

# Master's Degree Requirements

## Application for Admission

Applications must be submitted online at [www.applytexas.org](http://www.applytexas.org). Application is made through the Toulouse School of Graduate Studies.

## General Requirements

The candidate must earn 30 or more hours of graduate credit, depending upon the requirements for the degree sought. Specific graduate degree requirements are determined by the *Graduate Catalog* currently in force at the time the student's degree plan is approved by the graduate dean.

Consult subsequent sections of this publication for the specific course requirements for each master's degree.

### Level of Work Required

A maximum of 12 semester hours earned in non-degree or certification status prior to admission to a degree program may be counted toward degree requirements.

### Time Limitations

All requirements for the master's degree must be completed within the following time periods, depending upon the number of semester hours required for the degree.

Semester hours required	Completion
42 or fewer	6 years
43 to 49	7 years
50 or more	8 years

As individual courses exceed these time limits they lose all value for degree purposes. Credits more than six years old at the time of first registration for graduate work are not transferable from other institutions.

Time limits are strictly enforced. Students exceeding the time limit may be required to repeat the comprehensive exam, replace out-of-date credits with up-to-date work, and/or show other evidence of being up-to-date in their major and minor fields. Students anticipating they will exceed the time limit should apply for an extension *before* the normal time period to complete the degree expires. Holding a full-time job is not considered in itself sufficient grounds for granting an extension. For time extension procedure/forms visit [www.tsgs.unt.edu/extension.htm](http://www.tsgs.unt.edu/extension.htm)

Time spent in active service in the U.S. armed forces will not be used in computing the time limit. However, career members of the armed forces should consult the graduate dean concerning the credit given to work completed before or during active military service.

## Use of Transfer Credit and Extension Credit

Subject to the approval of the graduate dean and the department, division, school or college concerned, a student who holds a bachelor's degree and who has been admitted to the Toulouse School of Graduate Studies at UNT may apply toward a master's degree the following amount of graduate work completed elsewhere:

1. up to 6 semester hours in a 30- to 35-hour program,
2. up to 9 semester hours in a 36- to 41-hour program,
3. up to 12 semester hours in a program of 42 hours or more.

Subject to the approval of the graduate dean and the department, division, school or college concerned, UNT extension credit may be applied toward the master's degree in the same ratio as transfer credit stated above, or in combination with transfer credit, so long as the total number of semester hours of combined transfer and extension credit does not exceed the limits stated above. Extension and correspondence credit earned at other institutions will not be counted toward a graduate degree at UNT.

It is the student's responsibility to make sure official transcripts of courses completed elsewhere are furnished to the office of the graduate dean, and graduate credit has been assigned by the other institution or institutions to whatever courses are to be counted toward the UNT degree. Such courses, although listed on the UNT degree plan, will not be counted toward the degree until official transcripts showing graduate credit have been received and the credit has been approved by the graduate dean. All transfer courses are subject to the time limitation described above.

If transfer credits do not show a B average, the student is required to make up the deficiency either at the institution where the credit was earned or at UNT.

In accordance with the rules of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, at least one-third of the semester hours required for any graduate degree must be completed in course work on the campus of UNT.

## Degree Plan: Admission to Candidacy

The student who desires to become a candidate for the master's degree should, before or at the time of registration, confer with the major department concerning the selection of a major professor and, if a minor is desired, with the intended minor department concerning the selection of a minor professor. The major professor, minor professor and the chair of the major department or a representative designated by the chair, will constitute the student's advisory committee. The major professor will act as chair of the committee.

The student's program is planned under the direction of the major and minor professors immediately

after completion of the first term/semester of graduate study. The degree plan is submitted to the graduate school when all admission provisions are complete. When the degree plan is approved by the graduate dean the student will then be admitted to candidacy for the master's degree.

Certain degree programs require successful completion of a specific admission course for admission to candidacy. Consult the appropriate section of this catalog for the specific course requirement. Immediately after the student has completed the admission course the dean of the school will send the proposed degree plan to the Toulouse School of Graduate Studies Office for final approval. When the degree plan is approved the student is admitted to candidacy for the master's degree.

All changes in the degree plan must be approved by the major professor and the department chair or departmental graduate adviser, and must be submitted in writing to the graduate dean.

Courses listed on the degree plan must carry letter grades, with the exception of those courses in which the student is engaged in individual research and is not attending an organized class. These courses, with the approval of the department, may be assigned pass/no pass grades.

No student whose academic or personal record is unsatisfactory will be admitted to candidacy for the master's degree.

Applicants will be notified by the dean of the Toulouse School of Graduate Studies of their admission to candidacy for a graduate degree.

## Major and Minor Field

The candidate for the master's degree ordinarily is required to select a major and a minor field. To major in any field, the candidate must have completed a minimum of 24 semester hours of undergraduate courses in the field, including at least 12 hours of advanced courses prior to beginning graduate course work. Certain graduate majors require more extensive undergraduate preparation. Consult the section of this catalog describing the particular major desired for information concerning undergraduate admission requirements.

