

# EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY™

## Academic Policies and Processes—Graduate School Updated for 2021-2022 Graduate Catalog

I.	Introduction	2
II.	Admission and Application Policy	3
	A. Conditional Admission	3
	B. Fresh Start Admission (Academic Renewal/Condition 5)	4
	C. Interrupted Enrollment and Readmission	5
	D. Combined Bachelor's-Master's Programs	6
	E. Graduate Studies Pathway Programs	6
III.	Non-Degree Admission Policy	6
IV.	Registration	6
V.	Late Registration Fee	7
VI.	Cancellation of Registration Fee	7
VII.	Program of Study – POS	7
VIII.	Enrollment in 100/200/300/400-Level Undergraduate Courses for Undergraduate Credit by Graduate Students	8
IX.	Enrollment in 500-Level Graduate Courses for Undergraduate Credit by Advanced Undergraduates	8
X.	Auditing Courses	8
XI.	Pass/Fail Grading Option	9
XII.	Independent Study	9
XIII.	Course Limitations	9
XIV.	Attendance	10
XV.	Withdrawal	10
	A. Withdrawal from Individual Classes	10
	B. Withdrawal from All Classes	11
XVI.	Course Numbering System	12
XVII.	Grading System	13
XVIII.	Credit/No-Credit	13
XIX.	Repeating Courses	13
XX.	Incomplete (I) and In-Progress (IP) Grades	14
XXI.	Grade Changes	14
XXII.	Academic Load	15
XXIII.	Full-time Status during Low Enrollment	15
XXIV.	Transfer of Credit to Degree Programs	16
XXV.	Residency Requirements	16
XXVI.	Time Limitations for Degree Completion	18
XXVII.	Academic Probation and Dismissal	19
XXVIII.	Process for Requesting Reinstatement after Dismissal	19
XXIX.	Final Project/Experience	20
	A. Graduate Research Conference	20
XXX.	Graduation	20
	A. Graduation Requirements	20
	B. Graduation Fee	21
	C. Commencement	21
XXXI.	Continuation of Coursework	21

## **I. Introduction**

This document contains the policies and processes that are followed by Eastern Michigan University related to graduate student education. The University established these policies to ensure consistent standards in registration, program requirements, and the awarding of degrees across all Eastern Michigan University graduate programs.

Responsibilities for graduate programs are shared by the Graduate School and the colleges, schools, departments, and programs. These units may have requirements and rules specific to their graduate programs. Students are expected to be familiar with the academic regulations and rules stated in this document and those articulated by their graduate program.

This guide will be updated annually and included in the Graduate Catalog. It is also published online by the Office of Records and Registration. It is the authoritative statement of university policies and procedures for its graduate programs.

We hope you find this to be a helpful guide to Graduate School policies. If you have questions, please direct them to the Registrar at [registrar@emich.edu](mailto:registrar@emich.edu).

### **Wade Tornquist, Ph.D.**

Interim Associate Provost and Associate Vice President for Graduate Studies & Research

### **Christina Shell**

University Registrar

## **Mission**

The mission of the Graduate School of Eastern Michigan University is to serve as a central resource that supports graduate studies and programming in the university; ensures the quality and integrity of graduate programs and degrees; and assists with the recruitment, support, and graduation of a diverse and accomplished graduate student body.

## **Objectives**

- Develop fair and transparent policies and apply them impartially and consistently
- Support students in the removal of barriers to graduation
- Support faculty and student professional development
- Foster integrity and ethics in research and creative activity
- Provide guidance to departments on program development and policy matters

## II. Admission and Application Policy

For consideration for full admission by the Graduate School, all applicants must:

- Earn a four-year baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited U.S. institution or an equivalent degree from a non-U.S. institution,
- Achieve at least a 2.7 undergraduate cumulative GPA, and
- Submit official transcripts from all undergraduate and graduate institutions attended.

