

RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMITTEE ON REGULATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS OF THE GRADUATE SCHOOL FOR A CHANGE IN THE POLICY ON TRANSFER OF CREDITS TO A DOCTORAL DEGREE PROGRAM AT UWM

Current Regulation (Current Graduate School Bulletin copy, p. 17)

...For students admitted to a PhD program with a master's degree, up to 27 graduate credits included as part of the master's degree may be counted toward the PhD with program approval. Credits from other institutions, other than those earned for a master's degree, cannot be transferred into a PhD program.

Summary of Proposed Changes

1. To allow more than 27 graduate credits from a master's degree to be transferred to a doctoral program that requires more than the minimum 54 graduate credit requirement.
2. To limit the number of credits that can be transferred into a doctoral degree program to no more than 50% of the total credits required for the degree.
3. To permit the transfer of graduate credits earned outside the master's degree to a doctoral program subject to Graduate School requirements and program approval.

Justification for the Proposed Change

The policy that permits the transfer of a maximum of 27 graduate credits from a master's program to a doctoral program has been in place since the first doctoral degree was approved to be offered at UWM. It was based on the fact that initially, all UWM doctoral programs had a minimum requirement of 54 graduate credits for the degree and that 50% of the total minimum requirement should be taken in residence on campus. Currently, there are several doctoral programs requiring more than a 54-credit minimum. For example, Nursing requires 75 credits for its doctoral program and Engineering requires 72 credits. With these programs, 27 credits is less than 50% of the total required graduate credits. It seems appropriate to use 50% of the credits required for the degree as a transfer maximum for programs that require more than a 54-credit minimum. Engineering has stated that this change would help to remove a barrier and provide incentives to enroll at UWM for some highly-qualified students. In reviewing other institutions offering doctoral degrees, transfer of credits to a doctoral program is allowed.

Additional credits considered for transfer do not have to be part of a student's master's program. Credits considered outside the master's program, however, must meet the following requirements and be approved by the program and the Graduate School:

- Coursework cannot have been used toward another degree
- Coursework must be at the graduate level
- Coursework must be from an accredited institution
- Coursework must appear on an official graduate transcript
- Only grades of A, B, or equivalent are acceptable (a B- is not acceptable)
- Coursework must be taken five or less years prior to enrollment as a doctoral student
- Coursework cannot be used to meet the Graduate School residency requirement
- Coursework that is not transferable:
 - correspondence courses and/or courses taken through the mass media;
 - extension division coursework outside the UW System; or
 - CEU's
- The program can have more stringent requirements

Proposed Graduate School Bulletin Copy

...For students admitted to a PhD program with a master's degree, graduate credits included as part of the master's degree program may be counted toward the doctoral program with the approval of the doctoral program. The number of graduate credits that may transferred to a doctoral degree program cannot exceed 50% of the total credits required for the degree.

The transfer of credits earned outside of the master's program to a doctoral program is permitted subject to doctoral program approval and the following Graduate School requirements:

Coursework used toward any other degree, cannot be transferred
Coursework must be at the graduate level
Coursework must be from an accredited institution
Coursework must appear on an official graduate transcript
Coursework must have received grades of A, B, or equivalent (a B- is not acceptable)
Coursework must have been taken within five years prior to enrollment as a doctoral student
Coursework cannot be used to meet the Graduate School residency requirement
Coursework taken by correspondence and/or through the mass media; at an extension division outside the UW System; or CEU's are not transferable
The doctoral program may have more stringent requirements

Recommendations for Action

1. That the change in the transfer of credit policy for doctoral degree programs be approved as reflected in the proposed Graduate School Bulletin copy described above.

2. That the revised policy be effective for the 1996-97 academic year, following administrative approval.

Committee on Regulations and Requirements of the Graduate School

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