The Graduate School sets minimum standards that must be met by all graduate students in the university. Continuation in the Graduate School is at the discretion of the major program, the Graduate School, and the major professor.

The requirements of most programs exceed the Graduate School minimum criteria. These additional requirements are described in each major program entry in the Guide on the Requirements tab. Students are responsible for reviewing Guide and obtaining specific degree requirements from the program. Many programs publish a graduate student handbook, which provides more details about graduate study and other policies and processes.

GRADUATE SCHOOL MINIMUM DEGREE REQUIREMENTS AND SATISFACTORY PROGRESS

Schools/colleges, departments and programs may set more rigorous expectations and requirements than the Graduate School.

MASTER’S DEGREES

M.A., M.S., M.Acc., MBA, M.M., M.Eng., MFS, MiPA, MPA, MSW

Minimum Graduate Degree Credit Requirement

30 credits

Minimum Graduate Residence Credit Requirement

16 credits

Minimum Graduate Coursework (50%) Requirement

At least 50% of credits applied toward the graduate degree credit requirement must be in graduate-level coursework. Details can be found in the Graduate School’s Minimum Graduate Coursework (50%) policy (https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1244 (https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1244/)).

Prior Coursework Requirements: Graduate Work from Other Institutions

For well-prepared advanced students, a student’s program may decide to accept prior graduate coursework from other institutions. This coursework does not appear on a UW–Madison transcript nor count toward graduate career GPA. The Graduate School’s minimum residence credit requirement can be satisfied only with courses taken as a graduate student at UW–Madison. The only exception is graduate-level coursework taken as a CIC Traveling Scholar.

Prior Coursework Requirements: UW–Madison Undergraduate

For well-prepared advanced students, a student’s program may decide to accept up to 7 credits numbered 300 or above of required or elective courses from the undergraduate work completed at UW–Madison toward fulfillment of minimum degree and minor credit requirements. However, this work would not be allowed to count toward the 50% graduate coursework minimum unless taken at the 700 level or above. This work will not appear on the graduate career portion of UW–Madison transcript nor count toward the graduate career GPA.

The Graduate School’s minimum graduate residence credit requirement can be satisfied only with courses taken as a graduate student at UW–Madison.

Prior Coursework Requirements: UW–Madison University Special

After admission to a graduate program, the student’s program may decide to accept up to fifteen University Special student credits as fulfillment of the minimum graduate residence, graduate degree, or minor credit requirements on occasion as an exception (on a case-by-case basis). UW–Madison coursework taken as a University Special student would not be allowed to count toward the 50% graduate coursework minimum unless taken at the 700 level or above. This work will not appear on the graduate career portion of UW–Madison transcript nor count toward the graduate career GPA.

For more information, please consult the Graduate School Academic Policies and Procedures (https://grad.wisc.edu/acadpolicy/).

Credits per Term Allowed

Up to 15 credits

Overall Graduate GPA Requirement

3.00

Other Grade Requirements

The Graduate School requires that students maintain a graduate grade-point average (GPA) of 3.00 (on a 4.00 scale) for all graduate courses (excluding research) to receive a degree. Many programs impose higher standards. Students should check with their program. Grades of Incomplete are considered to be unsatisfactory if they are not removed during the next enrolled semester.

For more information, please consult the Graduate School Academic Policies and Procedures (https://grad.wisc.edu/acadpolicy/).

Probation Policy

The Graduate School regularly reviews the record of any student who earned grades of BC, C, D, F, or Incomplete in a graduate course (300 or above), or grade of U in research credits. This review could result in academic probation with a hold on future enrollment or in being suspended from the Graduate School.

For more information, please consult the Graduate School Academic Policies and Procedures (https://grad.wisc.edu/acadpolicy/).

Advisor / Committee

Every graduate student is required to have an advisor. To ensure that students are making satisfactory progress toward a degree, the Graduate School expects them to meet with their advisor on a regular basis.

An advisor generally serves as the thesis advisor. In many cases, an advisor is assigned to incoming students. Students can be suspended from the Graduate School if they do not have an advisor. An advisor is a faculty member, or sometimes a committee, from the major department responsible for providing advice regarding graduate studies.

A committee often accomplishes advising for the students in the early stages of their studies.

For more information, please consult the Graduate School Academic Policies and Procedures (https://grad.wisc.edu/acadpolicy/).
Assessment and Examinations
Requirements determined by the program.

Time Constraints
Master’s degree students who have been absent for five or more
consecutive years lose all credits that they have earned before their
absence. Individual programs may count the coursework students
completed prior to their absence for meeting program requirements; that
coursework may not count toward Graduate School credit requirements.

For more information, please consult the Graduate School Academic
Policies and Procedures (https://grad.wisc.edu/acadpolicy/).

Language Requirements
Each program sets its own language requirements. Some programs
require competence in one or more languages before students can take
preliminary examinations.

For more information, please consult the Graduate School Academic
Policies and Procedures (https://grad.wisc.edu/acadpolicy/).

