

General Policies for Graduate Programs

Typical Dissertation Process

1. Student/Candidate identifies Dissertation Chair and committee
2. Dissertation Chair convenes Committee
3. Student/Candidate and Dissertation Chair work to define proposal
4. Full Committee approves proposal
5. Dissertation chair files approval with Graduate Programs
6. Candidate and Dissertation Chair finalize dissertation
7. Student files for Defense with the support of at least one committee member
8. Graduate Programs assigns Graduate Programs Representative
9. Dissertation Chair schedules defense with Committee and Graduate Programs Representative.
10. Defense occurs
 - a. Committee approves; Graduate Programs Representative approves
 - i. Dissertation Chair, Committee, and Candidate define changes; go to step 3
 - b. Committee does not approve
 - i. Dissertation Chair, Committee, and Candidate define changes; go to step 3
 - c. Graduate Programs Representative does not approve
 - i. Dissertation Chair, Graduate Programs Representative convene with Graduate Programs Dean, Program Coordinator, Department Chair, and programs' Dean of College; this committee may
 1. Require the candidate to schedule another defense;
 2. Deem the procedural issue non-critical and deem the candidate passed the defense.
 - ii. All candidate's rights to appeal remain intact
11. Graduate Programs approves candidacy
12. Upload to UMI
13. Candidate Graduates

Minimum Credit Hours Required for a Master's Program

All master's degree programs require a minimum of 30 semester hours. Only courses taken for graduate credit and placed on a graduate transcript as graduate credit may be counted toward a master's degree.