



PVAMU ACADEMIC INFORMATION

COURSES AND CREDITS

Classification of Students

1. **Freshman:** a student who has enrolled in regular college work but has earned fewer than 30 semester credit hours. Developmental/Remedial/Study Skills courses do count toward full-time status and course loads but not classification.
2. **Sophomore:** a student who has earned 30 to 59 semester credit hours.
3. **Junior:** a student who has earned 60 to 89 semester credit hours.
4. **Senior:** a student who has earned at least 90 semester credit hours.

Unit of Credit

The unit of credit used at Prairie View A&M University is the semester hour. A semester hour is the equivalent of one lecture contact hour per week for one semester. Time requirements for the semester credit hour in activities other than lecture vary according to the nature and objectives of the activities.

Course Loads

The normal full-time course load ranges from 12 semester hours to 18 semester hours per semester during the regular academic year and six semester hours during a five-week summer term. Undergraduate students required to enroll in one or more developmental course as a result of placement examinations are restricted to a maximum 15 credit hour course load in a regular semester and six semester hours in a five-week summer term. The total credit hours earned for the two summer sessions may not exceed 12.

Course Overloads

Undergraduate students with a 3.0 GPA or higher may be allowed to take a maximum of 21 semester credit hours during any regular semester and 12 semester credit hours during the combined summer semesters. Taking of courses simultaneously at another institution or by distance education, which would cause the student's total workload to exceed the maximum overload, will not be permitted. If a student persists in registering at another institution without approval of the Dean of the respective College or School, the work taken will not be acceptable for transfer to PVAMU.

Independent Study Courses

Independent study courses are permitted on a highly selective need basis. Any student enrolling in an independent study course must have the prior approval of the supervising faculty member, the Department Head in which the course is to be taken, Dean of the College and the Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs. No more than 6 such credit hours may be counted toward a degree.

Registration and Advising

Registration is the selection of classes following appropriate advisement. A student has not completed registration and is not entitled to University privileges until required fees have been paid. Persons planning to register for classes at Prairie View A&M University for the first time or who are returning to the University after being disenrolled for one or more previous regular semesters (fall or spring) should be sure that they have met the University's admission requirements. It is recommended that students provide immunization documentation to include TB screening. Applicants for any category of admission will not be permitted to register in courses offered at the main campus in Prairie View, Texas, or at any distant site where courses are offered, if admissions requirements have not been met.

CLASS ATTENDANCE POLICY

Prairie View A&M University requires regular class attendance. Attending all classes supports full academic development of each learner whether classes are taught with the instructor physically present or via distance learning technologies such as interactive video. Excessive absenteeism, whether excused or unexcused, may result in a student's course grade being reduced or in the assignment of a grade of "F". Absences are accumulated beginning with the first day of class during regular semesters and summer terms. Each faculty member will include the University's attendance policy in each course syllabus.

Excused Absences

Absences due to illness, attendance at University approved activities, and family or other emergencies constitute excused absences and must be supported by documentation presented to the instructor prior to or immediately upon the student's return to class. Students are always responsible for all oral and written examinations as well as all assignments (e.g., projects, papers, reports).

Excessive Absences

Accumulation of one week of unexcused absences (for the number of clock hours equivalent to the credit for the course) constitutes excessive absenteeism. The instructor is not required to accept assignments as part of the course requirement when the student's absence is unexcused.

Absences on Religious Holy Days

In accordance with Texas Education Code, Section 51.925, subchapter (Z), a student may be absent from classes for the observance of a religious holy day and will be permitted to take missed examinations and complete missed assignments provided the student has notified the instructor of the planned absence in writing and receipt of the notice has been acknowledged by the instructor in writing. "A religious holy day means a holy day observed by a religion whose place of worship is exempt from property taxation under the Texas Tax Code, Section 11.20."

GRADING SYSTEM

The standard University grading scale is indicated below. This scale applies to all programs except the College of Nursing.

