

Proposed Changes to graduate program policies around residency and transfer credits for master's and certificate programs

March 2020

Source of Policy Text

<https://catalog.oregonstate.edu/college-departments/graduate-school/#policiestext>

Additions are in **BLUE** and deletions are in **Red-strikeout**

Only subsections with changes are included in this document. Omitted subsections of graduate program policies with no changes are denoted as [...]

Policies Governing All Graduate Programs

[...]

Transfer Credit

Internal transfer credits are credits from courses completed at Oregon State University prior to full admission to the certificate or degree to which they will be applied; internal transfer credits may be earned in non-degree graduate status, undergraduate or post baccalaureate status, in the Accelerated Masters' Program, or while the student is enrolled in a different certificate or degree other than the one to which the student wants to apply these credits.

Credits from graduate course work completed at institutions other than OSU are considered for use on OSU credentials as external transfer credit.

Students may only transfer course credits from regionally accredited institutions (or equivalently recognized institutions outside the U.S.).

Students who wish to transfer graduate credits from other schools must provide transcripts for courses already completed to the Graduate School prior to the submission of a study program. Undergraduate students at OSU may receive credit for graduate courses (500 and 600 level) in excess of the requirements for a baccalaureate degree. Graduate courses taken at OSU while the student was a non-degree graduate student, a post-baccalaureate student, a professional degree-seeking student (PharmD or DVM), or an undergraduate student, are considered transfer courses.

Courses to be transferred **must be graduate level**. It is the responsibility of the student wishing to transfer the course to provide the necessary documentation to satisfy the OSU guidelines.

All courses on a program of study require final approval by the student's program of study committee and the Graduate School. Committees are free to deny inclusion of any course if they believe that the earned grade is not sufficient; the course is not appropriate, sufficiently current, sufficiently rigorous based on syllabus content; or for any other reason. To be considered for inclusion on a graduate program of study, OSU courses whether taken as either an enrolled graduate student or pre-graduate admission, must have an earned grade of C or better. To be considered for inclusion on a graduate program of study, courses from another institution (transfer courses) must have an earned grade of B minus or better.

If the transfer credit is from a foreign university, the student must provide copies of the original transcript and an English translation of the transcript, with the courses to be transferred clearly indicated. Grades and credits for the courses must be clearly identified. In some countries, the first university degree, which OSU considers to be equivalent to a baccalaureate degree, may take five years or more to complete. All of the course work toward such a degree is considered a requirement for the first university degree, and hence none of it can be transferred to a graduate certificate or graduate degree at OSU.

Students may not transfer courses graded on a nonstandard basis (e.g., Pass/No Pass, Credit/No Credit, Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory) to their graduate certificate or degree programs unless it can be verified from the registrar of the university offering the course that the grade is equivalent to a B minus or better.

Graduate courses to be transferred from another institution to an OSU master's degree must not have been used to satisfy the requirements for a bachelor's degree, master's degree (or equivalent) or a doctoral degree.

Graduate courses to be transferred from an OSU master's degree to a second OSU master's degree must meet the following three requirements:

1. Credits used to satisfy the residency requirements of one master's degree may not be used to satisfy the residency requirements of another master's degree.
2. Students who earn two master's degrees at Oregon State University must complete all degree requirements for each degree. This requires filing separate programs of study forms for each degree, filing separate commencement applications for each degree, completing separate projects or theses for each degree, scheduling separate final oral examinations for each degree, and passing final oral examinations for each degree.
3. Such credit will be granted only for graded course work earned at Oregon State University and completed with a grade of C or higher.

Up to ~~15~~ 22 graduate credits may be transferred ~~toward~~ into a 45-credit master's degree. ~~Up to 6 graduate credits may be transferred toward an 18-credit graduate certificate.~~

Graduate courses to be transferred to a doctoral degree program can be courses that were used to satisfy the graduate course requirements for a graduate certificate or a master's degree (or equivalent). Selected 700-level courses that have been deemed equivalent to graduate-level learning may be used on doctoral programs of study upon approval of the student's graduate committee. There is no limit on transfer credit toward the doctoral degree as long as the doctoral residence requirement is satisfied.

Credits earned in fulfillment of a graduate certificate program may be applied to a graduate degree, so long as they meet the appropriate standards for use in the degree and the criteria to transfer credit as defined herein. Courses completed for a degree program may likewise be applied toward a certificate program, [so long as they meet the appropriate standards for use in the certificate and the criteria to transfer credit as defined herein.](#)

[...]

Policies Governing Graduate Certificate Programs

[...]

Transfer Credit

If all other requirements for transfer course eligibility are met,

1. Up to 9 quarter credits may be transferred into an OSU Certificate Program.
2. No more than ½ of the credits used for a certificate program may be counted in any other certificate program.
3. Capstone courses (whether numbered as blanket or not) can be counted toward capstone credits only once. Credits from capstone courses may be transferred into any other certificate or graduate program but would not count toward a capstone requirement.

[...]

Policies Governing Master's Degree Programs

[...]

Residence Requirements

~~The residence requirement for the master's degree is 30 graduate Oregon State University credits after admission as a degree-seeking graduate student. These 30 graduate credits must appear on the master's degree program. (This does not include graduate credits taken as an undergraduate, post-baccalaureate or graduate nondegree-seeking student, nor transfer courses.)~~

A minimum of 23 resident credits are required on a master's program. Thus, up to 22 credits taken at Oregon State University or elsewhere prior to acceptance into a 45-credit master's program, may transfer into the master's program.

[...]