

Resolution to Require Continuous Enrollment for Ph.D., Ed.D., and M.F.A. Students
Educational Policy and Student Affairs (EPSA) Committee
UCC General Education Committee
Faculty Senate
First Reading – February 7, 2022

Whereas domestic graduate students in terminal research degrees but without funding frequently cease enrollment between finishing coursework and filing the thesis or dissertation; and

Whereas university policy does not permit students to make use of university resources without enrollment (except in the case of summer when a student is enrolled both the previous spring and the coming fall), meaning that continued work with faculty on a thesis or dissertation during breaks in enrollment violates University policy; and

Whereas breaks in graduate student enrollment confound the university's ability to accurately determine the number of students actively working on and intending degree completion; and

Whereas continuous enrollment for graduate students enables better communication and engagement between the student and the university; and

Whereas some form of continuous enrollment requirement is the norm nationally for terminal research degrees, and all Ohio public universities with terminal research degrees have such requirements with the exception of Miami University and Ohio University; and

Whereas establishing a 0.5 credit hour minimum enrollment is equal to the least costly forms of continuous enrollment required at other Ohio public universities; and

Whereas a university minimum continuous enrollment threshold does not prevent any academic program from establishing a larger enrollment requirement; and

Whereas the Graduate Council has approved the policy recommended in this resolution; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the following policy be established in the Graduate Catalog:

All Ph.D., Ed.D., and M.F.A. students must enroll for credit-bearing courses for at least two semesters of each academic year from the time they first enroll in their degree program through the duration of their program unless on an approved leave of absence. Students on leave of absence are understood not to be using university resources, including faculty advising, or actively working on degree requirements.

Degree requirements and incomplete/PR courses may not be completed during a leave of absence.

Summer registration for credit is required for graduate students when degree components, or courses with previous Incomplete or PR grades, are completed in that semester. Degree components include comprehensive exams, dissertation or thesis defense, completion of a non-dissertation capstone project, and graduation. Students completing the TAD process “early for” the next semester must be enrolled for credit during the semester that the thesis or dissertation is filed.

Doctoral and MFA students who have completed their coursework may enroll at a minimum in a half- credit CE course to meet continuous enrollment requirements. Half-credit CE courses count as full-time student status. Any other credit-bearing graduate registration at OHIO also fulfills continuous enrollment requirements.

Students in programs that require professional internships after *all* other degree requirements are completed may enroll in a 0 credit-hour internship course to fulfill continuous enrollment requirements.

Any student who fails to enroll for more than one semester will be moved to inactive status and must apply for re-enrollment to their program if they wish to continue in the program. The re-enrollment process can be found in the Graduate Catalog and the appropriate form is on the Registrar’s website (<https://www.ohio.edu/registrar/forms.cfm>). Return to active status requires approval from both the program and Graduate College. At the discretion of the program, the student may be required to meet current catalog requirements at the time of re-enrollment.

Once reinstated, the student will be enrolled in 0.5 credit hour for each semester of missed enrollment up to a maximum of 2 semesters, in the first semester of reenrollment. Thus, a returning student would be enrolled for up to 1.0 credit hours of missed continuous enrollment and would need to additionally enroll for at least 0.5 credit hours. The student is responsible for paying tuition and fees for these hours, along with any penalties or late fees. Reinstated students must maintain continuous enrollment in current and any future semesters. Failure to maintain continuous enrollment after being reinstated will result in the student being dropped from the program and will require a student to apply for re-admission under the current catalog and any conditions defined by the academic program (which may include dismissal after additional failure to follow continuous

enrollment policy).

Be it further resolved that such offices as are necessary establish 0.5 credit hours of appropriate research and dissertation courses as full-time academic enrollment for student visa purposes, such that international students have the same effective continuous enrollment requirement as domestic students; and

Be it further resolved that this policy go into effect for all Ph.D., Ed.D., and M.F.A. students in Fall semester 2022, with Fall 2022 counted as the first semester of missed enrollment for students in these degree programs who are not enrolled at that time.

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