

# DEGREE INFORMATION

## Degree Audit

On the admission application, a student must identify the following choices: major, minor, cognate, no minor option, area of concentration or specialization (depending on what is required in the program of study), degree type (M.A., M.Ed., M.S., Ph.D., etc.), and, for the Masters 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 *DegreeWorks* 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 major in this catalog.

Students receiving Veterans Administration educational assistance must provide the Texas State Office of Veteran Affairs with a copy of the graduate degree audit.

## Background/Leveling Course Requirements

Generally, background requirements are placed on the degree audit when a student is deficient in certain coursework. 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.

Coursework identified on a student's official degree audit as background/leveling is not used in the computation of the graduate GPA. However, this coursework 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 coursework 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 degree must be completed within six years from the date of a student's initial enrollment in graduate courses used toward the degree. 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. 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 extension must be submitted to a student's graduate advisor, who in turn submits a recommendation to the dean of The Graduate College for final approval.

A program leading to a Ph.D. or Ed.D. degree must be completed within ten years from the date of a student's initial enrollment in graduate courses used toward the degree. No credit will be applied toward the doctoral degree for coursework completed more than ten years before the date on which a student's degree is to be conferred. 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 extension must be submitted to a student's doctoral program director, who in turn submits a recommendation to the dean of The Graduate College for final approval. Doctoral students should refer to the appropriate departmental section of this catalog for specific time limit requirements regarding advancement to candidacy and dissertation completion.

## 99 Hour Rule

In accordance with Texas Education Code, Section 54.066, the university will incur a penalty once a doctoral student accumulates 100 or more doctoral semester credit hours. In response, the Texas State University System has a tuition structure (excessive hours fee) in which a doctoral student will be charged tuition at a rate equivalent to non-resident tuition for all doctoral semester credit hours exceeding 99. Courses taken by a doctoral student at the master's or undergraduate level will not count towards the 99 hours. If the student is admitted to a doctoral program from the bachelor's degree, the count begins after 30 hours of graduate coursework. This tuition structure applies to Texas residents as well as out-of-state residents and international students who were eligible to be charged tuition at the resident rate as a result of scholarship and fellowship awards or employment as graduate assistants. Students should contact their doctoral program directors regarding the appeal process.

## Catalog

Students completing master's programs within a six-year time limit may graduate under the catalog in effect when they began the graduate program. Students completing doctoral programs within a ten-year time limit may graduate under the catalog in effect when they began the graduate program. In certain programs, additional hours may be added to the degree for accreditation purposes. Should a program change occur, a student must submit a written request to The Graduate College to graduate under the new program requirements. A student who has questions should contact either The Graduate College at 512-245-2581 or the graduate advisor.