

Carnegie Mellon University

Office of Graduate and
Postdoctoral Affairs

University-Wide Graduate Student Handbook

2026 - 2027

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SECTION 1: Welcome & Introduction

Welcome to Carnegie Mellon University! We are delighted that you chose to pursue graduate studies at CMU. The University-Wide Graduate Student Handbook is part of the broader Graduate Student Handbook Suite (outlined below). Each component of the suite is an important document outlining critical processes and policies, and presenting useful resources meant to assist you in navigating your graduate school experience at Carnegie Mellon. The University-Wide Graduate Student Handbook is published by the [Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Affairs](#).

The Graduate Student Handbook Suite consists of a minimum of three resources*:

- The University-Wide Graduate Student Handbook (this document)
- Your Program Handbook (distributed by your program)
- [The Carnegie Mellon Student Handbook](#)

*Some colleges (and programs located in California, as applicable) also have their own handbooks, and if that is the case for your college, please be sure to read and reference that document (distributed by your college, if applicable), as well as the three mentioned above.

You are encouraged to familiarize yourself with each document included in the Graduate Student Handbook Suite, as each component contains critical information that will support your capacity to thrive as a graduate student at CMU.

1.1: Mission, Vision, & Values: Carnegie Mellon

Mission:

To create a transformative educational experience for students focused on deep disciplinary knowledge; problem solving; leadership, communication, and interpersonal skills; and personal health and well-being.

To cultivate a transformative university community committed to (a) attracting and retaining diverse, world-class talent; (b) creating a collaborative environment open to the free exchange of ideas, where research, creativity, innovation, and entrepreneurship can flourish; and (c) ensuring individuals can achieve their full potential.

To impact society in a transformative way—regionally, nationally, and globally—by engaging with partners outside the traditional borders of the university campus.

Vision:

Carnegie Mellon University will have a transformative impact on society through continual innovation in education, research, creativity, and entrepreneurship.

Values:

Dedication, reflected in our distinctive work ethic and in our commitment to excellence

Impact, reflected in our commitment to address critical issues facing society regionally, nationally and globally

Collaboration, reflected in our interdisciplinary approach, our focus on internal and external partnerships and our capacity to create new fields of inquiry

Creativity, reflected in our openness to new ideas and forms of expression, intellectual curiosity, willingness to take risks and entrepreneurial spirit

Empathy and compassion, reflected in our focus on improving the human condition and on the personal development of the members of our community

Inclusion, reflected in a culture and climate that seeks, welcomes and advances talented minds from diverse backgrounds

Integrity, reflected in our adherence to the highest ethical standards in personal and professional behavior, and in our commitment to transparency and accountability in governance and everything we do

Sustainability, reflected in our shared commitment to lead by example in preserving and protecting our natural resources, and in our approach to responsible financial planning

1.2: Mission, Vision, & Values: Office of Graduate & Postdoctoral Affairs

Mission:

- Lead and liaise to create, refine, implement, and assess procedures and policies affecting critical aspects of the graduate student and postdoctoral experiences.
- Conceptualize signature programming efforts for our graduate students and postdoctoral fellows and serve as the central administrative link to implement related university-wide events and opportunities.

- Actively partner to leverage expertise and various resources and effectively uplift them to ensure stakeholder and community awareness and engagement.
- Support delivery of an equitable, world-class graduate education and postdoctoral experience by aligning all initiatives with our institutional commitment to academic excellence and creating a sense of belonging.

Vision:

Transform graduate student and postdoctoral experiences by creating collaborative opportunities to advance holistic initiatives that empower learning; engagement; and academic, personal, and professional success.

Values:

At the core of all our efforts, the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Affairs keeps graduate students and postdoctoral colleagues as our primary focus. The following values guide our work.

Collaborative, reflected in our active internal and external partnerships.

Focused on Inclusive Excellence, reflected in our commitment to strengthening community and creating and informing equitable policy and practices.

Data-Informed & Evidence-Driven, reflected in our targeted strategic planning and meticulous decision-making practices.

Empathetic, reflected in our capacity to build and maintain meaningful relationships.

Communicative, reflected in our responsibility to create and share information and resources.