A minor is defined as graduate work completed outside of the student's major department or school. Minor areas of study can only be chosen from academic areas in which the University of North Texas is already authorized to offer a major or concentration, or where specific Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board approval has been given to offer courses for the purposes of a minor.

When an official minor is required or opted, the candidate's graduate advisory committee must include a faculty member from that area who will verify accountability in the minor area through comprehensive

examinations, thesis, problem in lieu of thesis, dissertation projects or other appropriate means.

For a master's degree, the student must complete at least 6 hours in a single area to have the area count as a minor. For doctoral degrees, the student must complete at least 12 hours in a single area to have the area count as a minor. For master's students all hours counted toward a minor must carry graduate credit and must be numbered 5000 or above. For doctoral students all hours applied toward the minor must be numbered 5000 or above.

Twelve hours of undergraduate credit are the usual prerequisite for a minor in any field. (*Exception:* In the case of a minor in a foreign language, the student is required to have completed the second term/semester of the sophomore year of study in the intended minor language.) In departments that offer no freshman courses only 6 hours of undergraduate credit are required as prerequisite to a graduate minor in that field.

Minors are not required on certain graduate degrees. Consult subsequent sections of this publication for specific regulations governing the degree sought.

## Foreign Language Requirement

Knowledge of at least one foreign language acceptable to the department in which the student is majoring is required for the *Master of Arts* degree.

Foreign language requirements may be satisfied in any one of the following ways:

1. by passing the Foreign Language Proficiency Examination administered each term/semester and summer session/term by the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures (contact the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures for examination requirements). The application, together with information on a prerequisite screening test, must be obtained in the office of the chair of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures (scheduled dates for taking the examination in the current academic year appear in the Academic Calendar listed in the front of this catalog); or
2. by submitting a transcript of undergraduate credit showing completion of at least the sophomore year in a single foreign language, provided the grade on the last course completed is C or higher.

Candidates for graduate degrees to be awarded at the close of any summer session/term must have satisfied the foreign language requirements for the degree sought prior to the first class day of the second summer session/term (5W2). Candidates for graduation at the close of the spring or fall term/semester must have satisfied the foreign language requirements prior to the last day for filing thesis or dissertation in the office of the graduate dean. Consult the Academic Calendar for the proper deadline.

## The Master's Degree Thesis

In most departments the candidate for a master's degree that requires the writing of a thesis is offered two means of meeting this requirement. In some departments, only Option I is available. Consult the department to determine if both options are available.

### Option I: Thesis

1. The master's degree candidate should select a major of at least 18 semester hours, exclusive of the thesis, and a minor of at least 6 hours if required by the major department.
2. Membership of thesis examination committees will include representatives of the major field and the minor field, if the student is pursuing a minor area. The number of members on such committees will normally be three to five; at least three are required. In cases in which the academic unit has specified particular departmental or college procedures for thesis committee members, the student will follow these procedures.

The thesis chair is the student's mentor and guide through this process of the demonstration of independent scholarship. Therefore, the chair of the thesis committee, who must be willing to serve, is selected by the student in consultation with the appropriate graduate faculty, graduate adviser or department chair in the student's discipline. The thesis chair must be a Category II graduate faculty member. Students should consult the departmental policy for the selection of the remaining committee members.

A person who is not a regular member of the University of North Texas graduate faculty may receive a temporary graduate faculty appointment from the graduate dean in order to serve on a committee. For these appointments, the thesis committee chair should submit a written request and justification for the appointment and a vita of the prospective committee member. For persons who are faculty members of another university or are employed by business or industry, a letter of agreement to serve on the committee if appointed must also accompany the written request and vita submitted to the graduate dean. No more than one committee member without regular UNT faculty status may serve on a committee.

3. A thesis or final document consisting of the written report of an investigation or of a successful project is required. This project must be initiated, executed and reported by the candidate under the supervision of the major and minor professors.

It is strongly recommended that students meet with the graduate reader prior to beginning the thesis concerning the proper form for preparation of the paper.

The student is required to enroll in a minimum of 3 semester hours of thesis credit in the major department under the course number 5950 and

must maintain continuous enrollment in 5950 until the thesis has been completed and submitted to the graduate dean. Grades of PR will be recorded at the end of each term/semester of enrollment until the thesis is filed with the dean, then appropriate grades and credit hours will be shown on the student's record. Only one enrollment in 5950 is required during the summer session/term (in any session/term) if the student is using university facilities and/or faculty time during that term/semester.

The total number of semester hour credits recorded for the thesis may not exceed 6, regardless of the number of enrollments in the thesis seminar. No credit will be recorded until the thesis has been approved by the student's advisory committee, submitted to the Graduate Office and finally approved by the graduate dean. See the Academic Calendar for the deadline for submitting a thesis in any given term/semester. Detailed instructions for submission of the thesis are available from the graduate dean's office.

