Proposed Changes to the Continuous Enrollment Policies

Part 1: For Doctoral Students

Current Doctoral Requirement on Grad College Website
Per Graduate College Website: https://grad.arizona.edu/policies/enrollment-policies/continuous-enrollment

- A student admitted to a doctoral program must register each Fall and Spring semester for a minimum of 3 graduate units from original matriculation until the completion of all course requirements, written and oral comprehensive exams, and 18 dissertation units. When these requirements are met, doctoral students not on financial assistance and/or needing to maintain appropriate visa status, must register for a minimum of 1 unit of dissertation credits each semester until final copies of the dissertation are submitted to the Graduate Student Academic Services Office. If only the Final Oral Exam (the defense) is completed during the summer or winter term, the student has maintained continuous enrollment, and has fulfilled all 18 required dissertation credits, registration is not required.

- Students receiving funding such as assistantships, fellowships, loans, grants, scholarships or traineeships may be required by their funding source to register for more than 1 unit to meet full-time status requirements, and should check with their program advisor regarding such requirements to ensure that they remain qualified for funding.

- Doctoral students who have maintained continuous enrollment and are taking only comprehensive exams during either Summer or winter term do not have to register for graduate credit during that summer or winter session.

- Doctoral students who have maintained continuous enrollment, fulfilled all their other degree requirements as well as the 18 hours of dissertation and were enrolled in the prior semester may defend in the summer or winter term without registration. If, however, a student needs library privileges in the final semester, enrollment is required.

Current Catalog Policy
https://catalog.arizona.edu/policy/continuous-enrollment-graduate-students

1. A student admitted to a doctoral program must register for 3 units of graduate credit every fall and spring semester from initial matriculation until the completion of all course requirements, written and oral comprehensive exams, and 18 dissertation units. When these requirements are met, doctoral students not on financial assistance and/or needing to maintain appropriate visa status, may register for a minimum of 1 unit each semester until final copies of the dissertation are submitted to the Graduate Student Academic Services office.

2. Students receiving funding such as assistantships, fellowships, loans, grants, scholarships or traineeships may be required by their funding source to maintain full-time status, and should check with their program advisor regarding such requirements to ensure that they remain qualified for funding.

3. Summer or winter session registration is not required for doctoral students who will be taking comprehensive exams, the final oral exam (i.e., defense) and/or will be graduating during that session, presuming they registered for a minimum of 1 unit during the preceding fall or spring semester. However, if they plan to make other use of University facilities or faculty time during summer/winter sessions, doctoral students must enroll for a minimum of 1 unit of graduate credit in those terms.

Proposed Doctoral Requirement (BOTH Catalog and Grad College)

1. A student admitted to a doctoral program must register each fall and spring semester for a minimum of 1 graduate unit, from original matriculation until all course and dissertation requirements are met. A semester in which a student is enrolled for course credit will be counted toward continuous enrollment.
Non-credit courses, audited courses or courses from which the student withdraws do not count toward the determination of continuous enrollment for graduate purposes.

2. Students receiving funding such as assistantships, fellowships, loans, grants, scholarships or traineeships may be required by their funding source to register for more than 1 unit to meet full-time status requirement. Similarly, international students may have different requirements to maintain their visa status. All students should check with their program advisor regarding such requirements to ensure that they remain qualified for funding and/or visa status.

3. Doctoral students who have maintained continuous enrollment and are taking only comprehensive exams during either Summer or winter term do not have to register for graduate credit during that summer or winter session.

4. Doctoral students who have maintained continuous enrollment, fulfilled all their other degree requirements as well as the 18 hours of dissertation and were enrolled in the prior semester may defend and file in the summer or winter term without registration. If, however, a student needs library privileges or if they plan to make other use of University facilities or significant faculty time during summer or winter session, enrollment is required.

**Argument for the requested changes**

Students must maintain continuous enrollment in the graduate programs to avoid being automatically discontinued. Many programs offer 1- and 2-credit classes for students. Students enrolled in a single class are being asked to register for an additional unit, often for no additional academic purpose. Requiring the additional units of credit may pose a financial burden on the student.

This change aligns the University Catalog policy and the Grad College Policy.

