

Dixie State University Policy

703 Graduate Degree Requirements



- I. Purpose
- II. Scope
- III. Definitions
- IV. Policy
- V. References
- VI. Procedures
- VII. Addenda

I. Purpose

- 1.1 To define the general requirements for obtaining a graduate degree at DSU.

II. Scope

- 2.1 Degree requirements for DSU graduate programs apply to all students enrolled in graduate programs at DSU.

III. Definitions

3.1 *Graduate Course Numbering:*

- 3.1.1 5000-level courses are advanced, upper-division undergraduate courses, prerequisite or leveling graduate courses, or graduate courses.
- 3.1.2 6000-level courses are considered graduate level courses and are typically not available to undergraduates.

- 3.2 *Experiential Learning:* Experiential learning, also called prior learning, is learning that has been gained through work or life experiences.

- 3.3 *Graduate Certificate Program:* A graduate certificate program is a program of study requiring less than 30 semester credit hours and composed of undergraduate and/or graduate courses. The program requires a bachelor's degree for admission.

- 3.4 *Leveling Course:* A leveling course is a pre-requisite course designed to prepare a prospective graduate student for the rigor and content of future graduate courses.

IV. Policy

- 4.1 A minimum of 30 credit hours beyond the bachelor's degree is required for any Dixie State University master's degree.
- 4.2 Additional course work or projects may be required due to graduate program accreditation standards, or for specialized professional master's degrees, or other discipline related requirements.
- 4.3 A minimum of two-thirds of the required credits in any graduate degree program (including thesis or project) shall be earned at DSU.
- 4.4 Good academic standing is required for successful completion of a graduate degree. Good academic standing includes the following:
 - 4.4.1 A minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.0
 - 4.4.2 Any grade of C- or below is not accepted for a master's degree.
 - 4.4.3 Continuous enrollment.
 - 4.4.3.1 Students with extenuating circumstances may request a leave of absence from the Graduate Council through their sponsoring department.
 - 4.4.4 Additional requirements as determined by the sponsoring department.
- 4.5 Academic Probation, Suspension, and Dismissal
 - 4.5.1 Students who fail to maintain good academic standing will be subject to a sanction of academic probation, academic suspension, or academic dismissal.
 - 4.5.2 Students are placed on academic probation for violating the University policy requirement that graduate students must maintain good academic standing.
 - 4.5.3 Students will be removed from academic probation when they return to good academic standing.
 - 4.5.4 If a student is on academic probation for two sequential semesters of enrollment, the Graduate Council will place the student on academic suspension.
 - 4.5.5 Students who are placed on academic suspension will not be permitted to enroll in the University during the upcoming semester, but will be

expected to return the following semester.

- 4.5.6 Students on academic suspension are exempt from continuous enrollment requirements for the period of the suspension.
- 4.5.7 Students who return after the suspension period will remain on academic probation.
- 4.5.8 Students who do not meet the requirements of good academic standing during their first semester as a reinstated student will be dismissed from their graduate program.
- 4.5.9 Students have the right to appeal an academic suspension or dismissal (see DSU Policies and Procedures Manual, Policy 522: Student Rights and Responsibilities).
- 4.6 All degree requirements shall be completed within seven years of the admission date.
- 4.7 A graduate student's catalog shall be the catalog in effect the Fall Semester of the academic year when the student first enrolls in the graduate program following formal admission into that program.
- 4.8 Any exceptions to the above requirements must be approved by the Director of Graduate Studies.
- 4.9 Thesis/Non-thesis Option
 - 4.9.1 Master's degree programs may include a "thesis option" and/or a "non-thesis option."
 - 4.9.2 The overall level of achievement for the master's degree should be the same, whether the option chosen requires completion of a thesis or not.
 - 4.9.3 The thesis option shall include at least 6 credit hours of thesis research during which time the student must be continuously enrolled.
 - 4.9.3.1 The master's thesis should be evidence of the graduate student's ability to carry out independent investigation and to present clear and systemic results.
 - 4.9.3.2 The semester during which a student registers for thesis credit should correspond as closely as possible to the semester in which the thesis work is done and faculty supervision is provided.