Grade	Meaning	Score Range	Grade Values
A	Excellent	90-100	4
B	Good	80-89	3
C	Satisfactory	70-79	2
D	Passing	60-69	1
F	Failing	0-59	0
S	Satisfactory	70-100	0
U	Unsatisfactory	0-69	0
I	Incomplete		0
W	Withdrawal from a course		0
WV	Withdrawal from the University voluntarily		0
MW	Military withdrawal		0
WA	Administrative withdrawal		0

Incomplete "I" Grade

An "I," incomplete, may be granted only when an authorized absence or other cause beyond the student's control has prevented the student from completing a major course requirement, usually a final examination or major paper due near the end of a course. The student must have a passing average in all work completed at the time the incomplete is given. Incomplete work must be completed and a grade recorded within one calendar year from the close of the term in which the grade was earned. If the incomplete is not removed within the time allotted, the "I" will be changed to "F" by the Registrar. This regulation does not apply to thesis problems, research credit courses, internships or student teaching, which may go beyond the end of the semester but does apply to terminal project credit courses.

Repeated Course Grade

If a course is repeated, the official grade is the last grade earned. This is especially important to determining current GPA and could affect financial aid status, honor roll, candidacy for a student organization position, membership in an organization, graduation or other opportunity.

NOTE: Courses taken more than twice may be charged at a higher rate.

Grade Point Average

The grade point average (GPA) is determined by adding Grade Values multiplied by Credit Hours for all courses completed during a period and dividing that total by the total credit hours attempted during the period. Withdrawal (W), Voluntary Withdrawal (WV), Military Withdrawal (MW), Administrative Withdrawal (WA) and Incomplete (I) will not be included among grades used to compute grade point averages.

ORDERING TRANSCRIPTS

A transcript is the record of an individual's course work at the University. Before an official transcript can be released, all admission requirements, fiscal and financial aid obligations to the University must be met. Official transcripts may be requested in writing to Prairie View A&M University, P.O. Box 519; MS 1002, Prairie View, TX 77446 or in person from the Office of the Registrar. There is no cost for transcripts.

Students attending Prairie View A&M University beginning Fall 1988 and later may request a transcript via the Web on Panthertracks at <http://panthertracks.pvamu.edu>. The student should follow the on-line instructions. Students with questions about how to log-on to Panthertracks should first review the Frequently Asked Questions page on the Website.

Students who attended Prairie View A&M University prior to Fall 1988 must request a transcript in writing. The transcript request form and instructions can be accessed via the Web at www.pvamu.edu by clicking on the link for the Registrar's Office. A written request should include the complete name of the student as recorded while attending the University, social security number, date of birth, first and last enrollment semesters, number of transcripts requesting and the address where the transcript(s) are to be mailed. All written transcript requests must have the student's signature; failure to sign the request will delay processing. Please allow 3-5 weekdays from the date the request is received, except during peak periods for processing.

A student must provide identification at the Office of the Registrar when requesting and picking up a copy of a transcript in person. Without the written consent of the student, the University will not release a transcript except when directed by a court-ordered subpoena.

COURSE CHANGES AND WITHDRAWALS

Course changes and withdrawals are accepted only as designated in the academic calendar. All such changes in registration require the approval of the student's adviser or Dean. No change in registration is complete until filed with the Office of the Registrar for recording. A student who wishes to withdraw from a course other than an undergraduate pre-college developmental course (reading, writing, mathematics, study skills) but whose adviser, Department Head or Dean will not approve may appeal to the Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Voluntary Withdrawal from a Course

1. A student may withdraw from a course before the Change of Program Period ends without having the course recorded on his/her permanent record.
2. Withdrawal from a course will be allowed until two weeks after mid-term examinations during the fall and spring semesters, and one week before the date of the final examination during a summer term. No withdrawal from a course will be allowed after that point. Withdrawals must be approved by the adviser/Department Head/Dean.
3. The student is automatically assigned a grade of “W” to indicate a course withdrawal. The “W” will not be calculated in the GPA.
4. Withdrawals from courses may affect housing, graduation, financial aid, membership in organizations or other opportunities.

