**DEGREE INFORMATION**

**SACSCOC Accreditation**

Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) accreditation is institutional in nature. Although many programs are accredited by other agencies, SACSCOC accredits the university as a whole, not specific degrees or programs.

**Degree Audit**

On the admission application, a student must select from available choices: major, minor, cognate, no minor option, area of concentration, degree type (M.A., M.Ed., M.S., Ph.D., etc.), and, for the master's degree, thesis or non-thesis track. After being admitted to a program, the student may access a degree audit from Texas State Self-Service (CatsWeb) using Degree Works software. The degree audit will guide the student in selecting courses for registration each term. The student should meet with his or her graduate advisor during the first term of admission to discuss options and review the degree program. Requests for changes to a student's degree audit must be submitted by the student's advisor to the dean of The Graduate College for approval.

Because graduate degree programs are individualized according to degree type and student goals, a student's particular degree program may exceed the number of hours identified for the program in this catalog.

**Background/Leveling Course Requirements**

Generally, background requirements are placed on the degree audit when a student is deficient in certain course work. Students should refer to the appropriate departmental pages in this catalog for specific information about background/leveling requirements or contact the graduate advisor for their program of study.

Course work identified on a student's official degree audit as background/leveling is not used in the computation of the graduate GPA. However, this course work is computed in the overall GPA of the Texas State transcript for students graduating prior to fall 2011. See the “Grade-Point Requirements for Graduation” section. Any course work required for background/leveling is not awarded graduate degree credit.

Graduate advisors may stipulate that one undergraduate course be taken as a background requirement. All other background course deficiencies must be satisfied by the student enrolling in graduate-level leveling courses.

**Degree Time Limit**

A program leading to a master's or specialist degree must be completed within six years from the date of a student's initial enrollment in the program for which they were admitted. No credit will be applied toward the master's degree for work completed more than six years before the date on which a student's degree is to be conferred unless an exception has been approved by the graduate advisor and dean of The Graduate College. This time limit applies to credit earned at Texas State as well as credit transferred to Texas State from other accredited institutions. Requests for time extensions must be submitted to a student's graduate advisor, who in turn submits a petition to the dean of The Graduate College for final approval.