

**PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS***(See Course Numbering System)*

The program requirements for the master of arts and master of science degrees assume substantial undergraduate preparation in the field. See school and department statements in this catalog or in the *Graduate Bulletin* for particulars. A student lacking this preparation will find it necessary to exceed the minimum requirements indicated below. (Consult departments for MBA, MSW, and MCRP minima.)

The approved degree program for the master's degree is a coherent pattern of (1) courses specified under *Requirements* for the degree in question listed in the Graduate Bulletin and (2) additional courses selected to meet the student's particular needs. It consists of at least 30 units completed after the bachelor's degree and within seven years just preceding the granting of the master's degree. Only graduate courses (200 series) and such upper division courses (100 series) as are recommended by the schools or departments and approved by the Graduate Council are acceptable on the unit requirement. Other courses are counted in calculating the student's study load, but cannot be counted toward the unit requirement for the master's degree. The total approved program must include the following:

1. At least 24 units of the program must be CSU, Fresno residence credit, 6 units of which must have been taken on the Fresno campus prior to enrolling for the thesis or project or for any alternative to the thesis.
2. Of the 30 units for the degree, not more than 6 units may consist of any combination of approved student teaching or extension courses. Student teaching credit is not ordinarily used on master's 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 Graduate Council. Credit by examination may be used to fulfill prerequisites, but may not apply toward the 30 units. Extension credit is not regularly used on master's degree programs; special cases, however, may be ruled upon by the appropriate university authorities. Transfer and extension credit may be used toward a master's degree only if the institution offering the work would use it on a comparable master's degree program and if it is judged by appropriate university authorities to be particularly relevant to the individual student's program.
3. With approval of departmental graduate adviser, post-baccalaureate credit allowed for work taken in the semester or summer in which the baccalaureate degree is granted may be applied toward a master's degree, if it meets master's degree criteria in all respects. See *Post-Baccalaureate Credit*.
4. At least 15 units must be in courses designed primarily for master's degrees (numbered in the 200 series). Most programs require more than 15 units of 200 series course work.
5. At least 9 units must be completed after advancement to candidacy. Work taken during the semester or summer of advancement may apply on this requirement.
6. Appropriate course work from a field other than the major may be required at the discretion of the major department.
7. Appropriate provision must be made for a thesis, a project, or, when permitted, an alternative to the thesis, unless the department offers "Plan B" (nonthesis), in which case provisions must be made to conform to departmental requirements, including comprehensive examinations.
8. Students having a special interest that cannot be met within the stated requirements of a given master's degree program may, with written permission of appropriate university authorities, make further program adjustments to meet their needs. Consult the Dean, School of Graduate Studies.

It is the student's responsibility to complete the specific courses listed on his approved program. Once a program has been approved by the Graduate Council, it may be changed only on the written request of the student and his department or school adviser and with the approval of the Dean, School of Graduate Studies. Forms for requesting such program adjustment are available in the Office of the School of Graduate Studies.

**THESIS, PROJECT, AND THESIS ALTERNATIVE**

Most master's degree curricula at CSU, Fresno require the preparation of a thesis or a project. Some departments permit thesis alternatives. (See *Graduate Bulletin* for definition and standards of thesis, project, and thesis alternative and instructions for microfilming.)