

**GRADUATE ACADEMIC POLICY
PROPOSED CHANGE
Approved by Graduate Affairs Team 2/22/2011**

Proposed change to defining transfer credits as credits transferred in from another institution and allowing individual programs to be more flexible in determining which transfer credits may count toward the completion of a graduate degree.

Programs are now free to determine whether transfer credits are considered current with respect to the particular field of study regardless of when they were earned. This also does away with the issue of the clock running on transfer credits as soon as they are allowed due to the previously imposed time limits. For example, under existing policy, all transfer credits applied toward a Master's degree must have been completed within 7 years prior to graduation. Therefore, a transfer credit that is 6 years old and is allowed upon admission could technically not be applied toward the degree just two years later.

Florida Gulf Coast University
General Graduate Academic Policies

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 another regionally accredited college or university ~~(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, should be current with respect to the specific field of study, and must be approved by the college dean (or designee). Individual graduate programs may limit the number of transfer credits allowed to less than twelve (12); admitted students should therefore check with their individual graduate programs for specific information on transfer credits.
- 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.

d. Degree Time Limitations/Extension of Time Limit for Degree Program

- In order to ensure that students working toward a Master's degree maintain currency in their field of study, all credit hours (excluding including transfer credits) applied toward the degree must have been earned within the seven (7) academic years prior to graduation. Coursework completed before this time period cannot be applied toward the degree.
- Any student requiring more time to complete his or her Master's degree may request an extension from the Office of Graduate Studies, provided that the student has written approval from the program.

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 another regionally accredited college or university ~~(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, should be considered current with respect to the specific field of study, and must be 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.

c. Degree Time Limitations/Extension of Time Limit for Degree Program

- In order to ensure that students working toward an Ed.S. degree maintain currency in their field of study, all credit hours (excluding ~~including~~ transfer credits) applied toward the degree must have been earned within the seven (7) academic years prior to graduation. Coursework completed before this time period cannot be applied toward the degree.
- Any student requiring more time to complete his or her Ed.S. degree may request an extension from the Office of Graduate Studies, provided that the student has written approval from the 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 another regionally accredited college or university (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.

d. Degree Time Limits/Extension of Time Limit for Degree Program

- All requirements for the doctoral degree (excluding transfer credits) must be completed within 8 calendar years from the date of admission to the doctoral program.