



TO: Council on Graduate Studies Appeals Committee
FROM: Robert M. Augustine, Dean
RE: Petition for Degree Reinstatement for Sara Eades Wade
DATE: April 25, 2011

Introduction

Sara Eades Wade applied to the Master of Science in Dietetics Program and was admitted as a degree candidate contingent upon completion of her baccalaureate degree in May of 2008 from Illinois State University. Between May of 2008 and November 2010, the Graduate School made repeated requests to the student to submit the baccalaureate transcript to document degree completion. Finally, the Graduate School placed a hold on the student's academic record due to her failure to comply with this standard request. The Graduate School was alerted on February 16, 2011, the Ms. Wade's baccalaureate degree from Illinois State University was not posted until May 8, 2010, due to the student's failure to complete one of the requirements for the degree. This is in contrast to her initial application for graduate study to Eastern Illinois University indicating that the degree would be conferred in May of 2008. As a result, the candidate completed graduate coursework in the Spring, Summer and Fall of 2009 while she was ineligible for graduate study as she had not completed all of the requirements for her baccalaureate degree. In a memo dated February 16, 2011, I indicated to Ms. Wade that in cases where candidates fail to comply with documents to determine candidacy but complete graduate coursework knowing that they are not eligible, the Graduate School rescinds degree candidacy based on the student's failure to comply with standard University policies governing graduate study. On February 8, 2011, Ms. Wade was re-classified as a non-degree graduate student and alerted that in order to be considered for degree candidacy, she must follow the University's standard procedures to re-consideration of candidacy. The process requires a petition to the Council on Graduate Studies.

Petition to the Appeals Subcommittee

On February 17, 2011, the Graduate School received a petition from Ms. Wade, explaining that she believed she had completed all of the requirements for her baccalaureate degree from Illinois State University in June of 2008, as originally stated in her application for graduate study. Neither she nor the University can provide any physical evidence that this occurred, although every effort was made to secure such documentation. Without any record of completing the requirements, Ms. Wade then repeated the requirements she believed she had already completed and was able to successfully document completion of her baccalaureate degree in May of 2010. She regrets the delay and asks that all of the coursework taken prior to the completion of her degree be accepted toward the Master of Science in Dietetics.

Departmental Review

The Coordinator of Graduate Study, Dr. Karla Kennedy Hagen, supports the student's request and notes that the factors that contributed to the problem appear to have been resolved satisfactorily and the baccalaureate degree has now been posted to the transcript. The department chair also provided a statement supporting reinstatement of candidacy. The student is in compliance with all other policies and has earned a cumulative graduate GPA of 3.64.

Dean Recommendation

Based on the student's compliance and support of the Graduate Coordinator and Department Chair, I recommend degree reinstatement to the Appeals Subcommittee.