

GRADUATE COUNCIL NOVEMBER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Two Proposals submitted by: Dr. Dixie Thompson, Dean of the Graduate School.

1. Cleaning up understanding of concurrent master's and how to interpret concurrent master's degree requirements.
2. Clarify the number of hours from a masters (or other graduate degree) earned at another institution can be counted toward the doctoral degree.

Concurrent master's – rationale here is to award a master's 'along the way' when a student earns it. Current interpretation of 24 hours beyond the master's applies to those degrees that come from outside and are completed separate from the PhD. This policy is not clear enough for students who are getting a master's degree along the way at UTK.

Concurrent Master's Degree Program

Currently enrolled UT doctoral students who plan to complete the master's degree while maintaining enrollment in the doctoral program must submit a Request for Concurrent Master's Degree form (<https://gradschool.utk.edu/forms-central/>) to the Graduate School two weeks prior to the deadline for submission of the graduation application for the master's degree. No fee will be assessed for submission of this form. **To earn the concurrent master's degree all requirements must be met at the University of Tennessee.**

Doctoral:

For students earning a concurrent master's,

- a **minimum of 18 additional credit hours of coursework beyond the master's degree must be earned at UT plus completion of at least 24 credit hours of 600 Dissertation.** (Note: for programs requiring 36 rather than 48 credit hours of coursework for the doctoral degree, students must earn at least an additional 6 credit hours beyond the concurrent master's, plus 36 credit hours of dissertation.)
- Credit hours earned in 500 Thesis may not be counted toward the doctoral degree.
- A minimum of 50% of required credit hours taken at UT (excluding dissertation hours) 12 of the 24 credit hours, or 30 of the 48 credit hours, must be graded A-F.

Issue #2 – *Number of hours that can count from a graduate degree at another institution.*

The question sometimes comes up regarding the maximum hours that can be applied toward a doctoral program. One option is to list a maximum number of hours they can transfer in – but the other solution is to reemphasize our 24 credit hour rule – see Doctoral Degree Requirements section.

Doctoral Degree: Coursework taken prior to admission to a doctoral program may be used toward the degree, as determined by the student's doctoral committee. Although the courses are used as part of the requirements toward the degree and are listed on the admission to candidacy,

they are not officially transfer courses and are not placed on the student's UT transcript. As indicated in the Doctoral Degree Requirements: A candidate for a doctoral degree who earned a graduate (typically a master's) degree prior to beginning the doctoral degree must complete a minimum of 24 credit hours of graduate courses at UT (exclusive of course 600 Dissertation).

A candidate for a doctoral degree who earned a graduate (typically a master's) degree prior to beginning the doctoral degree must complete a minimum of 24 credit hours of graduate courses at UT (exclusive of course 600 Dissertation). If the doctoral program does not require a master's degree, the candidate must complete a minimum of 48 credit hours of graduate coursework beyond the baccalaureate degree.

A minimum of 6 credit hours must be taken in UT courses at the 600-level, exclusive of course 600 Dissertation.