- 4.9.4 The non-thesis option shall include a major project, paper, presentation, and/or a comprehensive examination.
- 4.10 Final Semester Requirements
 - 4.10.1 Matriculated graduate students shall be registered for at least one graduate credit during the semester of the final thesis defense or, in a non-thesis degree program, the last semester of coursework required on the student's program of study.
- 4.11 Subsequent DSU Graduate Degree Requirements
 - 4.11.1 More than one master's degree may be earned at DSU. Students should contact the graduate program advisor for details.
 - 4.11.2 Subsequent master's degrees shall require a minimum of 20 graduate credit hours beyond the previously-earned graduate degree.
- 4.12 Dual DSU Graduate Degree Requirements
 - 4.12.1 Some graduate programs at DSU may offer dual or concurrent degrees with other DSU programs or with other regionally accredited universities.
 - 4.12.2 Students may either work simultaneously in two areas of study and receive one graduate degree representing both fields, OR may earn two separate degrees concurrently.
 - 4.12.2.1 Two-thirds of unique 6000-level credit hours are required for dual degrees.
- 4.13 Transfer Credits and Graduate Program Residency Requirements
 - 4.13.1 All transfer credits shall be approved by the degree program director. Graduate programs may, at their discretion, stipulate course age limits and appropriateness of transfer credit hours that may be applied towards their degree provided no course age limit exceeds seven years from time of acceptance.
 - 4.13.2 Depending on individual program requirements, a maximum of one-third of the total semester graduate credits earned at another regionally-accredited institution may be approved by a student's department.
- 4.14 Non-matriculated Credits

- 4.14.1 Graduate credit hours earned while a student is classified as a non-degree seeking graduate student (non-matriculated) at DSU may be applied toward a DSU graduate degree with the permission of the specific graduate program.
- 4.14.2 Graduate programs may, at their discretion, stipulate course age limits, appropriateness, and a maximum number of non-matriculated credit hours which may be applied towards their degree.

4.15 Experiential Learning Credits

- 4.15.1 Credit for experiential learning is expressly prohibited at the graduate level at DSU. However, graduate credit may be granted for internships, field experiences, and clinical practices that are an integral part of the graduate degree program.

4.16 Course Level Requirements

- 4.16.1 5000-5999 level undergraduate courses may be applied toward a DSU graduate degree with program approval.
 - 4.16.1.1 5000-level credit used to earn the undergraduate degree may not be counted toward a graduate degree, although students may petition the program director for retroactive graduate credit for courses taken as an undergraduate under certain circumstances.
 - 4.16.1.1.1 Permission may be granted for no more than six credit hours or two courses with a grade of B- or higher. Courses shall have been completed within five years of the petition date.
 - 4.16.1.2 6000 level courses may only be cross-listed with undergraduate courses when there are substantially different course requirements for graduate students, reflecting a degree of academic rigor appropriate to graduate-level study.

4.17 Graduate Certificates

- 4.17.1 Graduate certificate programs are credit-based, taught by regular or associate members of the graduate program's faculty, and normally aligned with existing graduate education curricula.
- 4.17.2 While certificate programs may be chosen by students who do not wish to pursue a master's degree (i.e. non-matriculated graduate students), courses completed during a certificate program may be applied toward

graduate degree requirements upon the approval of the appropriate graduate program director.

- 4.17.3 Graduate certificate programs shall require a minimum of 9 credit hours of 6000-level courses, although 5000-level courses may be applied toward certificate requirements per graduate program policy.
- 4.17.4 Students shall apply and be accepted into the graduate certificate area of study to be eligible to receive a certificate. The requirements and general criteria of eligibility for admission to any graduate certificate area of study include:
 - 4.17.4.1 An earned bachelor's degree from a regionally-accredited college or university, or enrollment in a DSU graduate academic degree program.
 - 4.17.4.1.1 The requirements for admission are established by each graduate area of study, which may include minimum grade point average, standardized test scores, and other similar criteria as part of the application.
 - 4.17.4.2 Students who wish to pursue approved graduate certificates shall be admitted to that certificate program.
 - 4.17.4.2.1 Students may pursue more than one certificate, but shall be admitted separately to each certificate program.
 - 4.17.4.3 Successful completion of a graduate certificate shall be noted on the student's academic transcript.
 - 4.17.4.4 All graduate certificate students shall meet all prerequisites for courses in which they wish to enroll.
 - 4.17.4.5 Students who earn a graduate certificate and subsequently apply and are accepted to a degree-granting DSU graduate program, may apply credit hours earned as part of the graduate certificate toward a DSU graduate degree with the permission of the specific graduate program.

V. References

5.1 Policy 552: Students Conduct Code

VI. Procedures

- 6.1 Appeals of decisions on all issues of an administrative nature, such as admission to the University, residency, tuition, course waivers, credit adjustment, graduation, program eligibility, participation in specific activities, financial aid, parking and traffic, and residence halls, will be resolved based on the procedures outlined in the DSU Policies and Procedures Manual, Policy 552: Student Conduct Code.

VII. Addenda

Policy Owner: VP, Academic Affairs

Policy Steward: Associate Provost for Academic and Budget Planning

History:

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