Summary of Proposed Changes to the Graduate Academic Regulations

Below is a summary of the significant structural and policy changes in the update of the Graduate Academic Regulations (in effect in Fall 2015) from the 2012 Graduate Academic Regulations. Minor changes have not been included here. This document only summarizes these changes and should not be construed as actual policy. Please read the update of the Graduate Academic Regulations for more detail and precise policy.

Numbering:
All sections have been numbered. This allows for easier referencing.

Redundancy:
In the 2012 regulations, some policies are stated more than once, sometimes with slightly different wording. This has caused confusion. The 2015 regulations state each policy only one time.

Readmission of Students with Previous AU Graduate Records:
Students who have been separated with low GPAs or were dismissed may reapply for admission to degree programs, certificate programs, or non-degree status. If the academic unit wants to readmit the student, approval for readmission is required by the Vice Provost for Research and Dean of Graduate Studies. This allows for students who have sufficient evidence of maturity and academic growth to enroll again in a graduate program at AU. (2.8)

Incompletes:
If a student who is not placed on Academic Probation is assigned an incomplete grade and the final assigned grade brings the student’s cumulative GPA to below 3.00, the student will be placed on Academic Probation at the end of the semester when the default grade was assigned. The student will not be placed on academic probation at the time the course was taken. (3.13.4)

If a student separates or is dismissed from the University, any unresolved Incomplete will receive the default grade. (3.7)

Internships:
The minimum number of credits hours associated with weekly internship work hours has been changed to match the undergraduate regulations. (3.9)
**Academic Probation/Dismissal:**
If, at any point while a student is on Academic Probation status, it becomes mathematically impossible to raise his or her cumulative GPA to 3.00 within the allotted 9 credits from the onset of Academic Probation, the student will be academically dismissed. (3.13.1)

For example, suppose a student goes on probation due to a cumulative GPA below 3.00. In the first semester on probation this student enrolls in 6 credits hours.
- If at the end of that first semester, he or she has a cumulative GPA of 3.00 or higher, the student is no longer on probation.
- If at the end of that first semester, his or her cumulative GPA is still below 3.00 but could be raised to 3.00 within 3 credits, the student could enroll in classes the following semester. The university regulations would not limit to the number of credits in which the student could enroll. However, academic units are free to impose additional limits. The student must earn a 3.00 cumulative GPA at the end of the next semester if he or she enrolls in 3 or more credits.
- If at the end of that first semester, it is not mathematically possible to raise his or her cumulative GPA to 3.00 within 3 credits, the student would be academically dismissed after the first semester on probation.

The 2015 regulations clarify probation and dismissal for non-degree and certificate students. Non-degree students follow the same rules and degree-seeking students. (3.13.3) Certificate students also follow the same rules, except they may be placed on probation after 6 credits and have 6 credits to raise their cumulative GPA to 3.00. (3.13.2) These two policies on probation and dismissal are not a change from the current regulations, but are clarified now in one section.

**Time Limits on Courses:**
Courses completed more than six years before finishing a master’s degree or certificate and more than nine years before finishing a PhD may not fulfill degree requirements. Academic units may set stricter limits and may also give extensions on individual bases. (5.9)

**Substituting Courses:**
GPDs may use course substitutions, often with similar, but more advanced, content to those specified in the degree requirements, based on students’ previous academic records and experiences in the Program of Study. (5.10)

**Waiving Requirements:**
Waiving requirements is defined as satisfying degree or programmatic requirements by means other than those specified in the Academic Catalog. This could include giving credit for courses or other requirements based on individual backgrounds before admission. This is
allowed, but only if the conditions of waiving requirements are explicitly specified in the Academic Catalog. Otherwise, approval from the Vice Provost of Research and Dean of Graduate Studies is required. (5.11)

**Graduation:**
Students who finish all degree requirements must submit an application to graduate in their final semester. They must have a 3.00 GPA to graduate. (5.12)

**Transfer Credits:**
Transfer credits are defined as courses taken prior to their admission to a graduate program at AU and counted toward an AU degree. Academic units can approve up to 6 credits to be transferred – additional credits transferred needs approval of the Vice Provost for Research and Dean of Graduate Studies. (6.2) Courses taken in a previous AU degree may not be transferred, but may be shared. See Shared Credits from Non-Concurrent AU Degrees