Dedicated, reflected in our relentless pursuit of institutional impact rooted in education and service.

1.3: Departmental Personnel

Dr. Maggie Sikora, Director for the Office of Graduate & Postdoctoral Affairs



Margo Littell, Program & Operations Coordinator for the Office of Graduate & Postdoctoral Affairs



For more information about the Office of Graduate & Postdoctoral Affairs, and to contact us, please visit our [website](#).

1.4: Office Resources

Information about resources offered by the Office of Graduate & Postdoctoral Affairs, along with broader information about University resources, can be found [on our website](#).

1.5: Academic Calendar

The Academic Calendar can be found on The HUB's [website](#) and provides information on all deadlines including registration dates, class start dates, add/drop deadlines, exam dates and more.

SECTION 2: University Policies & Expectations

It is the responsibility of each member of the Carnegie Mellon community to be familiar with University policies and guidelines. The following resources are available to assist you in understanding community expectations:

[University Policies Website](#), including, among others, the [Academic Integrity Policy](#)

[Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Affairs](#)

[The Carnegie Mellon Student Handbook](#)

Please see “Additional Resources for Graduate Students” at the end of this document for information about additional University resources.

2.1: Carnegie Mellon University Statement of Assurance

The [Statement of Assurance](#) is outlined as part of the [University Policies](#):

Carnegie Mellon University does not discriminate in admission, employment, or administration of its programs or activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, pregnancy or related condition, family status, marital status, parental status, religion, ancestry, veteran status, or genetic information. Furthermore, Carnegie Mellon University does not discriminate and is required not to discriminate in violation of federal, state, or local laws or executive orders.

The university's [Discriminatory and Sexual Misconduct Policy](#) contains grievance procedures that provide for the prompt and equitable resolution of Complaints alleging any action which would be prohibited by this Policy.

Inquiries concerning the application of and compliance with this statement should be directed to the Office for Institutional Equity and Title IX, Carnegie Mellon University, 5000 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213, telephone 412-268-7125.

Obtain general information about Carnegie Mellon University by calling 412-268-2000.

2.2: The Carnegie Mellon Code

This is the [Carnegie Mellon Code](#), as stated in the Carnegie Mellon Student Handbook:

Students at Carnegie Mellon, because they are members of an academic community dedicated to the achievement of excellence, are expected to meet the highest standards of

personal, ethical and moral conduct possible. These standards require personal integrity, a commitment to honesty without compromise, as well as truth without equivocation and a willingness to place the good of the community above the good of the self. Obligations once undertaken must be met, commitments kept.

As members of the Carnegie Mellon community, individuals are expected to uphold the standards of the community in addition to holding others accountable for said standards. It is rare that the life of a student in an academic community can be so private that it will not affect the community as a whole or that the above standards do not apply.

The discovery, advancement and communication of knowledge are not possible without a commitment to these standards. Creativity cannot exist without acknowledgment of the creativity of others. New knowledge cannot be developed without credit for prior knowledge. Without the ability to trust that these principles will be observed, an academic community cannot exist. The commitment of its faculty, staff and students to these standards contributes to the high respect in which the Carnegie Mellon degree is held. Students must not destroy that respect by their failure to meet these standards. Students who cannot meet them should voluntarily withdraw from the University.

2.3: Statute of Limitations - Doctoral Students

As outlined in the [Doctoral Student Status Policy](#):

Students will complete all requirements for the Ph.D. degree within a maximum of ten years from original matriculation as a doctoral student, or less if required by a more restrictive department or college policy. Once this time-to-degree limit has lapsed, the person may resume work towards a doctoral degree only if newly admitted to a currently offered doctoral degree program under criteria determined by that program.

Under extraordinary circumstances, such as leave of absence, military or public service, family or parental leave, or temporary disability, a school or college may, upon the relevant department's recommendation and with the written approval of the dean, defer the lapse of All But Dissertation status for a period commensurate with the duration of that interruption. Students, who are pursuing the Ph.D. degree as part-time students for all semesters of their program, as approved by their program, may also appeal to their program or department for extension of the time to degree limit.