MASTER OF FINE ARTS DEGREE,
EDUCATIONAL SPECIALIST DEGREE, OR
SPECIALIST CERTIFICATE
MFA, Ed.S., Specialist Certificate

Minimum Graduate Degree Credit Requirement
42 credits

Minimum Graduate Residence Credit Requirement
24 credits

Minimum Graduate Coursework (50%) Requirement
At least 50% of credits applied toward the graduate degree credit
requirement must be in graduate–level coursework. Details can be found
in the Graduate School’s Minimum Graduate Coursework (50%) policy
(https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1244 (https://policy.wisc.edu/library/
UW-1244/)).

Prior Coursework Requirements: Graduate Work from
Other Institutions
For well-prepared advanced students, a student’s program may decide to
accept prior graduate coursework from other institutions. This coursework
does not appear on a UW–Madison transcript nor count toward graduate
career GPA. The Graduate School’s minimum graduate residence
requirement can be satisfied only with courses taken as a graduate student
at UW–Madison. The only exception is graduate–level coursework take as a
CIC Traveling Scholar.

Prior Coursework Requirements: UW–Madison
Undergraduate
For well-prepared advanced students, a student’s program may decide to
accept up to 7 credits numbered 300 or above of required or elective
courses from the undergraduate work completed at UW–Madison toward
fulfillment of minimum degree and minor credit requirements. However,
this work would not be allowed to count toward the 50% graduate
coursework minimum unless taken at the 700 level or above. This work will
not appear on the graduate career portion of UW–Madison transcript nor
count toward the graduate career GPA.

The Graduate School’s minimum graduate residence credit requirement
can be satisfied only with courses taken as a graduate student at UW–
Madison.

Prior Coursework Requirements: UW–Madison
University Special
After admission to a graduate program, the student’s program may decide
to accept up to fifteen University Special student credits as fulfillment
of the minimum graduate residence, graduate degree, or minor credit
requirements on occasion as an exception (on a case-by-case basis). UW–
Madison coursework taken as a University Special student would not be
allowed to count toward the 50% graduate coursework minimum unless
taken at the 700 level or above. This work will not appear on the graduate
career portion of UW–Madison transcript nor count toward the graduate
career GPA.

For more information, please consult the Graduate School Academic
Policies and Procedures (https://grad.wisc.edu/acadpolicy/).

Credits per Term Allowed
Up to 15 credits

Overall Graduate GPA Requirement
3.00

Other Grade Requirements
The Graduate School requires that students maintain a graduate grade–
point average (GPA) of 3.00 (on a 4.00 scale) for all graduate courses
(excluding research) to receive a degree. Many programs impose
higher standards. Students should check with their program. Grades of
Incomplete are considered to be unsatisfactory if they are not removed
during the next enrolled semester.

For more information, please consult the Graduate School Academic
Policies and Procedures (https://grad.wisc.edu/acadpolicy/).

Probation Policy
The Graduate School regularly reviews the record of any student who
earned grades of BC, C, D, F, or Incomplete in a graduate course
(excluding research) to receive a degree. Many programs impose
higher standards. Students should check with their program. Grades of
Incomplete are considered to be unsatisfactory if they are not removed
during the next enrolled semester.

For more information, please consult the Graduate School Academic
Policies and Procedures (https://grad.wisc.edu/acadpolicy/).

Advisor
Every graduate student is required to have an advisor. An advisor is a
faculty member, or sometimes a committee, from the major department
responsible for providing advice regarding graduate studies. An advisor
generally serves as the thesis advisor. In many cases, an advisor is assigned
to incoming students. Students can be suspended from the Graduate
School if they do not have an advisor

To ensure that students are making satisfactory progress toward a degree,
the Graduate School expects them to meet with their advisor on a regular
basis.

A committee often accomplishes advising for the students in the early
stages of their studies.

For more information, please consult the Graduate School Academic
Policies and Procedures (https://grad.wisc.edu/acadpolicy/).

Assessment and Examinations
Requirements determined by the program.
Time Constraints
Master’s degree students who have been absent for five or more consecutive years lose all credits that they have earned before their absence. Individual programs may count the coursework students completed prior to their absence for meeting program requirements; that coursework may not count toward Graduate School credit requirements.

For more information, please consult the Graduate School Academic Policies and Procedures (https://grad.wisc.edu/acadpolicy/).

Language Requirements
Each program sets its own language requirements. Some programs require competence in one or more languages before students can take preliminary examinations.

For more information, please consult the Graduate School Academic Policies and Procedures. (https://grad.wisc.edu/acadpolicy/)

DOCTORAL DEGREES
Au.D., DMA, DNP, OTD, Ph.D.

Minimum Graduate Degree Credit Requirement
51 credits

Minimum Graduate Residence Credit Requirement
32 credits

Minimum Graduate Coursework (50%) Requirement
At least 50% of credits applied toward the graduate degree credit requirement must be in graduate-level coursework. Details can be found in the Graduate School’s Minimum Graduate Coursework (50%) policy (https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1244 (https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1244/)).