**Argument against the change.**

Doctoral students are eligible for advanced-standing once they have completed all course requirements. At that point, 1-unit of registration for a 900-level course may be considered full-time by the UA for the purposes of Student Loan status. Changing the existing policy may lead to confusion regarding when doctoral students become eligible for advanced status.

**Effective Semester:** Fall 2019

**Approved by:**

- Graduate Council, 12/7/18
- CAAC, 1/22/19
- Provost’s Council, 2/4/19
Part 2: For Master’s Students

Current Master’s Requirement for continuous enrollment
Per Graduate College Website: https://grad.arizona.edu/policies/enrollment-policies/continuous-enrollment

A student admitted to a master’s program must register each fall and spring semester for a minimum of 3 graduate units, from original matriculation until all course and thesis requirements are met. When these requirements are met, master’s students not on financial assistance and/or not needing to maintain appropriate visa status, must register for a minimum of 1 unit of thesis or master’s report credit each semester until the thesis or report is finalized. While 1 unit satisfies Continuous Enrollment, it does NOT meet requirements for full-time status.

Students receiving funding such as assistantships, fellowships, loans, grants, scholarships or traineeships may be required by their funding source to register for more than 1 unit to meet full-time status requirements as defined in the current UA Academic Catalog (under Catalog Index > Full-time Student Status), and should check with their program advisor regarding such requirements to ensure that they remain qualified for funding. If the degree program requirements are to be completed in the Summer or Winter, the student must register for a minimum of 1 unit of graduate credit during that term. Master’s and Educational Specialist candidates do not have to register for graduate units during summer or winter sessions unless they plan to make use of University facilities or faculty time. If they do plan to use facilities or faculty time, they must enroll for a minimum of 1 unit of graduate credit.

Current Catalog Policy
https://catalog.arizona.edu/policy/continuous-enrollment-graduate-students

Master’s and Educational Specialist Policy

1. A student admitted to a Master’s or Educational Specialist degree program must register every fall and spring semester from initial matriculation until all degree requirements are met.

2. If the degree program requirements are to be completed in the summer, the student must register for a minimum of 1 unit of graduate credit in either 1st or 2nd summer session. If not graduating in the summer term, Master’s and Educational Specialist candidates do not have to register for graduate units during summer sessions unless they plan to make use of University facilities or faculty time. If they do plan to use facilities or faculty time, they must enroll for a minimum of 1 unit of graduate credit in the term(s) in which they are using facilities or faculty time.

3. Summer-only students are required to enroll continuously during consecutive summers until all degree requirements are met.

Proposed Master’s Requirement for continuous enrollment (BOTH CATALOG AND GRAD COLLEGE)

1. A student admitted to a master’s or Educational Specialist degree program must register each fall and spring semester for a minimum of 1 graduate unit, from original matriculation until all course and thesis requirements are met. A semester in which a student is enrolled for course credit will be counted toward continuous enrollment. Non-credit courses, audited courses or courses from which the student withdraws do not count toward the determination of continuous enrollment for graduate purposes.

2. Students receiving funding such as assistantships, fellowships, loans, grants, scholarships or traineeships may be required by their funding source to register for more than 1 unit to meet full-time status requirement. Similarly, international students may have different requirements to maintain their visa status. All students should check with their program advisor regarding such requirements to ensure that they remain qualified for funding and/or visa status.

3. Master’s students who have maintained continuous enrollment, fulfilled all their other degree requirements and were enrolled in the prior semester may defend and file in the summer or winter term without registration. If, however, a student needs library privileges or if they plan to make other use of University facilities or significant faculty time during summer or winter session, enrollment is required.
4. Summer-only students are required to enroll continuously during consecutive summers until all degree requirements are met

**Arguments for the requested change**
Students must maintain continuous enrollment in the graduate programs to avoid being automatically discontinued. Several graduate programs offer 1- and 2- credit classes for students, particularly those following the 5- or 7-week semester options. Students enrolled in a single class are being asked to register for an additional unit, often for no additional academic purpose.

These changes align Graduate College and Catalog requirements

**Arguments against the requested change**
This may allow students to extend the time it takes to get a master’s degree to an unreasonable level

**Effective Semester**: Fall 2019

Approved by:
- Graduate Council, 12/7/18
- CAAC, 1/22/19
- Provost’s Council, 2/4/19