2.4: Statute of Limitations - Master's Students

As outlined in the [Master's Student Statute of Limitations](#):

Students will complete all requirements for the master's degree within a maximum of seven years from original matriculation as a master's student, or less if required by a more restrictive department, school or college policy. Once this time-to-degree limit has lapsed, the person may resume work towards a master's degree only if newly admitted to a currently offered master's degree program under criteria determined by that program.

Under extraordinary circumstances, such as leave of absence, military or public service, family or parental leave, or temporary disability, a college/school may, upon the relevant department's recommendation and with the written approval of the dean (or designate), defer the lapse for a period commensurate with the duration of that interruption. Students who are pursuing the master's degree as part-time students for all semesters of their program, as approved by their program, may also appeal to their program or department for extension of the time to degree limit.

2.5: Verification of Enrollment

Enrollment Management is the only University division that can provide an official letter of enrollment, official transcript, and enrollment verification.

Enrollment verification can be requested from The HUB [online](#).

2.6: Change of Address

Students are expected to keep their current local address up to date in Student Information Online (SIO). This is a legal requirement for international students and for students who are receiving payments through the university. Furthermore, it also supports a university initiative to have accurate living information for students for official notices and to facilitate wellness checks.

2.7: Computing Resources

Carnegie Mellon provides a variety of software, support services, printer/copier capabilities, and computer labs for all students. Details on what is available from the university, and what students must purchase themselves, can be found on the [Computing Services website](#). Note that some programs may have additional technology requirements; check with your program for more information.

2.8: Employment Eligibility Verification

If you are receiving a stipend, are a TA, or are planning to have a position with CMU, then Employment Eligibility Verification is required. Form I-9 must be completed within three business days of beginning work for any type of compensation (stipend or employment). Additional details are highlighted on the [HR Services website](#) and within the [Employment Eligibility Verification \(I-9\) Policy](#) covering the university's I-9 and E-Verify requirements. Please note that international students are limited to 20 hours/week of on-campus employment.

SECTION 3: Degree Completion, Grading, & Evaluation Policies

3.1: Academic Integrity

The [Academic Integrity policy](#) includes the University expectations around academic integrity and provides definitions of cheating, plagiarism, and unauthorized assistance. A review of the University's [Academic Integrity Actions Procedures](#) is also recommended. These procedures outline the process for investigating, reporting, and adjudicating violations of the University Policy on Academic Integrity. The procedures also outline the appeal process. Finally, please also note that as part of the Orientation Canvas Course shared by the Office of Graduate & Postdoctoral Affairs, there is a required Academic Integrity course module.

3.2: University Policy on Grades

[The University Grading Policy](#) details university grading principles for students taking courses and covers the specifics of Assigning and Changing Grades, Grading Options, Drop/Withdrawals, Course Repeats, and defines the undergraduate and graduate Grading Standards.

3.3: Transfer Courses and Policy on Grades for Transfer Courses

The [Policy on Grades for Transfer Courses](#) states the following:

The Carnegie Mellon University transcript will include information on such courses as follows: Carnegie Mellon courses and courses taken through the university's

cross-registration program will have grades recorded on the transcript and be factored into the QPA. All other courses will be recorded on this transcript indicating where the course was taken, but without grade. Such courses will not be considered for academic actions, honors, or QPA calculations.

NOTE: Suspended students may take courses elsewhere; however, they may receive transfer credit only if their college's and department's policies allow this.

Carnegie Mellon University offers students the opportunity to take courses for credit through a cross-registration program and through the receipt of transfer credit from other accredited institutions.

(Reference The HUB's website for more information on the [Pittsburgh Council on Higher Education \(PCHE\)](#) and cross-registration.)

3.4: Standard Degree Requirements & Degree Certification

Carnegie Mellon graduate students are expected to complete their degree requirements within the standard length of time for their program of study as outlined in the relevant Graduate Student Handbook. Standard program lengths for graduate students vary significantly, ranging from two semesters for some full-time master's programs to several or more years for doctoral programs. Upon completion of the graduate program degree requirements, the degree will be certified by the student's academic program in the semester in which the student completes the requirements.

In order to receive a diploma, your student account must have a balance of \$0.00.