4. The candidate must pass a final comprehensive examination principally over the contents of the thesis and related matters. The comprehensive examination may be oral and/or written, or include another form of assessment as determined by the department. The student should check the appropriate departmental section of this catalog for further information. The results of the comprehensive examination must be received by the office of the dean of the Toulouse School of Graduate Studies no later than the deadline date for submission of theses by students expecting to graduate at the end of the current term/semester or summer session/term. Students should file for graduation according to the graduate graduation deadlines and at least ten days prior to the date of the defense.

### Option II: Problems in Lieu of Thesis

In lieu of a thesis, the candidate must complete one or both of the problems courses numbered 5920 and 5930, as required by the major department.

The student is required to enroll for credit in the major department under the course number 5920 and 5930 (or 5930 only for cases in which the degree sought requires only one problem in lieu of thesis). If satisfactory progress is made, the grade of I is assigned at the end of the semester or term. If unsatisfactory progress has been made the grade of W is recorded. In the latter case, the student must enroll for 5920 or 5930 a second time. This procedure will be continued until the problem or problems have been completed and approved. Continuous enrollment in Problems in Lieu of Thesis is not required.

As part of the requirements for each problems course the student must present in writing a formal report or essay based upon the work done in the course, which must be approved by the advisory committee.

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### **The Master's Degree Without Thesis Requirement**

In programs leading to the master's degree that do not require the preparation of a thesis or problems in lieu of thesis, required or elective courses are substituted for the thesis requirement. The graduate curricula at UNT foster research and/or independent learning including research experiences, mentoring between graduate faculty and graduate students, and practical training that allows for contributions to the field of study, the development of new knowledge and practical experience. These programs are identified and described in subsequent sections of this publication.

The candidate for the master's degree under the non-thesis option is required to pass a comprehensive final examination, scheduled in accordance with the rules governing the comprehensive examination for students who write a thesis. Information concerning this requirement is available from the student's major department or school.

### **Requirements for the Second Master's Degree**

Subject to the approval of the graduate dean and the department, division, school or college concerned, a graduate student may be allowed to apply up to 12 semester hours previously earned and applied toward a master's degree at an accredited institution toward a second master's degree, providing the 12 hours are in a minor or related field of study for the second master's degree.

This provision is subject to the rules governing the maximum amount of transfer and extension work that may be credited toward any master's degree and the age of work offered on a master's degree. A student simultaneously pursuing two master's degrees must complete the requirements for one degree in full before any final decision is made concerning application of any of the work on that degree toward the second degree.

### **Continuous Enrollment**

A student must maintain continuous enrollment in a minimum of 3 semester hours of thesis or dissertation during each fall and spring term/semester until the thesis or dissertation has been accepted by the dean of the Toulouse School of Graduate Studies.

Thesis or dissertation registration in at least one summer session/term is required if the student is using university facilities and/or faculty time during that summer session/term.

Doctoral students must maintain continuous enrollment subsequent to passing the qualifying examination for admission to candidacy. Master's students must maintain continuous enrollment once work on the thesis has begun (effective for all students filing degree plans after January 1, 1987).

Failure to maintain continuous enrollment through the graduation semester will either invalidate any previous thesis or dissertation credits or will result in the student's being dropped from the degree program, unless granted an official leave of absence by the graduate dean in advance.

## Checkpoints for the Master's Candidate

**Dean** — Dean of Toulouse School of Graduate Studies

**ADCom** — Advisory Committee

**MP** — Major Professor

**GA** — Graduate Adviser

**DC** — Department Chair

Procedure	Initiate Through	Approved By	Time
1. Apply for admission. Submit all official transcripts and an official copy of the appropriate standardized test score.	Dean	DC and Dean	At least six weeks prior to registration (seven-eight months prior to registration for foreign students). <b>Note:</b> Some programs have specific deadlines in advance of these suggested time periods.
2. Become familiar with general regulations and appropriate master's degree section of catalog.			Before registration.
3. Meet with graduate adviser assigned by department chair to plan course of study for first semester.	DC and GA	GA	Before first semester registration.
4. Establish advisory committee; prepare proposed degree program.	GA and DC	MP, DC and Dean	Upon or before completion of 12 semester hours.
5. If thesis is required, determine procedure.	ADCom	Dean	Per departmental requirements.
6. Apply for graduation.	Dean	Dean	See graduate deadline in Academic Calendar.
7. Check to be sure degree program and Advisory Committee are up to date and all course work is complete.			Well before final comprehensive examination. Follow regular procedures for changes.
8. Schedule and complete final comprehensive examination.	ADCom		Follow deadlines in Academic Calendar.
9. Submit final copy of thesis.	ADCom and DC	Dean	By deadline date in Academic Calendar.
10. File graduate application to continue graduate study, if the student so plans.	Dean	DC and Dean	Immediately upon completion of all requirements for master's degree.
11. Arrange for cap and gown at University Bookstore.			By deadline date for placing order.