



ASSESSMENT OF THE ACADEMIC QUALITY  
OF CONTINUING GRADUATE SCHOLARS

FALL 2010 - FALL 2014

GRADUATE STUDIES

## Assessment of the Academic Quality of Continuing Graduate Scholars

One of the quality performance indicators of graduate education is the academic quality of continuing students. Continuing graduate students must demonstrate satisfactory academic progress throughout their matriculation. A graduate scholar in good standing must have a cumulative grade point average of 3.00 and above, not on academic probation, or subject to dismissal, and is making adequate progress toward completion of degree requirements.

During the first three years, the number of graduate scholars demonstrating satisfactory academic progress remained constant at ninety-seven percent (97%). During Fall, 2013, there was a one percent (1%) decline in the number of students earning a 3.0 GPA. Graduate faculty members and mentors are working closely with students through scholarly activities and mentoring. Academic enhancement plans are used to improve student success and retention of students.

### ***Outcomes:***

Most graduate scholars demonstrated satisfactory academic during the first three (3) years. During the last two years, the number of students demonstrating satisfactory progress declined by one percent (1%). A significant number of students was admitted conditionally. A subcommittee has been formed to determine why students are not demonstrating academic success.

Ninety-six percent (96%) of all graduate scholars demonstrated satisfactory academic progress during the last two years.

**Table 1: Monitoring Academic Quality of Continuing Students (2010-2014)**

Academic Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Average
Percentage	97%	97%	97%	96%	96%	96.6%

## Recognition of Outstanding Graduate Scholars

### ***Alpha Epsilon Lambda (AEL)***

The Division of Graduate Studies recognizes academic excellence and leadership of graduate scholars. Graduate scholars with a cumulative grade point average of 3.85 and above are invited for induction into Alpha Epsilon Lambda (AEL). In 1994, the Mu Chapter of Alpha Epsilon Lambda was chartered at the university as the only historically black college and university to hold membership.

### ***Outcomes:***

One hundred and twenty (120) academic scholars were recommended and inducted into AEL during Spring 2014.

### ***Phi Kappa Phi***

Jackson State University was the first HBCU to become a member of Phi Kappa Phi in 1976. Membership is by invitation only to the top ten percent of senior and graduate students. Founded in 1897 at the University of Maine, Phi Kappa Phi is the nation's oldest and most selective collegiate honor society for all academic disciplines.

### ***Celebrating Exemplary Doctoral Scholars (2013-2014)***

Seventy-one (71) doctoral scholars were recognized for outstanding achievement in doctoral programs. The doctoral scholars were from the following programs: business (4), chemistry (2) clinical psychology (6), early childhood education (8), educational administration (20), environmental science (8), higher education (11), social work (2), public health (2), public administration (1), urban and regional planning (7).

### **Monitoring Academic Performance of Students Not Maintaining Satisfactory Academic Progress**

The Graduate Advising, Assessment and Retention Committee (GAAR) was established in 2005 by the Division of Graduate Studies to develop strategies for assisting students maintaining academic success. Academic Colleges appoint departmental advisors and student support personnel to assist with the effort. The Division of Graduate Studies and GAAR Committee examined reasons for non-academic success, implemented changes in response to findings and monitored the impact of those changes.

#### ***Outcomes:***

The number of graduate scholars not maintaining satisfactory academic progress decreased from six percent (6%) in Fall 2005 to three percent (3%) in Fall 2010 and remained until Fall 2012. Fall 2013 saw an increase in graduate students requiring student success measures. The five-year average is 3.6% for students not maintaining satisfactory academic progress (Table 2).

**Table 2: Graduate Students Not Demonstrating Academic Progress, 2010-2014**

Academic Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Average
Percentage	3%	3%	3%	4%	4%	3.6%

Source: Office of Institutional Research and Planning

The GAAR committee recommended the formation of Academic Enhancement Plans (AEP) to assist with ensuring academic success in response to findings. The AEP facilitates aggressive monitoring of student achievement. AEPs are developed and monitored by departmental advisors and students for a second-chance with academic success. Successful AEP students were allowed to continue in graduate programs.

The five colleges submitted Academic Enhancement Plans for one hundred and thirteen (113) students, of which 10 were re-admit students. This is a record number of graduate students requiring an AEP. Table 3 denotes the number of students from each college.

**Table 3: Academic Enhancement Plans, 2013-2014**

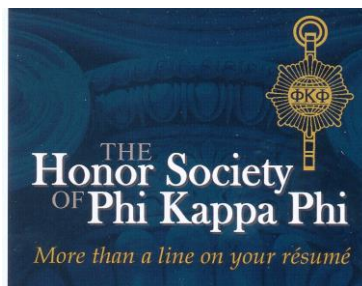
By College	Summer 2013	Fall 2013	Spring 2014	Total
Business	0	0	4	4
Education	3	5	33	41
Liberal Arts	5	2	18	25
Public Service	0	8	17	25
CSET	0	5	13	18
Total	8	20	85	113



**The Mu Chapter of Alpha Epsilon Lambda was founded at Jackson State University on November 16, 1994 with the specific objective of recognizing the academic and leadership accomplishments of graduate students. The mission of the Mu Chapter of Alpha Epsilon Lambda is to:**

- Confer distinction for high achievement
- Promote leadership development
- Promote scholarship and encourage intellectual development
- Enrich the intellectual environment of graduate education
- Encourage high standards of ethical behavior.

Graduate students with a GPA 3.85 or above are eligible for membership.



Phi Kappa Phi is the nation's oldest, largest, and most selective all-discipline honor society.

Founded in 1897 at the University of Maine, Phi Kappa Phi draws its membership from all academic disciplines within colleges and universities. The Society's mission is "*To recognize and promote academic excellence in all fields of higher education and to engage the community of scholars in service to others.*" Graduate students ranking in the top 10% of their class (**GPA 3.90 or above**) are eligible for membership.