Applicants must also meet the requirements of the desired program, which may be more stringent than the Graduate School's requirements. Please consult the Graduate Catalog for specific program admission requirements: [emich.edu/graduate/academics/degrees-programs](http://emich.edu/graduate/academics/degrees-programs).

Students who do not enroll during the semester for which they are admitted must complete a new admission application.

**International applicants** must meet additional criteria as designated by the Graduate School and the Office of International Admissions:

- Provide transcripts evaluated by an approved evaluation service.
- Demonstrate English proficiency through performance on an approved standardized language test. Listed below are the minimum test scores required for full admission:
  - TOEFL: 79 iBT\*
  - IELTS: 6.5
  - Michigan English Test (MET): 57
  - Pearson English Test (PTE): 53

\*The Graduate School accepts both MyBest scores and single-test-date TOEFL scores. Individual programs may choose not to accept MyBest scores and may require a higher level of English proficiency than required by the Graduate School. Consult the Graduate Catalog to find the admissions criteria for your program.

The Graduate School maintains an official list of English-speaking countries and territories for which applicants are not required to submit English proficiency test scores.

- Submit other documents required by Graduate International Admissions. See website for details: [emich.edu/admissions/international/graduates/how-to-apply.php](http://emich.edu/admissions/international/graduates/how-to-apply.php).

### A. Conditional Admission

At the discretion of the Graduate School and the academic program, an applicant may be considered for conditional admission. Under no condition will a student be awarded a graduate degree while in conditional status.

#### **1. Condition 1 (Curriculum Deficiencies – Program)**

The applicant meets Graduate School requirements but has curricular deficiencies in their graduate preparation and/or does not meet program standards. Special conditions that must be completed before gaining program admission or during program completion are listed in the acceptance letter. Further, the minimum grades and timeline for required courses are noted.

## **2. Condition 2 (Senior Status – Graduate School)**

The applicant is in the process of completing their four-year baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited U.S. institution or an equivalent degree from a non-U.S. institution. This status is valid for one enrollment period only. Condition 2 students may be dually enrolled in their undergraduate program for the first semester of their graduate enrollment. Graduate hours earned at EMU during that same semester may not be used to fulfill undergraduate degree requirements, nor may undergraduate courses be used toward meeting graduate degree requirements. The condition is removed when the student submits an official transcript to the Office of Admissions with a baccalaureate degree posted. Failure to produce an official transcript by the completion of the first semester of graduate enrollment will prevent enrollment at the graduate level in subsequent semesters.

## **3. Condition 3 (English as a Second Language – ESL – Graduate School)**

The applicant is a non-native speaker of English who scored below the Graduate School and/or program-required minimum on the English proficiency examination(s) and does not qualify for admission to the Graduate Studies ESL Pathway Certificate. ESL staff determines the ESL course(s) and timeline required to remove the condition.

## **4. Condition 4 (Low GPA/Academic Deficiencies – Graduate School)**

The applicant does not meet the Graduate School's minimum GPA requirement (2.7) and/or graduated from a non-accredited institution but has demonstrated the potential to be successful in a graduate-level program. This admission status requires that the student complete the first nine credit hours of graduate courses at EMU and establish good academic standing with a minimum 3.0 cumulative grade point average. A Condition 4 student who does not achieve a 3.0 cumulative GPA or higher in the first nine graduate credit hours at EMU will have their admission rescinded automatically with no opportunity to appeal.

## **5. Condition 5 (Fresh Start Admission / Academic Renewal)**

The applicant is returning to Graduate School and has requested to have their EMU Graduate cumulative GPA adjusted. A student admitted under this condition must achieve a graduate GPA of at least 3.0 at the end of the semester in which they complete their first 9 credit hours at EMU under this condition. A student who does not meet this requirement will have their admission rescinded automatically with no opportunity to appeal. See section II.B. below.

## **6. Condition 6 (Low GPA/Academic Deficiencies – Program)**

The applicant meets the Graduate School minimum GPA requirement but does not meet the program minimum GPA requirement. GPA requirement(s) that must be met prior to gaining degree admission are listed in the acceptance letter.

