

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).

Leave of Absence from Graduate Studies (Academic Leave)

- Temporarily separated 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., library, Office365, OneDrive). Google Drive and UConn email will remain active.
- 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 a History doctoral program to an 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.