Voluntary Withdrawal from the University

Students seeking to withdraw from the University may seek advice and counsel from several sources: Registrar, course instructors, Department Head or Dean. A student may be required to meet with a transition coordinator who will assess the student’s rationale for withdrawal, and will, through referral, coordination, counseling or other University resources, assist the student with remaining enrolled if possible.

A student who officially withdraws after the Change of Program Period through the last class day will receive a grade of “WV” for all courses affected by the withdrawal.

Withdrawal of Students Ordered to Military Active Duty

A student called to active duty after the summer semester of 1990 will have three options as follows:

1. Refund of the tuition and fees paid by the student for the semester in which the student is required to withdraw,
2. Grant the student a grade of “MW” in each of his or her academic courses and designate “withdrawn-military” on the students transcript, or
3. If an instructor determines that a student has satisfactorily completed a substantial portion of the course and demonstrated mastery of the material, then an appropriate final grade may be assigned.

In all cases, the student should provide a copy of the military order to the academic Dean. The Dean will ensure that the Registrar has a copy of this order to keep in the permanent file. In those events where the student chooses the second option, the Dean will ensure that grades of “MW” are recorded for courses in which the student is enrolled. The instructor for each course will prepare the necessary documentation for removing the “MW” grade and forward the information to the Department Head for storage in the student’s record in the college or school. In addition, a copy of the documentation will be forwarded to the Registrar for storage in the student’s permanent file. The time limit for the removal of a grade of “MW” for a student called to active military duty after the summer semester of 1990, shall be one calendar year from the official date of release from military active duty. Failure to enroll as a student during the one calendar year following release from military active duty will result in the grade of “MW” remaining permanently on the academic record.

Administrative Withdrawal

To be administratively withdrawn from the University is to be dismissed from the University. A student may be dismissed from the University for failure to make satisfactory academic progress, failure to pay legitimate debts on schedule or for inappropriate behavior that is detrimental to good order. Administrative withdrawal does not relieve the student of the responsibility for all debts, including tuition, fees, room and board, and other incidental charges for the full semester. Administrative withdrawal due to failure to meet financial obligations will result in the following:

1. Transcripts being withheld
2. Room and board privileges being lost
3. Classroom admittance being denied

A student who has been dismissed for financial reasons can have privileges restored upon payment of all outstanding charges and a reinstatement fee.

CHANGE OF NAME

At Prairie View A&M University, a currently enrolled student may request a change of name by presenting any two (2) original documents as follows:

1. Driver’s license or passport
2. Court order, divorce decree or marriage license to the Office of the Registrar, Room 302, Willie A. Tempton, Sr. Memorial Student Center.

CHANGE OF SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER

A request to change your social security number must be made by presenting your social security card along with an original photo id (i.e. driver’s license, passport) to the Office of the Registrar, Room 302 Willie A. Tempton, Sr. Memorial Student Center.

UNIVERSITY POLICY ON ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Course credit, degrees and certificates are to be earned by students and may not be obtained through acts of dishonesty. Students are prohibited from participation in acts of academic dishonesty, including tampering with records or falsifying admissions or other information. Disciplinary action will be taken against any student who alone or with others engages in any act of academic fraud or deceit. The University’s policy on academic dishonesty is stated below:

It is the responsibility of students and faculty members to maintain academic integrity at the University by refusing to participate in or tolerate academic dishonesty. Each instance of academic dishonesty should be reported to the department in which the student has declared a major so that it can become a part of the student’s file; to the Department Head of the instructor of the course in which the alleged infraction occurred; and to the Office for Academic Affairs as deemed necessary.