For more information about Early Completion, Extended or Longer-than-Standard Completion, please visit the [website](#) of the Office of Enrollment Management.

Additional Guidance for Students

Program of Study

Students seeking guidance about their program of study and degree requirements should consult with their academic advisor and/or appropriate associate dean.

Financial Aid and Student Account

Students are expected to make normal progress toward their degree in order to graduate within the standard timeframe for their program of study. Under U.S. Federal Title IV

regulations, student eligibility for federal financial aid is contingent upon enrollment in and successful completion of courses that are counted as credit toward their current degree program. To receive the maximum amount of federal financial aid for which they may be eligible, students must enroll each semester in at least 36 units that count toward their current degree level. (See separate guidance regarding integrated degree completion.) Students should consult with their designated college liaison in The HUB regarding billing and financial aid, particularly for early completion, longer-than-standard completion, or integrated undergraduate and master's degree programs.

International Students

Immigration status for students in F-1 and J-1 non-immigrant status is tied to making normal progress toward completing degree requirements. Therefore, F-1 and J-1 students who are considering completing their degree requirements early, anticipating longer-than-standard completion, or moving from an undergraduate to a graduate student classification (integrated undergraduate-graduate study) should consult with their designated advisor in the Office of International Education (OIE) before making final plans to determine immigration options in order to remain in compliance with immigration regulations.

3.5: Drop/Add/Withdraw Procedures

Students taking undergraduate and master's-level courses must follow the procedures and deadlines for adding, dropping, or withdrawing from courses as identified on the academic calendar. Information can be found [here](#). There is a [separate calendar](#) for doctoral-level courses.

3.6: Policy for Examinations

Please review the [Carnegie Mellon University Policies on Examinations](#) as well as The HUB's resources for [Make-Up Final Exams](#).

3.7: Withdrawal of a Degree

Withdrawal of a degree is a University-level process. Reference the [University Policy](#) for details about the withdrawal of a degree.

3.8: Leave of Absence

For information about leaves of absence, please read the [University Policy for leave of absence](#). Graduate students who wish to return to Carnegie Mellon following a leave of absence must follow the procedures set forth in the [Student Return Policy](#).

Generally, graduate students must negotiate their return to the University with their home academic department and follow any applicable departmental policies. If a department chooses to deny a student's return from a leave of absence, the student may appeal to the Dean of the College.

Please note that if your department is suggesting a deviation from University policy, they must first check with the Office of General Counsel.

SECTION 4: Graduate Student Appeal and Grievance Policies and Procedures

4.1: Introduction

Set forth below is a summary of the processes available to graduate students who seek review of academic and non-academic issues. Generally, graduate students are expected to seek informal resolution of all concerns within the applicable department, unit or program before invoking formal processes. When an informal resolution cannot be reached, however, a graduate student who seeks further review of the matter is to follow these formal procedures. To the extent that these processes are set forth in official University policies, links to those statements of policy and more detailed description of processes and procedures are included. Where a graduate student's concerns implicate multiple policies or processes, the University reserves the right to decide which process shall apply in order to avoid duplicative and potentially conflicting processes and decisions, or in appropriate circumstances, the order in which multiple reviews may occur.

These appeal and grievance procedures shall apply to students in all graduate programs of the University. Students should refer to the online handbooks (or hard copy handbooks if applicable) for their particular programs for more detailed information about the administration and academic policies of the program. To the extent that these policies conflict in any way with policies, processes and procedures adopted at the College, Department or Program level, the policies set forth herein shall govern.

Note that in addition to the formal processes outlined below, students can also consult the [Office of the Student and Faculty Ombudsperson](#), which provides a confidential resource and informal conflict resolution services to help manage and resolve concerns and conflicts that arise within the university community.

4.2: Appealing Final Grades

Final grades will be changed only in exceptional circumstances and only with the approval of the instructor and the department, unit or program. Grading is a matter of sound discretion of the instructor and final grades are rarely changed without the consent of the instructor who assigned the grade. The following circumstances are the unusual exceptions that may warrant a grade appeal: (a) the final grade assigned for a course is based on manifest error (e.g. a clear error such as arithmetic error in computing a grade or failure to grade one of the answers on an exam), or (b) the faculty or staff member who assigned the grade did so in violation of a University policy.

