

From the Graduate Policy Committee (GPC)

Effective Fall 2018, course-type master's program requirements are reduced from a minimum of 32 semester hours to a minimum of 30 semester hours.

Justification: Currently, at FSU, thesis-type master's programs require a minimum of 30 semester hours, but course-type master's programs require a minimum of 32 semester hours. Other Florida universities who have a 30-hour minimum requirement for course-type master's programs: University of Florida (UF), University of South Florida (USF), University of Central Florida (UCF), Florida International University (FIU).

- Graduate Bulletin and other pertinent document language is being adjusted.
- Note that departments/units are able to set their own minimum requirements *higher* than this overall policy, but not lower

Types of Programs (Graduate Bulletin, p. 76)

There are two types of programs by which a student may secure a master's degree: the thesis type and the course type. It is optional with any department whether it requires all majors to proceed under one or the other type, or whether it permits individual students to choose between them. For specific information, consult the appropriate departmental section of this *Graduate Bulletin*.

Thesis-Type Program. To qualify for a master's degree under this program, the student must complete a minimum of thirty semester hours of credit including thesis credit. At least eighteen of these hours must be taken on a letter-grade basis (A, B, C). The minimum number of thesis hours for completion of a master's degree shall be six hours.

Course-Type Program. To qualify for a master's degree under this program, the student must complete **a minimum of thirty semester hours** of coursework. At least twenty-one of these hours must be taken on a letter-grade basis (A, B, C).

Transfer Credit (Graduate Bulletin, p. 78)

Transfer of courses not counted toward a previous degree from another regionally accredited graduate school (or comparable international institution) is limited to six semester hours and transfer of courses not counted toward a previous degree within Florida State University is limited to twelve semester hours, except when the departmental course requirement exceeds the **thirty-hour** University-wide minimum requirement. In the latter case, additional transfer credit may be allowed to the extent of the additional required hours. In all cases, the majority of credit must be earned through Florida State University or its official consortial institutions. All transfer credit must: 1) be recommended by the major department; 2) be evaluated as graduate work by the Records Audit and Analysis in the Office of the University Registrar at Florida State University; and 3) have been completed with grades of 3.0 ("B") or better.

Grades earned at another institution cannot be used to improve a grade point average or eliminate a quality point deficiency at Florida State University.

The University does not accept experiential learning or award credit for experiential learning. Transfer credit based on experiential learning from another institution will not be accepted.

Master's Degree Requirements (Graduate Bulletin, p. 101)

Master's degree students must complete their program of study within seven calendar years from the time of initial registration; master's students do not, however, have to meet a specific residency requirement. A thesis-type master's program requires a minimum of thirty semester hours, six of which must be thesis credits. **A course-type master's program requires a minimum of thirty semester hours.** A student who enrolls in thesis hours need not be enrolled continuously thereafter in thesis hours if they meet the minimum University requirement for full-time or part-time enrollment through other coursework. The minimum number of thesis hours required for the master's degree is six. Students who have left the campus must register for at least two semester hours of thesis credit per term as long as they are receiving faculty supervision. Master's students should consult regularly with their supervising professor about progress toward the degree.