OFFENSES AND APPROPRIATE DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

Commission of any of the following acts shall constitute academic dishonesty. This listing is not exclusive of any other acts that may reasonably be determined to constitute academic dishonesty. The penalty for an offense, whether first or later, will generally range from a letter of reprimand to expulsion, depending upon the severity of the offense. If an offense leads to course credit or the acquisition of a degree or certificate and it is revealed after following appropriate procedures that the offense was indeed committed, the University has the right to rescind course credit, degrees or certificates awarded.

A. Offense: Acquiring information

1. Acquiring answers for an assigned work or examination from an unauthorized source.
2. Working with another person or persons on an assignment or examination when not specifically permitted by the instructor.
3. Copying the work of other students during an examination.

B. Offense: Providing information

1. Providing answers for an assigned work or examination when not specifically authorized to do so.
2. Informing a person of the contents of an examination prior to the time the examination is given.

C. Offense: Plagiarism and Dual Submissions

1. Failing to credit sources used in a work or product in an attempt to pass off the work as one's own.
2. Attempting to receive credit for work performed by another, including papers obtained in whole or in part from individuals or other sources.
3. Attempting to receive credit in one or more classes for the same paper or project without written approval of instructors involved.

D. Offense: Conspiracy Agreeing with one or more persons to commit an act of scholastic dishonesty.

E. Offense: Acquisition of examinations, answers to examinations or assignments.

F. Offense: Fabrication of Information

1. The falsification of the results obtained from a research or laboratory experiment.
2. The written or oral presentation of results of research or laboratory experiments without the research or laboratory experiments having been performed.

G. Offense: Misrepresentations, alterations of documents and forgery

1. Taking an examination for another person or allowing someone to take an examination for you.
2. Signing an attendance sheet for another student or committing similar acts of impersonation.
3. The changing of admissions data, test results, transcripts, grade reports or other documents.

H. Sanctions The following sanctions can be enforced for breaches of the University Academic Dishonesty Policy:

1. Grade Penalty
2. Letter of Reprimand
3. Probation
4. Suspension
5. Dismissal
6. Expulsion

Following the review, the Dean's decision regarding eligibility for readmission will be communicated in writing to the student who has the right to appeal that decision to the University Academic Dishonesty Disciplinary Committee.

The standard of review to be used in all proceedings under this section shall be fundamental fairness. Strict rules of evidence and procedures are not required so long as the proceedings are conducted in such a manner as to allow both sides to fairly and fully explain the circumstances. Decisions regarding admissibility of evidence and the weight to be given to same shall be made by the party who is conducting the hearing.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

- A. The instructor of record shall be the instructor of the course in which the claim of academic dishonesty is being made or the appropriate committee chair for a graduate student taking examinations required by the Department or College.
- B. At the point of discovery, the instructor shall:
 1. inform the student of the alleged academic dishonesty and explain the sanction(s);
 2. hear the student's explanation of circumstances and judge the student to be guilty or not guilty of academic dishonesty;

3. If he/she judges him/her to be guilty, he/she will make a written report to the Head of the Department offering the course, with a copy to the student, the Department Head for the program in which the student has declared a major and the Office of Academic and Student Affairs, outlining the incident and including a recommendation of disciplinary action(s) to be imposed;
4. Inform the student, in writing, of his/her right to appeal to the Head of the Department offering the course regarding either the question of guilt or the sanction(s) and explain the procedures the Department Head will follow if his/her decision is appealed to that level.

C. The instructor's recommendation may be dismissed, reduced, upheld or increased by the Department Head. Prior to reaching a final decision regarding any sanction to be imposed, the Department Head shall check the student's record in the Office of Student Affairs or the department in which the student has a declared major to determine the appropriate disciplinary action for a person with his/her previous offenses.

NOTE: Where there is no department, responsibility assigned to a Department Head will go to the Dean of the College.