## **B. Fresh Start Admission (Academic Renewal/Academic Renewal)**

A student qualifies for the *Fresh Start admission* under one of two conditions.

- The student began a graduate program at EMU but, due to poor grades that could but not necessarily would have resulted in dismissal, desires to change programs. Under this condition, the student is not required to stop out for any period of time. The student may apply for formal admission into the second graduate program under the Fresh Start condition.
- The student received poor grades in their program. The student desires to return to the original program. Under this condition, the student may be considered for readmission two years after the semester of last enrollment.

Upon application, a student may request the *Fresh Start Academic Renewal Admission*. The application will be processed consistent with current procedures. Faculty in the requested academic program will either deny or indicate a willingness to accept the applicant as a *Fresh Start, Condition 5* student. Those applicants deemed by the program to be candidates for the Fresh Start admission are required to meet with the Graduate Coordinator and the Graduate School Associate to:

- 1) determine the applicant's readiness for graduate enrollment
- 2) establish a program of study that meets the policies of the Graduate School
- 3) sign a formal letter of understanding specific to the conditions of Fresh Start.

Once the above meeting is complete, the Graduate School Associate will admit the applicant into the Fresh Start Program and forward the Program of Study and Letter of Agreement to the University Registrar to become a part of the student's electronic file.

Fresh Start selection can only occur at the point of admission. An applicant may only be admitted one time under the "Fresh Start" status; subsequent applications will be denied.

Conditions of Fresh Start Admission:

- The student enters with a Condition 5 status. The student's record will be reviewed after they have completed at least 9 new credit hours. This is to ensure that they have achieved a GPA of 3.0 or better since enrollment in Fresh Start. Failure to achieve a 3.0 will lead to immediate rescinding of admission without an opportunity to appeal.
- Upon successful completion of the first 9 credit hours under the Fresh Start status, coursework prior to Fresh Start admission will be reviewed. Courses in which a Fresh Start student earned a B- or lower grade will be changed to reflect an R (Academic Renewal) grade. This grade will no longer impact the student's cumulative GPA and will no longer count as a course for which credit was earned.
- All courses currently on a student's EMU academic transcript will remain.
- Students are not limited in the number of previous credit hours of coursework toward degree requirements provided the course(s):
  - a. Meet program faculty approval,
  - b. Align with the Catalog requirements for the program of admission,
  - c. Were ones in which the student earned a 3.0 (B) or better,
  - d. Were completed six or fewer years *prior to the time of graduation*.

### **C. Interrupted Enrollment and Readmission**

Graduate students whose enrollment at Eastern Michigan University is interrupted for any reason, resulting in a non-enrollment period of at least two consecutive years, must apply for

readmission through normal admission processes. For a student who meets the 3.0 GPA requirement, the department, school, or program of the student's major will evaluate the application and determine readmission eligibility. Any student with a cumulative graduate grade point average below 3.0 must petition the department, school, or program and the Graduate School for the readmission decision. Students with poor grades may consider a Fresh Start Admission (see Section II.B above). Readmitted students must meet all the current policies of their academic department and the Graduate School at the time of readmission, even if those policies have changed since initial enrollment. Readmission is not guaranteed and is not immediate upon submission of a request. Students should apply for readmission at least two months before the start of the semester for which they wish to re-enroll.

#### **D. Combined Bachelor's-Master's Programs (142-hour programs)**

The minimum undergraduate GPA requirement for admission to a combined bachelor's-master's program is 3.0. Students may apply for the undergraduate portion of the program after completing a minimum of 60 undergraduate hours. Students should contact the program advisor for details. After acceptance into the undergraduate portion of the program, students must also apply to the Graduate School at a time determined by the program. Only graduate courses taken after acceptance and enrollment in the undergraduate portion of the program may be applied toward the master's degree.

#### **E. Graduate Studies Pathway Programs**

The Graduate Studies Academic Pathway Program and the Graduate Studies ESL Pathway may be available to students who do not meet the admission standards for regular or conditional admission to the Graduate School. See the current Graduate Catalog (<https://catalog.emich.edu>) for information about admission to these programs.

