The policy drafts below represent the Graduate School’s baseline requirements. In many cases, graduate programs can set more rigorous requirements.

1. **Minimum Graduate Residence Credit Requirement**

The Graduate School's minimum graduate residence credit requirement for graduation can be satisfied only with graduate-level courses (300 and above) taken as a graduate student at UW-Madison (this includes but is not limited to online, thesis/research, independent study, and practicum/internship credits).

**Graduate Residence Credit Minimums**

- **Master's degree** (except MFA) 16 credits
- **MFA/specialist certificate** (may include Master's degree credits taken at UW-Madison) 24 credits
- **Doctorate degree** (must be completed prior to achieving dissertator status; may include Master's degree credits taken at UW-Madison) 32 credits

In rare circumstances, courses taken as a University Special student may be allowed to count toward the minimum graduate residence credit requirement. These credits generally are not allowed to count toward the 50% graduate course work minimum.

2. **Minimum Graduate Degree Credit Requirement**

The Graduate School's minimum graduate degree credit requirement is a degree requirement instituted by the Graduate Faculty Executive Committee to ensure that a graduate degree meets institutional accreditation standards (this includes but is not limited to online, thesis/research, independent study, and practicum/internship credits).

**Graduate Degree Credit Minimums**

- **Master's degree** (except MFA) 30 credits
- **MFA/specialist certificate** (may include Master's degree credits taken at UW-Madison) 42 credits
- **Doctorate degrees** (may include Master's degree credits taken at UW-Madison and credits taken while a dissertator) 51 credits
3. Minimum Graduate Course Work (50%) Requirement

The Graduate School’s minimum graduate coursework requirement is a degree requirement instituted by the Graduate Faculty Executive Committee to ensure that a graduate degree meets institutional accreditation standards.

The requirement states that at least 50% of credits applied toward the program’s graduate degree credit requirement must be courses designed for graduate work (this includes but is not limited to online, thesis/research, independent study, and practicum/internship credits).

Graduate course work can include UW-Madison courses:

- numbered 700 and above;
- numbered 300-699 that are specifically designed for graduate students in a graduate program;
- numbered 300-699 that assess graduate students separately from undergraduate students; or
- numbered 300-699 that have a graduate student enrollment >50% in any given semester.

Courses taken as a University Special student are not allowed to count toward the 50% graduate course work minimum unless taken at the 700 level or above.

4. Prior Course Work

A student's program may decide to accept coursework completed outside of the student’s graduate career at UW-Madison when those courses are rigorous and meet the expectations of graduate work for the degree. Course work earned five or more years prior to admission to a master’s degree or course work earned ten or more years prior to admission to a doctoral degree is not allowed to satisfy requirements.

Satisfying Requirements with Prior Graduate Course Work from Other Institution(s)

A student's program may decide to accept graduate course work completed at another institution toward fulfillment of minimum degree, minimum graduate course work, and minor credit requirements. This work will not appear on a UW-Madison transcript nor count towards 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. The only exception is graduate-level course work taken as a CIC Traveling Scholar.

Satisfying Requirements with Course Work from Undergraduate Career at UW-Madison

For well-prepared advanced students, a student's program may decide to accept up to seven credits numbered 300 or above of required or elective courses from the undergraduate work completed at UW-Madison towards fulfillment of minimum degree and minor credit requirements. However, this work would not be allowed to count toward the 50% graduate course work minimum unless taken at the 700 level or above. This work will not appear on the
The Graduate School's minimum graduate residence credit requirement can be satisfied only with courses taken as a graduate student at UW-Madison. (The previous senior-grad category is eliminated as of Fall 2014.)

**Transfer from University Special Student Career at UW-Madison**

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). In all these cases, the student would have to pay the difference in tuition for the terms in question. Those credits earned in a University Special student semester still appear in the transcript history as "University Special" student, but the Registrar's Office will add a statement in the beginning of the transcript "All credits taken in [term] as a University Special student have been accepted by the Graduate School toward a degree program" after the student has paid the difference in tuition. UW-Madison course work taken as a University Special student would not be allowed to count toward the 50% graduate course work 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 towards the graduate career GPA.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Minimum Graduate Residence Credit Requirement</th>
<th><strong>Prior Graduate Course Work from Other Institution(s)</strong></th>
<th><strong>Course Work from Undergraduate Career at UW-Madison</strong></th>
<th><strong>Transfer from University Special Student Career at UW-Madison</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Minimum Graduate Degree Credit Requirement</td>
<td>No</td>
<td><em>Allowed</em></td>
<td>*Allowed up to 15 credits numbered 300 or above if difference in tuition is paid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum Graduate Course Work (50%) Requirement</td>
<td><em>Allowed</em></td>
<td>*Allowed up to 7 credits numbered 700 or above</td>
<td>*Allowed up to 15 credits numbered 700 or above if difference in tuition is paid</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Fulfillment of requirements is allowed in these instances only if approved by the student’s graduate program.

** Course work earned five or more years prior to admission to a master’s degree or course work earned ten or more years prior to admission to a doctoral degree is not allowed to satisfy requirements.

5. **Maximum Credits per Term**

Non-dissertator students are allowed to enroll for a maximum of 15 credits. The enrollment system counts all credits in determining maximum credit loads. Even though pass/fail courses, audit courses, and 100- or 200-level courses are not considered graduate-level credits, they are counted in a total credit load.
6. Effective Dates

Any student entering or readmitted to a graduate program on or after Fall 2014 must adhere to the above requirements.

Currently enrolled master’s students have the option to complete their degree under the prior policy requirements if they can complete all degree requirements and are awarded the degree before Fall 2016.

Students currently enrolled in a MFA, specialist certificate, or doctoral degree prior to Fall 2014 have the option to complete their degree under the prior policy requirements.

A student who chooses to discontinue their degree program for a semester or more would return under the new policy requirements.

Appeals will be considered in exceptional cases.