A graduate student who believes a final grade was assigned pursuant to (a) or (b) above should first present the case informally to the faculty or staff member responsible for the course in which the student believes an inappropriate grade has been awarded. If the student is not satisfied with the resolution at this first step, the student shall submit a formal, written appeal, with appropriate documentation to the head of the department in which the course was offered. Grade appeals should be initiated as soon as possible but no later than one year after the final course grade was issued. The department head (or the program head if the department head chooses to delegate the decision to him/her) will issue a written decision on the appeal within 30 days, or as soon thereafter as practical. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the department head (or program head), the student may submit a formal, written appeal, with appropriate documentation, within seven (7) days to the Dean of the college in which the course is offered. The Dean shall render a decision within 30 days, or as soon thereafter as practical. The decision of the Dean shall be final and not appealable.

Summary of Levels of Appeal for Final Grades:

- Informal discussion with the faculty member
- Formal written appeal to the department head (or the program head if the department head chooses to delegate the decision to him/her)
- Formal written appeal to the Dean
- Dean issues final non-appealable decision

See also [Carnegie Mellon University Grading Policies](#)

4.3: Appeal of Academic Actions

An "Academic Action" is an action by a program, unit or department based on a graduate student's academic performance or failure to satisfy academic program requirements.

Examples of Academic Actions include, but are not limited to, academic probation, academic suspension, and dismissal/drop. Each college, department, or program may set its own academic requirements and standards for acceptable academic performance. These

standards and benchmarks for performance are set forth in the online and/or hard copy handbooks for individual graduate programs.

Graduate students will be notified of an academic action in writing by the applicable department, unit, or program head or director, or designated committee. Graduate students are encouraged to seek informal resolution of any concerns related to academic actions informally within the department, unit or program before filing a formal appeal.

Graduate students who wish to appeal an Academic Action must submit a formal, written appeal, with appropriate documentation, to the Dean of the College within seven (7) calendar days after receipt of written notice of the academic action by the department, unit, or program head or director, or designated committee. The Dean may delegate review of the matter to another individual or committee, including but not limited to one of the Associate Deans, the College Council or a specially constituted grievance committee who shall make a recommendation to the Dean. The Dean shall render a decision on the appeal within thirty (30) days or as soon thereafter as practical.

Graduate students who wish to appeal the decision of the Dean must submit a formal written appeal, with appropriate documentation, to the Provost within fourteen (14) calendar days after receipt of the Dean's written decision. The appeal should be submitted to provost@andrew.cmu.edu. The Provost may delegate review of the matter to another individual or committee, who shall make a recommendation to the Provost. The Provost shall render a decision on the appeal within thirty (30) days or as soon thereafter as practical. Decisions by the Provost are final and not appealable.

Generally, sanctions resulting from an Academic Action (e.g. probation, suspension, or dismissal /drop) take effect immediately, regardless of whether an appeal is filed. In exceptional circumstances, however, the appropriate Dean or the Provost may elect to hold sanctions in abeyance pending the resolution of an appeal.

Summary of Levels of Appeal for Academic Actions:

- Seek informal resolution within department, unit, or program
- Formal written appeal to the Dean
- Decision rendered by the Dean
- Formal written appeal to the Provost
- Provost issues final non-appealable decision

4.4: Appeal from Academic Disciplinary Actions

Academic Disciplinary Actions are sanctions and outcomes imposed when any student violates the [University Policy on Academic integrity](#) including cheating, plagiarism and unauthorized assistance.

The [Office of Community Responsibility](#) manages the Academic Disciplinary Process and provides resources to all students, faculty and staff. The process for appealing an academic integrity violation can be found under the [Academic Integrity Actions Index](#).

4.5: Community Standards Violations

As members of the University community, Carnegie Mellon students are expected to respect the rights of all students, faculty and staff and adhere to the policies outlined in the Student Handbook contained in the [Carnegie Mellon Student Handbook](#), the [University Policies website](#), and any applicable college, department or graduate program handbooks.