### **III. Non-Degree Admission Policy**

Students admitted with a non-degree status are, by definition, not admitted or enrolled in a graduate degree program. A restricted number of credit hours taken as a non-degree student may be applied to a graduate degree once the student is admitted. Non-degree students should seek advising directly from academic departments to identify graduate degrees that align with their career or academic interests. Further, students are advised to review the Graduate School Policies including, Residency Requirements, Time Limitations for Degree Completion, and Transfer Credits (see below) to determine if courses taken can apply to their desired degree.

### **IV. Registration**

Students may not attend classes unless they are properly registered. Students may not adjust their semester course selection after published time frames for each semester (see [emich.edu/registrar/calendars](https://emich.edu/registrar/calendars) for deadlines). Registration for a semester will be considered final at the end of the applicable semester.

A non-refundable registration fee is charged each semester. Additional information regarding tuition and fees is available at [emich.edu/sbs](https://emich.edu/sbs).

## **V. Late Registration Fee**

A late registration fee is charged to those students who do not complete at least one course registration before the official first day of classes each semester. Students enrolling for a course after the midpoint of the semester will be charged an additional late-add fee. Additional late-add fees may be waived for independent study, field work, or capstone-style course. Please contact the Office of Records and Registration for more information.

## **VI. Cancellation of Registration**

Registered students who decide before classes begin not to attend classes at EMU must complete a Cancellation of Registration form or send an email to the Office of Records and Registration ([registrar@emich.edu](mailto:registrar@emich.edu)). Any housing contracts must also be canceled in the Housing Office to cancel room/board assessments.

## **VII. Program of Study – POS**

A program of study (POS) is a required document that lists the courses a student must take to complete their degree. A POS is required for students in all degree and certificate programs. The POS must list at least the same number of credit hours as required by the program's description in the Graduate Catalog. The Graduate School can provide waivers for students in those programs that have lowered the number of required hours since the student was admitted.

A program of study must meet minimum credit hour requirements:

- Doctoral programs must require a minimum of 15 total credit hours of research and research support coursework.
- A Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree must require a minimum of 90 credit hours post-bachelor's degree.
- A Ph.D. degree in a program that requires a master's degree for admission must require a minimum of 60 credit hours post-master's.
- A Ph.D. degree in a program that allows a specialist's degree for admission must require a minimum of 36 credit hours post-specialist's.
- Doctoral degrees in clinical or practitioner programs must require a minimum of 84 hours if admitting students post-bachelor's degree. If admitting students post-master's degree, a minimum of 41 new hours are required.
- A specialist degree must require a minimum of 32 credit hours (post master's degree).
- A master's degree must require a minimum of 30 credit hours.
- A graduate certificate must require a minimum of 12 credit hours.
- A combined bachelor's–master's program must require a minimum of 142 credit hours, including a minimum of 30 graduate credit hours (courses numbered 500 and above). It must include an undergraduate major of at least 30 hours and must satisfy all undergraduate degree requirements, including General Education. (Please note: the requirement of an undergraduate minor is waived for combined bachelor's - master's program students.)

Students must ensure that all courses on their program of study meet the Time Limitations for Degree Completion and Residency policy requirements. Any changes to the program of study that depart from the required courses listed in the Graduate Catalog must have the signed approval of the Department Head/School Director of that Program. Students who fail to obtain a

program of study approved by their advisor assume full responsibility for their registrations and for satisfying University, Graduate School, and departmental program requirements. An approved program of study must be on file in the Office of Records and Registration, 303 Pierce Hall, allowing the office to complete a degree audit once a student applies for graduation. Students should schedule an appointment with their academic/graduate advisor to set up a program of study as soon as possible within their first semester.

Please see section **XXV. Residency Requirements** for information regarding the minimum number of credit hours a graduate student must take once accepted and enrolled in an EMU degree program to receive a graduate degree from Eastern Michigan University.

