

The Record

News about admissions, records, and student systems

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Change in tuition refund appeals process, form

For the past year, the One Stop Student Services has been working on a business process redesign in an effort to make the tuition refund appeals process more efficient and effective for students and staff.

When reviewing appeals, staff want to be sympathetic to individual cases while also demonstrating fiscal responsibility. In order to achieve this balance, students with approved appeals will receive a refund of 75%, 50% or 25% based on the amount of time spent in class; “Ws” will remain on the academic record. 100% refunds and removal of Ws from the transcript will be granted only in exceptional cases. The definition of what is “exceptional” will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

A new appeal form is available online at <http://onestop.umn.edu/onestop/forms.html> under “Registering for Classes.” Colleges should recycle their old forms. Debbie Henderson can also be contacted for copies of the new form at 612/625-9019—please reference form OTR/241. Any questions about the new tuition refund appeals process can be directed to Mary Koskan at M-kosk@umn.edu.

Graduate School applications on the rise

After several years of mixed application numbers, applications to the Graduate School for summer and fall 2005 are up in every category.

It is most encouraging that international applications are up 11%. Applications from U.S. citizens and permanent residents are up 6%, for an overall increase of 8%. The total number of applications received as of January 14 was 8,882.

International applications have increased in the biological sciences (24%), health sciences (6%), engineering, physical, and mathematical sciences (14%), languages, literature and the arts (28%), and education and psychology (4%). Only applications to the social sciences have decreased (2%). Domestic applications have increased in each of the above categories with the exception of engineering, physical, and mathematical sciences, where there has been a 3% drop. Domestic application increases range from 3% in education and psychology to 12% in the health sciences.

Applications from The Graduate School’s four leading applicant countries, China, India, Korea, and Taiwan, have also increased this year. Applications from Taiwan are up 24%, Korea up 13%, China up 8%, and India has a negligible increase.

The Graduate School hopes this positive trend continues to the end of February when most applications will have been received.

Datebook: spring 2005

February

2/7 Midterm Alerts open

2/16 First bill due for spring semester

March

3/1 Last day for students in Graduate School to apply for participation in spring commencement ceremony

3/3 Community Engagement Scholars kick-off, Mississippi Room, Coffman Memorial Union, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

3/14 Last day for undergraduates and professional degree students to apply for May session graduation

3/14-18 Spring break

3/18 University holiday; all University offices are closed

3/28 Last day to cancel second 7-week spring semester courses for 100% refund

April

4/5 Registration begins for May and summer sessions (admitted students)

4/7 Queued registration begins for fall 2005

4/12 Registration begins for May and summer sessions (non-admitted students)

4/29 Open registration begins for fall 2005

May

5/6 Last day of classes

5/9-14 Final examinations

Community Engagement Scholars program

The Community Engagement Scholars program kick-off will be held this April, details to follow. In the meantime, learn more about this great student program.

This program is designed to enhance the learning experience of our students while furthering the University's commitment to civic engagement. As a part of this program, students complete coursework with designated service learning opportunities and complete 400 hours of service work. Scholars receive a notation on their transcripts, a card of distinction for graduation and notification in the commencement program.

For more information, attend the kick-off on March 3. Information can also be found at http://www.servicelearning.umn.edu/students/What_is_Service_Learning.html.

RAC minutes online

After a brief absence, the Registrar's Advisory Committee (RAC) minutes are back online. You can find them at their new home on the OESS Intranet at <http://oess.umn.edu>. Check out the minutes to see what you've missed!

Graduate School workshops for Directors of Graduate Studies

The Graduate School offers an annual workshop series designed to provide Directors of Graduate Studies (DGSs) with the tools they need to successfully manage aspects of the graduate program(s) they oversee. In addition to orientation sessions for new DGSs, workshops on evaluating international credentials, and (as part of its Policy and Review Council Assembly each Fall) presentations on critical issues in graduate education, other opportunities are available to DGSs throughout the year to learn about best practices in a variety of areas. DGS Assistants are also welcome to attend.

This spring's workshops will focus on:

"Using UM Reports as Tool to Help Ensure Graduate Student Success"

Wednesday, February 23, 2005

3:00 - 5:00 p.m., 1130 Mechanical Engineering

"Use of Exit Interviews as Program Assessment Tool"

Wednesday, March 23, 2005

3:00 - 5:00 p.m., Rooms A,B&C of the Campus Club, Coffman Memorial Union (Fourth Floor)

"Ethics in Research, Scholarship & Professional Education: Authorship Issues"

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

3:00 - 5:00 p.m., Presidents Room (Room 331), Coffman Memorial Union

Space is limited and registration is required. For more information about these workshops or to register, please visit <http://www.grad.umn.edu/dgs/workshops/>.

TheRecord

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