

## ATTACHMENT

### ACADEMIC GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS

The Graduate School of the University of Arkansas recognizes that there may be occasions when a graduate student has a grievance about some aspect of his/her academic involvement. It is an objective of this University that such a graduate student may have prompt and formal resolution of his or her personal academic grievances and that this be accomplished according to orderly procedures. Below are the procedures to be utilized when a graduate student has an academic grievance with a faculty member or administrator. If the student has a grievance against another student or another employee of the University, or if the student has a grievance which is not academic in nature, the appropriate policy may be found by contacting the Office of Affirmative Action or the office of the Graduate Dean. For policies and procedures pertaining to conduct offenses, please consult the *Code of Student Life*. (Note: Master's students in the Graduate School of Business should follow the grievance procedures for that School.)

#### Definition of Terms:

*Graduate student* - Under this procedure, a graduate student is any person who has been formally admitted into the Graduate School of the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, and who is/was enrolled as a graduate-level student at the time the alleged grievance occurred.

*Academic grievance* - An academic grievance means a dispute concerning some aspect of academic involvement arising from an administrative or faculty decision which the graduate student claims is unjust or is in violation of his or her rights. The Graduate School considers any behavior on the part of a faculty member or an administrator, which the student believes to interfere with his/her academic progress, to be subject to a grievance. While an enumeration of the students' rights with regard to their academic involvement is not possible or desirable, we have provided a short list as illustration. However, as in all cases involving individual rights, whether a specific behavior constitutes a violation of these rights can only be decided in context, following a review by a panel of those given the authority to make such a decision.

In general, we consider that the graduate student:

- 1) has the right to competent instruction;
- 2) is entitled to have access to the instructor at hours other than class times (office hours);
- 3) is entitled to know the grading system by which he/she will be judged;
- 4) has the right to evaluate each course and instructor;
- 5) has the right to be treated with respect and dignity.

In addition, an academic grievance may include alleged violations of the affirmative action plans of the University as related to academic policies and regulations, as well as disputes over grades, ~~graduate assistantship employment agreements~~, course requirements, graduation/degree program requirements, thesis/dissertation/advisory committee composition, and/or advisor decisions.