- D. If the student chooses not to appeal and the Department Head concurs with the instructor's recommendation, the Department Head will implement the sanction. A copy of the report will be forwarded to the Dean of the College in which the alleged offense occurred and the Dean of the College in which the student has declared a major.
- E. If the Department Head proposes to change the instructor's recommendation, the Department Head shall conduct a hearing. The student and the instructor shall be allowed to present witnesses and provide evidence relating to the charges. The recommendations resulting from this hearing shall be forwarded in writing to the Dean of the College offering the course and to the student. The student may appeal to the Dean.
- F. If the student chooses not to appeal the recommendation of the Department Head, the Dean of the College offering the course will enforce the sanction.
- G. Should the student appeal to the Dean, an appeal at this level may be based on written summaries only. However, should the Dean choose to hear witnesses or hold an informal hearing, it should be done within five (5) business days of receipt of the recommendation from the Department Head. Within five (5) business days of the hearing, if one is to be held, or five (5) business days of receipt of the recommendation, if there is to be no hearing, the Dean shall review the charges and render a written notification.
- H. A student who wishes to appeal the decision of the Dean, in whole or in part, shall appeal to the University Academic Dishonesty Disciplinary Committee, which will be appointed jointly by the Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and the Associate Vice President for Student Affairs. The committee is to be comprised of one-third faculty, one-third Student Affairs professional staff and one-third students.
- I. Once a charge of academic dishonesty has been finally resolved, notice of the same shall be provided in writing to the student, the instructor, the Head of the Department offering the course, the Dean of the College offering the course, the Head of the Department in which the student has declared a major, the Dean of the College in which the student has declared a major and the Office for Student Affairs and the Office for Academic Affairs.
- J. Following a first offense, the student must be given a copy of the University Academic Dishonesty Policy by the Department Head of the College in which the offense occurred and the said policy should be discussed with the student.

STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES IN ACADEMIC DISHONESTY CASES

Students have the right to accept the decision of the instructor for a particular offense. This does not preclude review of records for past offenses and imposition of penalty for accumulated violations.

Students shall be afforded the following rights in the hearing conducted by the Department Head. The Dean's appeal shall not be considered a hearing covered by these regulations:

- A. Right to a written notice of the charges at least three (3) business days before the hearing may proceed.
- B. Right to waive the three-day notice of charges.
- C. Right to reasonable access to the case file.
- D. Right to review all evidence and question any witness against the student.
- E. Right to present evidence or witnesses in his/her own behalf.
- F. Right to have an observer present during the hearing. The observer cannot be a witness in the hearing or represent the student in the hearing.
- G. Right to appeal the disciplinary recommendation to the Dean of the College offering the course and, finally, to the University Academic Dishonesty Disciplinary Committee.

If the student wishes to have an attorney present at a hearing before the Department Head or Dean, the Department Head or Dean will be afforded the same opportunity to have equal representation present.

If the student wishes to appeal a recommendation made by the instructor, Department Head or Dean, he/she must provide written notice to the proper level within five (5) working days of receiving notice of the recommendation. Only in unusual circumstances may this deadline be extended by the entity conducting the hearing.

Further Notes Related to Disciplinary Action in Academic Dishonesty Cases

Offenses punishable by probation, suspension, dismissal, expulsion or other penalties must be reported in writing to the University Academic Dishonesty Disciplinary Committee within three (3) business days of the decision, even if the student waives his/her right to an appeal.

ACADEMIC PROBATION AND SUSPENSION POLICY

Failure to maintain minimum standards will cause a student to be placed on probation or suspension. Conditions governing probation and suspension are listed below:

- A. Any student whose cumulative grade point average falls below 2.00 will be placed on probation.
- B. Any student on probation who does not receive a 2.00 semester grade point average will be suspended.
- C. Any student on probation for three consecutive regular semesters will be suspended. (This is possible if the student who has a cumulative grade point average earns a semester grade point average of 2.00 or above but does not raise the cumulative grade point average above 2.00) However, a student on probation who has earned a 2.00 or better for three consecutive semesters can appeal the suspension to the Admission and Academic Standards Committee before serving the suspension. A decision to continue the student's probation in lieu of suspension must be approved by the Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs.
- D. If a student's cumulative GPA drops below 1.00 at the end of any regular semester (fall or spring), the student will be suspended.
- E. The length of the first suspension is one regular semester. The second suspension is for one year. After a second suspension, a student must meet all academic requirements or be dismissed.