If a student has observed a violation of university policy or law, or feels harmed by another student's misconduct (e.g. affecting his/her welfare, property, safety or security) he/she should file a report with the Dean of Student Affairs and/or University Police as appropriate.

The procedures for adjudicating community standards violations and for appealing the results are available in the [Carnegie Mellon Student Handbook](#) under [Community Standards](#).

For more information about community standards and disciplinary procedures, please visit the [Community Standards website](#).

4.6: Discriminatory and Sexual Misconduct

The mission of Carnegie Mellon University is to cultivate a transformative educational experience for its Students that is committed to promoting and safeguarding their personal health and well-being. In addition, the mission is to create a collaborative environment open to the free exchange of ideas, where research, creativity, innovation, and entrepreneurship can flourish and where individuals can achieve their full potential. Consistent with the university's [Statement of Assurance](#), it is the policy of Carnegie Mellon University to maintain an academic and work environment that promotes the confidence to work, study, innovate, and perform without fear of discriminatory and sexual misconduct. Such misconduct diminishes individual dignity, is contrary to the values of the university, and is a barrier to fulfilling the university's mission. It will not be tolerated at Carnegie Mellon University. This Policy contains grievance procedures that provide for the prompt and equitable resolution of Complaints alleging any action which would be prohibited by this Policy.

It is the responsibility of every member of the University community to foster an environment free of discriminatory and sexual misconduct. All members of the University community are encouraged to take reasonable and prudent actions to prevent or stop such behavior. In the event an Employee becomes aware of potential Prohibited Conduct, they should report the information to the [Office for Institutional Equity and Title IX](#) (the "IEX Office"). Please see Section III of this Policy for more information about making a Report of Prohibited Conduct.

Graduate Students with concerns about Discriminatory or Sexual Misconduct should contact the Office for Institutional Equity and Title IX. Please see the university's [Discriminatory and Sexual Misconduct Policy](#) for more information.

4.7: Intellectual Property Disputes

Disputes concerning rights to intellectual property must be resolved according to the procedures set forth in the University's [Intellectual Property Policy](#).

4.8: Research Misconduct

Carnegie Mellon University is responsible for the integrity of research conducted at the university. As a community of scholars, in which truth and integrity are fundamental, the university must establish procedures for the investigation of allegations of misconduct of research with due care to protect the rights of those accused, those making the allegations, and the university. Furthermore, federal regulations require the university to have explicit procedures for addressing incidents in which there are allegations of misconduct in research. The procedures for handling allegations of research misconduct are set forth in the [Policy for Handling Alleged Misconduct in Research](#) at Carnegie Mellon University.

For graduate students found responsible for research misconduct, the President of the University may impose specific sanctions up to and including expulsion. The imposition of sanctions is subject to the procedures for approval and/or appeal prescribed for [community standards violations](#).

4.9: Suspension/Required Withdrawal

University Suspension is a forced, temporary leave from the university. There are three types of suspension for students that apply to both graduate and undergraduate students:

- *Academic Suspension* is the result of poor academic performance or violation of academic regulations and is imposed by the student's college or academic department (see university and college academic policies).
- *Disciplinary Suspension* is the result of serious personal misconduct and is imposed by the Office of Student Affairs (see the [Carnegie Mellon Student Handbook](#)).
- *Administrative Suspension* is the result of failure to meet university financial obligations or failure to comply with federal, state or local health regulations. (See [Student Accounts Receivable Collection Policy and Procedures](#) for financial obligations. Contact [University Health Services](#) for information about health regulations.)

The appeal procedures for each type of suspension are available as detailed below:

- *Academic Suspension* – See Section 4.3 above regarding Academic Action Appeals;
- *Disciplinary Suspension* – See the [Carnegie Mellon Student Handbook, Community Standards and Procedures: Appeals](#);
- *Administrative Suspension* – vice president for enrollment, vice president for business and planning, and the dean of student affairs, in consultation with the student's associate dean.

For more details see the [Student Suspension / Required Withdrawal Policy](#).

4.10: General Grievances

The following grievance procedures are to be used for graduate student problems or concerns that are not covered by any of the policies or procedures set forth above. As such, these grievance procedures may not be used as a substitute for procedures contemplated under any other policy, including but not limited to, policies regarding academic actions; academic disciplinary actions; community standards; discriminatory and sexual misconduct; intellectual property; research misconduct or any other policy.

