The purpose of this Operating Policy/Procedure (OP) is to specify the charge, function, and composition of the Graduate Council.

This OP will be reviewed in March every five years by the dean of the Graduate School with substantive revisions forwarded to the Provost and Senior Vice President.

The Graduate Council, with input from and on behalf of the graduate faculty, provides leadership in approving membership on the graduate faculty, approving proposed graduate programs and curricula, approving students for doctoral candidacy, setting admissions standards, adjudicating petitions and appeals, and formulating other policies to advance the quality of graduate education at Texas Tech University.

The Graduate Council is composed of 15 voting members. The graduate faculty elects 12 members (three-year, non-renewable terms), the Graduate Dean appoints two members (two-year terms), and the Faculty Senate elects one from its graduate faculty membership (one-year, renewable term). By a system of rotation, some new members join the council each year, replacing those whose terms of office have expired. The Graduate Dean is ex officio and chairs the Council. Other ex officio members include the following: the Provost (or designee), associate deans, and representatives from the Library, the Law School, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, and others appointed by the Dean. The Graduate Student Vice President of the Student Government Association and the President of the Graduate Assembly also serve as ex officio members.

The Graduate Council meets on the first Thursday of each month during spring and fall terms (except for the month of January, when no meeting is held). The Graduate Council meets once during the summer. For purposes of conducting official business, a quorum of the Graduate Council is defined as a simple majority (at least eight persons) of the 15 elected and appointed members. Council members who must be absent may not send substitutes to represent them in a voting capacity. Interested persons may attend Graduate Council meetings as visitors and should call the Graduate School beforehand to arrange to be present. Three committees of the Graduate Council, each chaired by an associate dean or an assistant dean, make recommendations to the Council. Those committees are the Committee on Graduate Faculty, the Committee on Student Affairs, and the Committee on Academic Programs.

The following are the areas from which representatives to the Graduate Council are elected:

- **Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources**
  - All departments

- **Architecture**
  - All areas
Arts & Sciences

Humanities
  Classical and Modern Languages and Literatures
  English
  History
  Philosophy

Sciences and Mathematics
  Biological Sciences
  Chemistry and Biochemistry
  Geosciences
  Kinesiology and Sport Management
  Mathematics and Statistics
  Physics

Social Sciences
  Economics
  Health, Physical Education, and Recreation
  Museum Science
  Political Science (including Public Administration)
  Psychological Sciences
  Sociology, Anthropology, and Social Work

Business
  All areas

Education
  All departments

Engineering
  All departments

Human Sciences
  All departments

Media & Communication
  All departments

Veterinary Medicine
  All Areas

Visual & Performing Arts
  All schools