- F. Academic probation and suspension will be noted on the student's permanent record.
- G. Following suspension, a student will be on probation for the next semester and thus governed by the guidelines for students on probation.

Students who are suspended are expected to strengthen their academic skills by pursuing credit or non-credit courses or programs related to their academic or career objectives or engage in other activities that can positively impact students' preparation for success upon returning to the University following a suspension.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Each degree program has established courses, examinations and other performance requirements students must satisfy to be awarded a degree. General graduation requirements include:

- A. Satisfactory completion of work in an academic major;
- B. Satisfactory completion of the Core Curriculum requirements;
- C. A minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.00;
- D. A minimum grade point average of 2.00 in the major;
- E. A minimum grade point average of 2.00 in the minor;
- F. Completion of the residency requirement: A minimum of 36 semester hours of credit toward a degree must be earned in residence at PVAMU;
- G. Completion of 30 of the final 36 semester hours of credit in residence at PVAMU.

The University requires that a student be in good standing to be awarded a degree. There must be no academic, financial or disciplinary deficiencies at the time of final clearance, which occurs during the 30-day period following commencement. Any discovery of failure to satisfy the good standing requirement, including involvement in inappropriate conduct up to and through final examinations, a cooperative education, internship assignments or commencement, will result in a review and in a sanction, which must be satisfied prior to the awarding of a degree or may result in a candidate's being denied the awarding of a degree from PVAMU.

Transfer Credit During Last Enrollment Period

A student who has the permission of the Dean of his/her College to complete a requirement for graduation at another institution during his/her final semester at the University, must have on file in the Office of the Registrar, an official transcript of any grade received at the other institution prior to commencement. Students who do not meet this requirement will not be permitted to graduate and may not participate in the commencement exercise. A student who does not graduate because of failure to satisfy this requirement must reapply for graduation during the next graduation period. An official transcript is the only acceptable documentation of the completion of a graduation requirement.

Transfer of Grades from Other Institutions

Undergraduate students matriculating at Prairie View A&M University may wish to take courses from other institutions of higher education. Prior to enrolling in a face-to-face or electronically delivered course at another institution, the student who wishes to take courses to be transferred back to Prairie View A&M University and to be counted toward degree requirements must obtain approval from the respective Department Head and Dean. Written specifications identifying the course or courses to be taken must be signed by the student, the Department Head and the Dean. The original letter or form will be forwarded to the Office of the Registrar for inclusion in the student's record. If there is no agreement on file in the Office of the Registrar, grades for courses taken at other institutions will not be accepted.

Teacher Certification Requirement

Students seeking degrees in education or degree majors in other fields with eligibility for teacher certification must be admitted to teacher education by the Whitlowe R. Green College of Education before enrolling in teacher education professional education courses. Entrance and exit examinations are required. Students interested in being certified as teachers after graduation should contact the Office of the Dean, Whitlowe R. Green College of Education, for information and advisement following admission to PVAMU.

Registration Requirement

Students completing work required for a degree must be enrolled during the term in which the work is completed and the application for graduation is filed. A fee is required for registration in absentia.

Removal of “I” grades

A student who has a grade of Incomplete, “I”, must arrange to complete the work and receive a grade that meets the accepted minimum to pass the course and to receive credit in the major or minor. No student will be awarded a degree until the “I” grade has been converted to a passing grade. All grades of “I” must be removed and replaced with passing grades for courses included in degree requirements. A student should not re-enroll in a course for which a grade of “I” has been recorded.

