

International Student Services

and Programs

California State University, Fresno
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U.S.A.

During the first semester at California State University, Fresno, foreign graduate students whose native language is not English may be required to enroll in special courses in English to help improve writing skills and to provide the greatest possibility of success in graduate studies.

Advancement to Candidacy: Eligibility

Classified graduate standing gives a student permission to work toward qualifying for candidacy. See *Advancement to Candidacy* diagram on the next page. Advancement to candidacy gives a student permission to proceed toward qualifying for the degree and provides the student with a program of study that has been officially reviewed and approved by both the student's faculty and by the Graduate Dean. This important step confers on the student the status of candidate for the degree and represents a commitment both on the part of the student and the degree program to complete the degree within a specified time limit according to requirements published in a specific university catalog year. Advancement to candidacy is essential to the student in planning for registration in courses. The student should therefore meet with his/her graduate program coordinator soon after attaining classified standing to discuss advancement to candidacy. (See also *Petition of Advancement to Candidacy*.)

Advancement to candidacy must be attained no later than the semester (or summer) preceding the semester (or summer) in which the student applies for the master's degree. Campus policy requires a student to petition for advancement to candidacy as soon as he/she becomes eligible to do so. Normally, this should occur within one semester of having attained classified standing. Compliance with this policy is necessary for a student to remain in good standing. All students in graduate standing must also demonstrate a satisfactory level of scholastic, professional, and ethical competence as determined by program faculty to be eligible to continue in the graduate program. Eligibility requirements for advancement to candidacy include the following:

1. **Classified Graduate Standing.** A student should be classified by the semester in which a maximum of 10 units to be used toward the master's degree are completed. Not more than 10 units (including transfer and postbaccalaureate credit) completed before achieving full classified standing at California State University, Fresno may be listed on the Petition of Advancement to Candidacy. Courses taken during the semester in which the student is classified may also be listed on the Petition of Advancement to Candidacy.
2. Completion of any additional prerequisites which the adviser specifies in writing.
3. If required, satisfactory completion of the Graduate Record Examination Subject Test or departmental qualifying examination. The Graduate Record Examination Subject Test (GRE) in the major field is required of students working toward the Master of Arts degree in international relations (government), psychology, and the Master of Science degrees in marine science, physics, and psychology. A departmental qualifying examination is required in art, civil engineering, computer science, kinesiology, linguistics, mathematics, and plant science.
4. Completion of the foreign language requirement, as appropriate to the program.
5. A minimum grade point average of 3.0 (for both the overall program and courses taken at California State University, Fresno) on all upper-division and graduate coursework from the date of embarking on the first course of the proposed master's degree program. (See also *Grade Requirements*.) Those enrolling in coursework not related to the graduate degree are encouraged to request *CR/NC* grading.
6. Completion in graduate standing at California State University, Fresno of at least 9 units of the proposed program with a 3.0 grade point average on all completed work appearing on the Petition of Advancement to Candidacy.
7. All graduate students must demonstrate their competence in written English prior to advancement to candidacy. Early completion of this requirement is recommended. The department will note on the Petition of Advancement to Candidacy form the means by which the student has met the writing skills requirement. See approved program requirements.
8. Submission to the Division of Graduate Studies of the properly signed Petition of Advancement to Candidacy. Petition forms are available in the Division of Graduate Studies. In making this recommendation, the department takes into account professional and personal standards as well as scholastic achievement as revealed by grades and performance on examinations. The student is responsible for ensuring that the adviser has sufficient information other than grades and scores on which to make this recommendation. On this petition form the student, in consultation with his or her adviser, lists the coherent set of courses which, when approved, will constitute his or her degree program. The student is responsible for adhering to deadlines established by the Graduate Division for the submission of advancement forms. Approximate deadlines are October 1 (for spring graduation) and March 1 (for summer or fall graduation). Forms received after the deadlines are considered late and will be processed as time allows. Students cannot be advanced to candidacy and graduate in the same semester.

Foreign Language Requirement

For advancement to candidacy, demonstration of competence, usually equivalent to that achieved through two years of collegiate study of one foreign language, is required in specified majors in which upper-division and graduate courses demand such competence.

Competence in the use of a foreign language is required for advancement to candidacy for the Master of Arts degree in English, music (vocal performance and music history only), and the M.F.A. in Creative Writing. The foreign language requirement for the M.A. in International Relations is a prerequisite for graduation rather than advancement to candidacy. Ordinarily, the requirement calls for demonstration of the ability to read materials of the major in one appropriate foreign language. Geology and history, however, specify that a student doing a thesis involving a foreign country must have a reading knowledge of the language of that country. Consult your graduate adviser or the chair of the Foreign Languages and Literatures Department for information about placement tests.