

graduate degree program must be granted by International Student Services and Programs personnel and the student's graduate program coordinator/director.

Extension Credit. Courses taken through Continuing and Global Education (Extension and/or Open University) are not normally used to fulfill the requirements toward a graduate degree. Students intending to take a course through the Division of Continuing and Global Education must request special permission from their graduate program coordinator/director to use the course toward their graduate degree. If approved, a maximum of 9 transfer (including California State University, Fresno Extension and/or Open University) units may be used toward a 30-unit program. Students may not enroll through Open University in order to bypass the university fee structure.

Postbaccalaureate/Graduate Credit. With approval of the graduate program coordinator, postbaccalaureate/graduate credit allowed for work taken prior to the granting of the baccalaureate degree as a last-semester senior may be applied toward a graduate degree. However, the amount of postbaccalaureate credit used toward the graduate degree may not exceed one-third of the student's entire approved program. (See Postbaccalaureate Credit section under Degree Requirements.)

Student Teaching Credit. Student teaching credit is not ordinarily used on graduate degree programs. In unusual circumstances, if student teaching is demonstrably appropriate to a program, up to 3 units of such work may be approved by the University Graduate Committee.

Credit by Examination. Credit by examination for coursework may be used to fulfill prerequisites, but may not be applied toward the graduate degree program.

CR/NC Grading. Graduate students may not elect to take a course for a CR grade to fulfill either prerequisite or major program requirements unless the course is only available for CR/NC grading. A maximum of 6 units of CR-graded coursework may be applied to a 30-unit graduate degree program and a maximum of 12 units of CR-graded coursework may be applied to a 60-unit program. Some programs allow no CR-graded courses to be counted toward fulfillment of their degree requirements.

Prohibited Coursework. Courses used to fulfill General Education curriculum (Capstone, Breadth, Integration or Multicultural/International), undergraduate writing "W" courses, lower-division courses, professional (300-level) courses, and courses used to fulfill the requirements for another degree may not be used in fulfillment of the program requirements for the graduate degree.

Outdated Courses. Courses older than five years may not be included on the Petition of Advancement to Candidacy and used to fulfill requirements toward the master's degree.

Independent Study Courses. A maximum of 6 (one-fifth of the total program units) independent study (190 or 290) units may be approved for use toward a 30-unit master's degree. (See Independent Study section under Academic Placement.)

Graduate-Level Courses. A minimum of 70 percent of the courses listed on the Petition of Advancement to Candidacy for use toward the graduate degree must be graduate-level courses numbered in the 200-series. Most programs require more than the minimum.

Substitutions. Substitutions for required program courses or for other departmental requirements must be approved by the student's graduate program coordinator/director and listed on the Petition of Advancement to Candidacy. Substitutions might require additional written justification.

Program Adjustments

It is the student's responsibility to complete the specific courses listed on his or her Petition of Advancement to Candidacy (master's program) or the Proposed Program for the Certificate of Advanced Study (advanced certificate program). Once a program has been approved by the University Graduate Committee, it may be changed only on the written request of the student and his or her graduate program adviser (if required) and coordinator/director, and with the approval of the dean, Division of Graduate Studies. Program Adjustment Request forms for degree and certificate programs are available in the Division of Graduate Studies, Frank W. Thomas Building, Room 130, or on the website at www.fresnostate.edu/academics/gradstudies, under the "Forms" link.

Doctoral students should consult the appropriate program for information regarding advancement to candidacy policies.

Culminating Experience

A culminating experience is required for each graduate degree. Acceptable culminating experiences include thesis (299), project (298), or comprehensive examination. Individual departments permit one or more culminating experiences described in this section. Students who have enrolled in thesis or project units will not be permitted to change to another culminating experience after the initial semester of such enrollment. Students must be advanced to candidacy before enrolling in project or thesis units, or before taking the comprehensive exam.