Second Baccalaureate Degree Requirement

A second bachelor’s degree will be conferred when a student has completed at least 30 semester hours in residence (24 semester hours in upper division [3000 – 4999] courses beyond those counted toward the first degree). Any additional requirements of the Department and College approving the respective degree plan and state legislative mandated requirements must be completed. If the student did not take six (6) semester hours of U.S. History and six (6) semester hours of U.S. Government, the student must take the courses or pass CLEP examinations to meet this 12 semester hour requirement that Texas mandates for all bachelor’s degree recipients.

APPLICATION FOR GRADUATION

A student who plans to receive a degree from Prairie View A&M University must apply for graduation. Students are to apply one semester prior to the graduation semester/ term. A student waiting until the final semester of enrollment to apply for graduation must apply no later than the fifth class day of the fall and spring semester and the fifth class day of the first summer term (see academic calendar for these deadline dates). If any student submits an application for graduation after the established semester deadlines, the student’s application will be processed for the following semester.

To start the process, secure the application form and checklist from the Office of the Registrar. Proceed to your academic Department Head, then on to your academic Dean for approval. A fee is required as part of the application process. Students must go to the Office of Student Financial Aid to sign up for exit loan counseling, which is mandatory. Finally, submit the approved application along with your receipt of payment to the Office of the Registrar.

Students who are indebted to the University will not be allowed to participate in the commencement exercise. The degree will be posted, if earned, but the transcript and diploma will be withheld until the debt is paid.

Candidates for graduation in nursing are expected to complete the upper-division curriculum within five years of the initial admission date. The College of Nursing adheres to all general requirements and procedures of the University for graduation. In addition, students are eligible to apply for graduation when the following conditions are met:

1. Completion of required semester credit hours.
2. A cumulative GPA of 2.00
3. Completion of all clinical studies course work.
4. Satisfactory performance on comprehensive examinations designed by the College of Nursing (generic students only).

Time Limit of Graduation

Students graduate under the catalog requirement for the academic year in which they first enroll in the University, provided those requirements are completed within a continuous six-year period. The academic year begins with the fall semester. Students enrolling for the first time during summer session are subject to the catalog for the following academic year. If degree requirements are not completed within the six-year period, students must meet all requirements effective for the catalog under which they expect to graduate. If attendance is interrupted for as much as one (1) academic year, or if a student transfers from one degree program to another, the catalog requirement in effect at the time of re-admission or transfer applies.

Commencement and the Conferring of Degrees

Students may not graduate until completion of all degree requirements has been certified by the Registrar and academic Dean. Formal conferring of degrees and awarding of diplomas take place at the earliest commencement exercise following graduation. Commencement exercises are scheduled in May, August and December of each year. Participating students must wear appropriate academic attire. Graduating students who wish to receive their diplomas in absentia may do so by filing a request with the Registrar at least one week prior to commencement.

The University has the right to withhold a degree if academic, financial or disciplinary deficiencies arise before the degree is posted. The University may rescind a previously granted degree if it becomes aware of information leading to the determination that the degree should never have been granted.

HONORS STANDARDS

Honor Roll

The University honor roll is published at the end of each semester of the academic year. To qualify for the semester honor roll, a student must have carried a minimum 12 semester hour course load, maintained a 3.50 average or greater and earned no grade lower than C. The minimum GPA for the semester honor roll is 3.50. Developmental courses may not be included in the computation of GPA for honor roll.

Dean’s Honors

Dean’s Honors are published at the end of the fall and spring semester of the academic year. To qualify a student must have earned a minimum of 12 semester hours, excluding any developmental or other courses below college level. A student may qualify for Dean’s Honors with a semester GPA between 3.00 and 3.49.

Graduating with Honors

Honors recognition at graduation is based on consistent high scholarship and cumulative grade point average for a minimum of 45 semester hours and an associate degree or 60 semester hours earned at Prairie View A&M University. A student may graduate with honors in one of three categories.

Summa Cum Laude	Cumulative GPA 3.90 - 4.00
Magna Cum Laude	Cumulative GPA 3.70 - 3.89
Cum Laude	Cumulative GPA 3.50 - 3.69