Graduate students are expected to discuss any concerns or grievances initially with the faculty or staff member(s) involved. Students are strongly encouraged to seek informal resolution of grievances through consultations within the academic unit, department or program. Students may also seek assistance with the informal resolution of a grievance through the Vice Provost for Education.

If a grievance cannot be resolved informally with the faculty or staff member involved within the academic department, a student may submit a formal, written grievance to the head of the department, unit or program. If there is more than one student with a grievance on a particular matter, each student must submit a separate grievance. The department, unit, or program head, or director or designated committee will issue a written decision on the grievance within thirty (30) days or as soon thereafter as practical.

Graduate students who wish to appeal from the decision rendered at the department, unit or program level must submit a formal, written appeal to the Dean of the College within seven (7) calendar days after receipt of written notice of the decision by the department, unit, or program head, or director or designated committee. The Dean may delegate review of the matter to another individual or committee, including but not limited to one of the Associate Deans, the College Council or a specially constituted grievance committee who shall make a recommendation to the Dean. The Dean shall render a decision on the appeal within thirty (30) days or as soon thereafter as practical.

Graduate students who wish to appeal the written decision of the Dean must submit a formal written appeal to the Provost within seven (7) calendar days after receipt of the Dean's

decision. A copy of the appeal must also be submitted to the Vice Provost for Education and to the Dean. The Provost may delegate review of the matter to another individual or committee, including but not limited to the Vice Provost for Education who shall make a recommendation to the Provost. The Provost shall render a decision on the appeal within thirty (30) days or as soon thereafter as practical. Decisions by the Provost are final and not appealable.

Summary of Levels of Appeal for General Grievances:

- Seek informal resolution within department, unit, or program
- Formal review by the appropriate department, unit, or program head, or director or designated committee
- Formal written appeal to the Dean
- Formal written appeal to the Provost
- Provost issues final non-appealable decision

4.11 Consumer Information

Additional grievance procedures can also be found on the [Consumer Information](#) page.

SECTION 5: Funding & Financial Support

5.1: On-Campus Employment

Information about on-campus employment can be found on the [Career and Professional Development Center website](#).

5.2: Conference Funding

Conference Funding is provided by the Graduate Student Assembly (GSA) and the Provost's Office for students, student work groups, or groups to attend a conference as a presenter. The process is managed by the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Affairs. Students can find more information about the application process and deadlines on OG&PA's [website](#).

5.3: Scholarly Project Funding

Scholarly Project Funding is provided by the Graduate Student Assembly (GSA) and the Provost's Office and managed by the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Affairs. Students can find more information about the application process and deadlines on OG&PA's [website](#).

5.4: Professional Engagement Funding

Professional Engagement Funding is provided by the Graduate Student Assembly (GSA) and the Provost's Office for students to attend a conference or other engagement for professional development. The process is managed by the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Affairs. Students can find more information about the application process and deadlines on OG&PA's [website](#).

5.5: Health Insurance Requirement

CMU requires students to have medical insurance that meets university requirements each academic year, either through enrolling in the [CMU Student Health Insurance Plan \(SHIP\)](#) or obtaining a SHIP waiver.

5.6: University Fees

Fees for Technology, Student Activities, and Transportation for graduate students are listed and described on the Student Financial Services website [here](#). Some graduate programs cover University fees as part of a broader funding package.

5.7: Taxation of Graduate Student Awards

The [Policy on Taxation of Graduate Student Awards](#) indicates that: Graduate student awards given by the university may be subject to U.S. federal, state and local income (wage) taxes and required withholdings. This Policy explains the U.S. federal, state and local income (wage) taxation and withholding for graduate student awards given by the university.

Please consult with your department for additional information and with related questions or concerns. International students may wish to review information for international taxpayers on the [OIE website](#). Please also note that Carnegie Mellon University does not provide tax advice, and in many cases, you may need to consult your tax advisor.

5.8: Lost Funding

Please reference your program handbook and/or contact your department for information

about written notification of change in financial support.

