

From: Graduate Affairs Team: Policy and Appeals Subcommittee
To: FGCU Faculty Senate
Date: March 26, 2008
Re: GAT- General Graduate Academic Policies (Document 3-24-08)

Background and Introduction

Graduate program development at FGCU has been progressing at a steady state and the first doctoral program has been approved. To ensure graduate program integrity and quality across the university, the Graduate Affairs Team (GAT): Policy and Appeals Subcommittee was charged with developing university-wide, general academic policies for graduate programs.

The following policy document establishes minimum academic standards that will be applied to all FGCU graduate programs. The GAT referred to existing documentation found in the *FGCU Catalog* and *Student Guidebook* as well as Commission on Colleges Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) requirements, peer institution graduate policy information and FGCU graduate program information when developing policy points. Some minimum standards set by SACS and/or Federal/State requirements are identified as such in the document. Since FGCU will be hosting a SACS visit in March 2009, with preliminary preview by a SACS representative in August 2008, it is desirable to have university-wide graduate academic policy in place as soon as possible.

Note that colleges/programs may have additional academic criteria or requirements for graduate programs but these are not addressed in this document. Procedures to implement approved graduate programs will be developed by the Office of Graduate Studies and colleges and are also not addressed in this document.

The attached graduate policy document is now submitted to FGCU Senate for review and approval.