Prior Coursework Requirements: Graduate Work from Other Institutions
For well-prepared advanced students, a student’s program may decide to accept prior graduate coursework from other institutions. This coursework does not appear on a UW–Madison transcript nor count toward graduate career GPA. The Graduate School’s minimum graduate residence requirement can be satisfied only with courses taken as a graduate student at UW–Madison. The only exception is graduate-level coursework taken as a CIC Traveling Scholar.

Prior Coursework Requirements: UW–Madison Undergraduate
For well-prepared advanced students, a student’s program may decide to accept up to 7 credits numbered 300 or above of required or elective courses from the undergraduate work completed at UW–Madison toward fulfillment of minimum degree and minor credit requirements. However, this work would not be allowed to count toward the 50% graduate coursework minimum unless taken at the 700 level or above. This work will not appear on the graduate career portion of UW–Madison transcript nor count toward the graduate career GPA. The Graduate School’s minimum graduate residence credit requirement can be satisfied only with courses taken as a graduate student at UW–Madison.

Prior Coursework Requirements: UW–Madison University Special
After admission to a graduate program, the student’s program may decide to accept up to fifteen University Special student credits as fulfillment of the minimum graduate residence, graduate degree, or minor credit requirements on occasion as an exception (on a case-by-case basis). UW–Madison coursework taken as a University Special student would not be allowed to count toward the 50% graduate coursework minimum unless taken at the 700 level or above. This work will not appear on the graduate career portion of UW–Madison transcript nor count toward the graduate career GPA.

For more information, please consult the Graduate School Academic Policies and Procedures (https://grad.wisc.edu/acadpolicy/).

Credits per Term Allowed
Up to 15 credits

Doctoral Minor/Breadth Requirements
The Graduate School requires doctoral programs to have a doctoral minor requirement to achieve breadth. Only those doctoral programs which have an accepted minor opt-out request on file may excuse their students from the doctoral minor requirement with alternate paths to breadth.

For more information, please consult the Graduate School Academic Policies and Procedures (https://grad.wisc.edu/acadpolicy/).

Overall Graduate GPA Requirement
3.00

Other Grade Requirements
The Graduate School requires that students maintain a graduate grade-point average (GPA) of 3.00 (on a 4.00 scale) for all graduate courses (excluding research) to receive a degree. Many programs impose higher standards. Students should check with their program. Grades of Incomplete are considered to be unsatisfactory if they are not removed during the next enrolled semester.

For more information, please consult the Graduate School Academic Policies and Procedures (https://grad.wisc.edu/acadpolicy/).

Probation Policy
The Graduate School regularly reviews the record of any student who earned grades of BC, C, D, F, or Incomplete in a graduate course (300 or above), or grade of U in research credits. This review could result in academic probation with a hold on future enrollment or in being suspended from the Graduate School.

For more information, please consult the Graduate School Academic Policies and Procedures (https://grad.wisc.edu/acadpolicy/).

Advisor
Every graduate student is required to have an advisor. An advisor is a faculty member, or sometimes a committee, from the major department responsible for providing advice regarding graduate studies. An advisor generally serves as the thesis advisor. In many cases, an advisor is assigned to incoming students. Students can be suspended from the Graduate School if they do not have an advisor.

To ensure that students are making satisfactory progress toward a degree, the Graduate School expects them to meet with their advisor on a regular basis.

A committee often accomplishes advising for the students in the early stages of their studies.

For more information, please consult the Graduate School Academic Policies and Procedures (https://grad.wisc.edu/acadpolicy/).

Assessment and Examinations
Doctoral students are required to take a comprehensive preliminary/oral examination after they have cleared their record of all Incomplete and Progress grades (other than research and thesis). Deposit of the doctoral
dissertation in the Graduate School is required. Additional requirements are determined by the program. ¹

For more information, please consult the Graduate School Academic Policies and Procedures (https://grad.wisc.edu/acadpolicy/).

**Time Constraints**

Doctoral degree students who have been absent for ten or more consecutive years lose all credits that they have earned before their absence. Individual programs may count the coursework students completed prior to their absence for meeting program requirements; that coursework may not count toward Graduate School credit requirements.

A candidate for a doctoral degree who fails to take the final oral examination and deposit the dissertation within five years after passing the preliminary examination may be required to take another preliminary examination and to be admitted to candidacy a second time.

For more information, please consult the Graduate School Academic Policies and Procedures (https://grad.wisc.edu/acadpolicy/).

**Language Requirements**

Each program sets its own language requirements. Some programs require competence in one or more languages before students can take preliminary examinations.

For more information, please consult the Graduate School Academic Policies and Procedures (https://grad.wisc.edu/acadpolicy/).

¹ References to preliminary/oral examinations and dissertations do not apply to clinical doctorate degrees (such as Au.D., DNP). Consult the program for specific requirements.