

# Options for a Graduate Student Considering Stepping Away from Academic Study and/or GA Employment

## Continuous Registration

- Must be completed before first day of semester
- Maintains active student status
- GAs are not eligible; continuous registration is zero credits and GAs are required to be registered for at least 6 credits
- Does not keep student loans in deferral
- Flat fee (no tuition)
- Counts toward time to degree
- Additional approval needed for international students
- Descriptions of courses can be found in The Graduate Catalog
- Example scenario: The student has no coursework remaining and is in the dissertation phase of their graduate program and needs to maintain active student status and access to university resources, such as e-mail and the library, while they continue graduate work, so they enroll in GRAD 6999 (Dissertation Preparation).

## Academic Leave of Absence

- Temporary separation from university; no active student status
- Does not keep student loans in deferral
- Cannot be employed as a GA if taking academic leave
- No access to university resources (e.g., email, library, Office365, OneDrive).
- Should be requested in advance or as soon as possible in extenuating circumstances
- Students should complete the online Voluntary Separation Notification form if considering academic leave. The Graduate School will provide consumer counseling.
- Requires advisor and dept head review and approval
- Max of two semesters for initial request; can be extended for an additional two
- Time on leave does not count toward time to degree
- Example scenario: The student is experiencing a personal or medical issue that will prevent them from engaging in graduate study for an extended period of time.

## GA Leave

- Leave solely from GA employment
- GA must be continuing in their capacity as a graduate student in order to be eligible (meaning the student remains enrolled in their classes)
- Article 15 of the GEU contract provides examples of eligible leave reasons
- Administered by Human Resources Leave & Accommodations Team
- Example scenario: A GA who is enrolled in 6+ credits applies for GA leave due to personal illness/injury. The approved leave means the GA is on leave from employment, however they remain enrolled and engaged in their classes and will receive a grade.

## Program Separation

- Separates a student from one UConn grad program while they remain active in another UConn grad program
- Students who are switching majors/programs or discontinuing an additional degree track must notify The Graduate School via the online Voluntary Separation Notification form.
- Students who do not notify The Graduate School may remain active in two programs until they graduate, resulting in incorrect program reporting and delays in degree auditing
- Example scenario: The student has decided to change from the History doctoral program to the Economics master's program. After the student has been matriculated into the Economics MS program, they must request discontinuation from the History doctoral program.

## Exit

- An exit is a discontinuation of all programs, meaning the student will no longer be a UConn student.
- Notification of intent to exit the university must come directly from the student.
- Students should complete the online Voluntary Separation Notification form if considering exiting the university. The Graduate School will provide consumer counseling.
- Example scenario: The student wishes to discontinue their current grad program before degree completion and will not be enrolling in any other UConn program.