

Depending on the use of the term, there are several definitions of full time. For the purpose of reporting enrollments, graduate students taking 9 or more units are considered full time and students taking less than 9 units are considered part time.

For the purpose of financial aid (loans, veteran's assistance, etc.), a full-time student takes 12 "equivalent units" wherein each graduate unit (200-level) attempted by a graduate student is considered as 1.5 units and each undergraduate unit (100-level or below) counts at face value. For example, a student enrolled for 8 units of 200-level courses would be considered a full-time student. Three-quarter time and half-time are defined to be 9 to 11.5 and 6 to 8.5 "equivalent units," respectively.

Requirement for full-time enrollment for international students. The United States Office of Homeland Security (OHS) requires international students on non-immigrant F-1 and J-1 visas to pursue full-time study in a specific program for each semester of enrollment. Full-time study includes 12 weighted academic units of approved prerequisite, corequisite, or graduate program courses. (Note: Graduate-level courses have a weighting factor of 1.5 per course unit.)

Maximum Study Load

Graduate courses require substantially more concentrated study than do undergraduate courses. A normal load is from 9 to 12 units, and the maximum allowable load is 16 units for full-time graduate degree students when one or more courses in the 200 series are included. Requests for exceptions to this policy must be addressed to the Graduate Division during the registration period on a Graduate Student Petition for Academic Overload. The form is available online at www.fresnostate.edu/academics/gradstudies under the "Forms" link, then "Enrollment/Registration." Students employed full time may take a maximum of 6 units.

Application for Graduate/Postbaccalaureate Admission

Students are encouraged to plan and apply for graduate admission as early as possible. Completed applications are considered as they are received and thus there are many benefits to applying early. For example, it is often the case that available financial awards such as teaching assistantships and other financial aid resources, which are limited in number, may be granted only to the early applicants. Be aware, too, that a decision on an incomplete application is likely to be delayed. In many instances this occurs when required supporting documents such as official transcripts, scores from standardized tests (GRE, GMAT, MAT), or materials the program requires are not received. Applicants are advised to ensure that these materials are requested and forwarded prior to or at the same time as the submission of their application. All documents submitted become the property of California State University, Fresno and will not be returned.

The Graduate Admissions Office (located in Joyal Administration Building, Room 121) may be consulted during the time applications are being considered at 559.278.4073. For information on the status of an application, students may access the university Student Center at MyFresnoState, my.fresnostate.edu. Prospective graduate, credential, and advanced certificate students apply to the university online at csumentor.edu using the Graduate and Postbaccalaureate Application. Students need to be aware that most graduate degree programs, certificates of advanced study, and credential programs require additional information prior to consideration for admission into a specific program. Students will be informed and directed to the appropriate place for submitting these additional admission materials within the csumentor.edu application process. Those interested in a second undergraduate degree should also apply through csumentor.edu using the Graduate Postbaccalaureate Application.

Limitation of Graduate Enrollment

Admission to postbaccalaureate/graduate studies must be restricted to the number of students for whom an effective education can be provided by staff, facilities, and funding available at California State University, Fresno. The university may limit postbaccalaureate/graduate enrollment on the basis of the academic field and the relative aptitude of the applicant, based on approved admissions criteria.

University Admission*

Graduate and postbaccalaureate applicants may apply for a degree objective, a credential, or certificate objective. Depending on the objective, the CSU will consider an application for admission as follows:

General Requirements - The minimum university requirements for admission to graduate and postbaccalaureate studies at a California State University campus are in accordance with university regulations as well as Title 5, chapter 1, subchapter 3 of the California Code of Regulations. Specifically, at the time of enrollment, a student shall (1) have completed a four-year college course of study and hold an acceptable baccalaureate degree from an institution accredited by a regional accrediting association, or shall have completed equivalent academic preparation as determined by appropriate campus authorities; (2) be in good academic standing at the last college or university attended; (3) have earned a grade point average of at least 2.5 on the last degree completed by the candidate or have attained a grade point average of at least 2.5 (A=4.0) in the last 60 semester (90 quarter) units attempted; and (4) satisfactorily meet the professional, personal, scholastic, and other standards for graduate study, including qualifying examinations, as appropriate campus authorities may prescribe. In unusual circumstances, a campus may make exceptions to these criteria.*

Students who meet the minimum requirements for graduate and postbaccalaureate studies may be considered for admission in one of the following categories: