

**GRADUATE ACADEMIC POLICY
PROPOSED CHANGE
Approved by Graduate Affairs team 10/25/2011**

A proposed change to the Graduate Academic Policy explicitly recognizing that a graduate degree from a foreign institution can be considered as partial satisfaction of admission requirements and that transfer credits can be accepted from a foreign institutions as well.

**Florida Gulf Coast University
General Graduate Academic Policies**

I. Graduate Admission Policies

A. Graduate Admission Requirements

Applicants to graduate degree programs or post-baccalaureate professional programs are required to meet minimum university admission requirements that are in accordance with system-wide admission requirements (Rule 6C-6.003 Florida Administrative Code). Individual programs may set additional criteria or more selective requirements. Consequently meeting minimum university admission requirements does not guarantee admission to a particular program. Refer to the college/program regarding additional admission requirements.

1. Minimum University Admission Requirements

Students must:

- a. Have a bachelor's degree or equivalent from a regionally accredited institution [or equivalent non-U.S. Institution](#).
- b. Present an official standardized admission test score, if required. (Refer to the college/program description for approved standardized tests.)
- c. Meet at least one of the following criteria:
 - An applicant must have a minimum GPA of 3.0 or greater (on a 4.0 scale) for the last 60 hours of the baccalaureate degree. No entrance exam is required unless the GPA is less than 3.0. If the GPA is less than 3.0, then an applicant must have a minimum entrance score on the Graduate Record Exam (GRE), the Graduate Management Admissions Test (GMAT), or Miller Analogies Test (MAT) set at the program level.
 - A graduate degree from a regionally accredited institution [or equivalent non-U.S. institution](#).

An international applicant who is from a country where English is not the primary language must submit a minimum TOEFL score of 550 (paper-based test) or 213 (computer-based test) or 79 (internet-based test) unless otherwise specified by the program. (Rule 6.009 Florida BOG, FGCU)

II. General Academic Policies

B. General Degree Requirements

1. Master's Degree

The following minimum degree requirements must be met for successful completion of a Master's degree in an approved program of study. Individual colleges, departments, and programs may have their own requirements that exceed the minimum requirements presented here. Students should therefore refer to the specific degree requirements of the individual graduate program for additional information.

- a. Enrollment and Course Requirements
 - Students enrolled in a Master's degree program must complete a minimum of thirty (30) credit hours in the approved graduate program.
 - More than 50% of the credit hours toward the degree must be earned through FGCU.
 - Students may transfer a maximum of twelve (12) credit hours from graduate level courses completed at a regionally accredited college or university, ~~(or equivalent non-U.S. institution unless otherwise specified by the State of Florida)~~, into the graduate college program at FGCU. Transfer courses must be applicable toward the graduate degree being sought at FGCU and approved by the college dean (or designee).
 - Students must maintain a minimum GPA of 3.0 for all graduate work attempted.
 - Students may apply a maximum of nine (9) credit hours completed as a non-degree seeking student toward the completion of a graduate degree as approved by program. *Students in the College of Education may apply a maximum of twelve (12) credit hours.

2. Education Specialist Degree (Ed.S.) Requirements

The following minimum degree requirements must be met for successful completion of the Ed.S.

- a. Enrollment and Course Requirements
 - Students enrolled in an Ed.S. degree program must complete a minimum of forty-eight (48) credit hours in the approved graduate program.
 - More than 50% of the credit hours toward the degree must be earned through FGCU.
 - Students may transfer a maximum of eighteen (18) credit hours from graduate level courses completed at a regionally accredited college or university, ~~or equivalent non-U.S. institution (unless otherwise specified by the State of Florida)~~, into the graduate college program at FGCU. Transfer courses must be applicable toward the graduate degree being sought at FGCU and approved by the college dean (or designee).
 - Students must maintain a minimum GPA of 3.0 for all graduate work attempted.
 - Students may apply a maximum of twelve (12) credit hours completed as a non-degree seeking student toward the completion of a graduate degree as approved by program.

3. Doctoral Degree (i.e. Ed.D., D.P.T., Ph.D.) Requirements

The following minimum degree requirements must be met for successful completion of a doctoral degree in an approved program of study. Individual colleges, departments, and programs may have their own requirements that exceed the minimum requirements presented here. Students should therefore refer to the information provided for individual graduate programs for specific information regarding required coursework, examinations, and dissertations.

a. Enrollment and Course Requirements

- The minimum credit hours for the degree are seventy-two (72). Students should consult the graduate program in question for total credit hours required, which may be more than the minimum specified here.
- Students may transfer a maximum of thirty (30) credit hours in fulfillment of the above seventy-two credit hour minimum from acceptable graduate level courses completed at a regionally accredited college or university, or equivalent non-U.S. institution (unless otherwise specified by the State of Florida), into the graduate program at FGCU.

Notwithstanding, an exception can be made under unusual circumstances based upon the determination of the graduate program in questions. Transfer courses must be applicable toward the graduate degree being sought at FGCU and approved by the college dean (or designee) and meet other requirements as specified by the graduate program in question.

- More than 50% of the credit hours toward the degree must be earned through FGCU. (*SACS required*)
- Students must maintain a minimum GPA of 3.0 for all graduate work attempted.
- Students may apply a maximum of nine (9) credit hours completed as a non-degree seeking student toward the completion of a graduate degree as approved by the program.
- The doctoral degree is earned on the basis of satisfactory completion of course requirements and the dissertation, or scholarly project, or equivalent as determined by the graduate program.