**Shared Credits from Concurrent AU Degrees:**
It is clarified that the only way credits are shared with degrees is through the combined bachelor’s/master’s program, a dual degree program, or appropriate master’s degree courses taken at AU applied toward a PhD program. (6.4.1)

**Shared Credits from Non-Concurrent AU Degrees:**
If a student has a previously earned a graduate degree from AU and applies for admission to another degree, 6 credits may be shared. The credits can be shared without petition if the same courses are requirements or electives for both degrees. Otherwise, Vice Provost for Research and Dean of Graduate Studies approval is needed. (6.4.2)

**Limits on Transferred Credits, Shared Credits from Non-Concurrent AU Degrees, and Courses Completed by Permit to Study:**
The limit on the total number of credits for these three categories is 6 credits. (6.2, 6.4.2, 6.6, and 6.7)

**Dual Degree Programs:**
Limits on credit sharing is specified for new dual degree programs. Dual degree programs must be approved and listed in the Academic Catalog or approved by the Vice Provost for Research and Dean of Graduate Studies. If a dual degree program is not listed in the Academic Catalog, VPR/DGS approval is necessary for each student before admission to a second degree program. VPR/DGS approval for a particular Dual Degree Program may only be granted for 3 students before it must be approved by the Graduate Curriculum Committee
and listed in the Academic Catalog. Currently approved dual degree programs are not subject to these regulations. (8.6.1)

**Combined Bachelor’s/Master’s Program:**

The proposed regulations specify that students accepted to a combined bachelor’s/master’s program are not required to re-apply for the graduate program at a later time. They must, however, satisfy the conditions of admission to the graduate program at the end of their undergraduate career. (2.3)

The incorrect statement (For every 9 required graduate credits earned for the graduate degree while a student has graduate student status, the student may count up to 3 required graduate credits earned as an undergraduate towards the master’s degree) from the 2012 regulations has been replaced by a corrected table. (8.7)

Shared credits must satisfy either major requirements or free electives for the bachelor’s degree. Free electives are defined as credits earned toward the bachelor’s degree which do not satisfy the major requirements, General Education requirements, the University Mathematics requirement, or the University Writing requirement, but are counted toward the 120 credits necessary to graduate with a bachelor’s degree. However, all available undergraduate and transfer credits must be used to satisfy free electives before using graduate credits. Students who complete their bachelor’s degree with over 120 credits may be limited in the number of graduate credits shared through free electives. (8.7)

Graduate credit cannot be shared to satisfy requirements for General Education, University Mathematics, or University Writing. Graduate credit cannot be shared with minors unless they are stipulated as major requirements for the bachelor’s degree in the Academic Catalog, or unless approved by the Vice Provost for Research and Dean of Graduate Studies or designee. (8.7)

All students enrolled in a combined bachelor’s/master’s program must have an undergraduate and graduate advisor once admitted. The student and both advisors must design a Plan of Study to determine how credits will be shared between the bachelor’s and master’s degrees.

Students must have a cumulative graduate GPA of 3.00 or higher when completing their undergraduate degree to share all credits in their Plan of Study. If the cumulative graduate GPA is below 3.00, only graduate courses with grades of B or higher will be allowed to be shared. (8.7)
**Doctoral Programs:**
More details concerning the dissertation defense are provided, including when the dissertation title page is to be signed. Outside readers are allowed to submit a letter in place of a signature since some may not be local. (9.4) Public announcements of dissertation defenses are required. (9.6)

**Temporary Leaves:**
All temporary leaves are limited to 2 semesters, either consecutive or non-consecutive. (10.4.1.1) Exceptions can be made for long-term military leaves, assuming the student can provide a start and end date of military service. (10.4.1.3) Medical leaves require documentation that the medical condition has been alleviated and that the student is ready to return to academic life at the University to go to the Dean of Students (in the 2012 regulations, this is submitted to the Associate Dean). (10.4.1.2)

**Petition chart in the appendix of the regulations:**
The exception chart, which used to be a separate document, is now included in the proposed regulations. This chart specifies if an exception to a regulation is possible and who may grant the exception. The new numbering system helps identify the location of the regulation to petition in the document.

**Glossary:**
A glossary of terms is now included.