International students must notify the Office of International Education (OIE) if they lose their funding.

Graduate students who find themselves in need of immediate funds for emergency situations should explore the following webpage and contact the Office of the Dean of Students to inquire about [Student Emergency Support Funding](#).

5.9: University Financial Aid

Graduate students should consult the graduate student financial aid information found on [The HUB website](#). Students with specific questions about financial aid should consult with their [HUB liaison](#).

SECTION 6: Safeguarding Educational Access

6.1: Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities

The [Office of Disability Resources](#) strives to provide responsive, reasonable accommodations to help students accomplish their best work. They work to ensure that qualified individuals receive reasonable accommodations as guaranteed by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

For more information about services and accommodations, please visit the [website](#).

Information relating to Accommodations for Committee-Based Assessments is available at <https://www.cmu.edu/disability-resources/policies-guidelines/index.html>.

6.2: Gestational and Parental Accommodations

Providing holistic student support is a top priority at Carnegie Mellon. The [Student Parental Accommodation Protocols](#) are outlined on the web and are designed to support the parental needs of students and their families.

Students seeking any of the Parental Accommodations described on the previously linked webpage must register with the Office of the Dean of Students by contacting the office for an appointment by calling 412-268-2075.

Students are encouraged to register with the Office of the Dean of Students ninety (90) days in advance of the anticipated arrival of the child as applicable in the individual circumstance. At the time of registering, students will have the opportunity to consult about resources, procedures, funding options, and preparation for discussing academic accommodations with the student's academic department. Students should also consult with their academic advisors either before or in conjunction with registering with the Office of the Dean of Students.

6.3: Consensual Intimate Relationship Policy Regarding Undergraduate Students

The [Consensual Intimate Relationship Policy Regarding Undergraduate Students](#) addresses the circumstances in which romantic, sexual or amorous relationships/interactions with undergraduate students, even if consensual, are inappropriate and prohibited.

The purpose of this policy is to assure healthy professional relationships. This policy is not intended to discourage consensual intimate relationships unless there is a conflicting professional relationship in which one party has authority over the other, as described in the policy.

6.4: Academic Religious Accommodations

Carnegie Mellon University is committed to creating an inclusive and welcoming campus environment and does not discriminate with respect to access to its educational programs and activities on the basis of religion.

Students who wish to request a religious accommodation are encouraged to work with faculty directly at the beginning of each semester to request religious accommodations, via the [Student Religious Accommodation Request Form](#).

Additional information regarding religious accommodations is available on the [Religious and Spiritual Life website](#).

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS

Note: The following are meant to broadly include only some of the resources available to graduate students. It is not an exhaustive appendix of resources, and students are strongly encouraged to visit the various websites linked below for the most up-to-date information.

Key Resources for Graduate Student Support

[Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Affairs](#)

[Office of the Dean of Students](#) and the [Division of Student Affairs](#)

[Office of the Student and Faculty Ombudsperson](#)

[Inclusive Excellence](#)

[Center for Student Diversity & Inclusion](#)

[Office for Institutional Equity & Title IX](#)

[Disability Resources](#)

[Eberly Center for Teaching Excellence & Educational Innovation](#)

[Graduate Student Assembly](#) (Carnegie Mellon Student Government)

[Office of International Education](#) (OIE)

[Veterans and Military Community](#)

[Carnegie Mellon Ethics Hotline](#)

Note: The hotline is NOT an emergency service. For emergencies, call University Police at 412-268-2323.

[Policy Against Retaliation](#)

Key Offices for Academic & Research Support

[Computing Services](#)

Be sure to review sections on [Secure Computing](#) and the [University Computing Policy](#)

[Student Academic Success Center](#)

[University Libraries](#)

[Office of Research Integrity & Compliance](#)

[Office of the Vice President for Research](#)

Key Offices for Health, Wellness, & Safety

[Counseling & Psychological Services](#)

[University Health Services](#)

[Community Health & Well-Being](#)

[Religious and Spiritual Life](#)

[University Police](#) and [Annual Reports](#)

For emergencies or to report a crime call: 412-268-2323

[Transportation Services](#)

[Environmental Health and Safety](#)

[CMU Safe](#)