides an overview of the structure of the curriculum, indicates the contribution of individual courses to the goals of the program, and identifies courses in which departments collect assessment data for specific learning outcomes.
- be progressively more advanced in academic content than undergraduate programs. Program ALPs for these graduate degree programs must reflect the *advanced* nature of the academic content and distinguish it from additional content or deeper understanding of undergraduate program content.
- include at least 24 graduate credit hours earned through instruction offered by UWF.
- include opportunities for students to participate in scholarly research and/or appropriate professional preparation experiences. These opportunities may be offered through traditional thesis or dissertation experiences, through culminating-experience projects, or through assignments embedded in particular courses in the program.
- Include the study of the literature of the discipline. Study of the literature of the discipline must be reflected in the program ALP.

**Procedures:**

Departments must document compliance with this policy when establishing or modifying a graduate program (see UWF Policies AC-09.00-06/09 and AC-21.01-05/14, for guidelines). Compliance with this policy is verified through the CCR process. ALPs and curriculum maps are archived by departments on the website of the Center for University Teaching, Learning, and Assessment (CUTLA).

**APPROVED:** Dr. Judith A. Bense, President

**Date:** 5/27/14

**History:** Adopted May 2014.