

## Materials linked from the April 29, 2019 Graduate Council agenda.

Suggested Draft Changes to Transfer Policy  
April 2019

### Introduction

The rationale for OSU Graduate Transfer policy balances two competing interests.

- Students would like to make the most efficient use of credits they have earned prior to enrolling in a graduate program (certificate, master's or Ph.D. degree) and thus they wish to include previous and appropriate coursework on their program of study.
- A graduate degree implies that the student has incorporated current and acceptable knowledge and skills, and additionally, the culture, practices and perspective inherent in the OSU graduate program (which includes the program-level learning outcomes) in their learning. A graduate degree incorporates significant independent work, for which, and with which, a student receives advising and mentoring usually by multiple graduate faculty members associated with the program. Professional interactions and the development of professional relationships with other graduate students and faculty in the discipline are also important components of a graduate program. Therefore, the university recognizes the importance of requiring that a minimum number of credits on a Program of Study be obtained at Oregon State University after admission to a graduate degree program (aka the residency requirement<sup>1</sup>).

“Residency” refers to credits taken after a student has enrolled in a graduate degree. The term ‘transfer credits’ refers to any credits earned by a student prior a student’s enrollment in a graduate degree program. Thus transfer credits may have been earned at OSU.

As certificate programs have become more common, many graduate degree programs encourage graduate students to enter their degree programs by first completing a certificate. The current transfer credit policy only allows 15 credits of a 45 credit master’s degree program to transfer into the program. Since most certificate programs are more than 15 credits, programs have asked that the policy be changed in order to allow more coursework-taken-prior-to-enrollment to transfer into the graduate degree program

### Draft Changes

**Doctoral Programs:** No changes. Maintain 36 credit doctoral academic residency and doctoral residency requirement of three terms of full-time graduate academic work on campus or at an off-campus site approved by the Graduate School.

### Certificate Programs:

1. Allow 2 courses, or up to 9 quarter credits, to be transferred **into** an OSU Certificate Program prior to acceptance into the certificate program  
Rationale: Quarter credit courses to be transferred are usually 3 or 4 credits each. The current limit of 6 quarter credits does not allow transfer of two courses if the prior courses are from an academic area that offers 4-credit courses or if a student wants to transfer two 3-credit semester courses, which convert to 4.5 quarter credits each.
2. Allow no more than ½ of the credits used for a certificate program to overlap with any other certificate program.  
Rationale: The knowledge in a certificate should be distinct from other certificates.

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<sup>1</sup> The residency requirement states that a minimum number of didactic OSU course credits earned after acceptance into the current graduate degree program be included on the program of study

3. Capstone courses (whether numbered as blanket or not) cannot be counted toward capstone credits in more than one certificate or in graduate program. Credits from capstone courses may be transferred into any other certificate or graduate program but would not count toward a capstone requirement.

Rationale: Distinct certificates require distinct capstones courses (if they have them at all). Capstone courses are typically an integrative experience for the certificate in which they exist and thus are of secondary importance in another certificate. Capstone courses in a certificate program may be transferred into master's programs as long as they meet other transfer credit requirements for master's programs.

### **Masters Degrees**

1. Change the residency requirement for a master's degree from 30 credits to a minimum of 23 credits. That is, at least half of all the credits on a 45 credit master's degree must be taken after acceptance into the graduate program.
  - This allows up to 22 credits of credit, taken prior to acceptance into a 45 credit master's program, to transfer into the master's program.
  - Note that master's programs are not limited to 45 credits so more than 22 credits could be transferred into a master's program but the total number of credits would then be more than 45 (since at least 23 must be taken after acceptance into the program).
  - Thus a student could complete an entire 18 or 21 credit certificate before entering a 45 credit master's program and could also transfer all of the certificate coursework into that master's program.
2. Credits obtained towards a certificate program can be used on a master's program as long as they meet the above rules – specifically:
  - The master's residency requirement is met
  - No more than ½ of the credits used for a certificate may overlap with any other certificate program.