### **VIII. Enrollment in 100/200/300/400-Level Undergraduate Courses for Undergraduate Credit by Graduate Students**

The Graduate School does not permit the use of undergraduate courses (499 and below) to meet degree requirements on graduate programs of study. This policy does not restrict graduate advisors from adding undergraduate courses to programs of study to meet deficiencies or meet prerequisites; however, such courses will not be honored as graduate coursework, cannot be used to meet graduate degree requirements, and will not appear on a graduate transcript. Instead, the course(s) will appear on an undergraduate transcript. Graduate students taking these courses may be required to obtain permission from the academic department offering the course before registration.

### **IX. Enrollment in 500-Level Graduate Courses for Undergraduate Credit by Advanced Undergraduates**

An undergraduate student may enroll in 500-level courses with approval from the instructor and the Office of Records and Registration if (1) the student has completed 85 or more hours with a minimum GPA of 2.7, or (2) the student is a member in good standing of the Honors College, has completed 76 or more hours, and has written permission from the Honors College Director. No more than fifteen (15) 500-level credits may be taken by an undergraduate student. Exceptions are granted to students in combined bachelor's-master's programs.

Under no circumstances may an undergraduate student take a 600-level (or higher) course.

Courses taken as described above will appear on the undergraduate transcript and be included in all undergraduate academic calculations (including, but not limited to, academic standing and hours toward graduation). Furthermore, these courses may not be used to satisfy graduate program requirements at a later date. Exceptions are granted to students in combined bachelor's-master's programs.

Request forms are available on the Registrar's website ([emich.edu/registrar/forms/](http://emich.edu/registrar/forms/)). The form must be approved by the instructor and, if applicable, the Honors College Director, and then returned to the Office of Records and Registration prior to registration in the course.

### **X. Auditing Courses**

Graduate students who wish to audit a course must submit a completed audit request form, register for the course, and pay the same tuition and fees as for academic credit enrollment. Courses appear on the graduate transcript with a grade of "AU" but are not used in graduate academic calculations (including, but not limited to, academic standing and hours toward

graduation). Courses taken as an audit may not be used toward a graduate degree or certificate. Request forms are available on the Registrar's website ([emich.edu/registrar/forms](http://emich.edu/registrar/forms)). The form must be approved by the Head of the department offering the course and then returned to the Office of Records and Registration at the beginning of the semester in which the course will be taken. See the Office of Records and Registration website for deadlines.

## **XI. Pass/Fail Grading Option**

Graduate students may elect a pass/fail grading option when enrolling in undergraduate courses for enrichment that **will not** apply to a graduate program of study. Courses will appear on an undergraduate academic transcript and will not, therefore, count as hours toward a graduate degree. Undergraduate curriculum deficiency requirements noted on a program of study may not be taken under a pass/fail option, unless approved by a graduate advisor.

Students should enroll in the course, complete the Graduate Request to Take an Undergraduate Course as Pass/Fail, and obtain Program Coordinator approval. The form should then be submitted to the Office of Records and Registration before the end of the first week of the semester. Request forms are available on the Registrar's website ([emich.edu/registrar/forms/](http://emich.edu/registrar/forms/)). Students complete all coursework, and the faculty member submits a letter grade at the end of the semester. The grade is automatically converted to pass/fail for publication on the academic transcript. A student may cancel the pass/fail grading option according to published deadlines and the letter grade submitted by the faculty member will post to the student's transcript.

## **XII. Independent Study**

Independent study enables graduate students to pursue academic interests not addressed in conventional courses. A maximum of six (6) hours of independent study may be used on a degree program. See the section on Course Limitations below.

## **XIII. Course Limitations**

To maintain the consistency, integrity, and rigor of graduate programs, EMU places limits on the number of certain types of courses students may count toward a graduate degree or certificate. Specifically, courses that have not undergone a full review through the university input process to become permanent course offerings toward a graduate degree are subject to a limitation of 12 credit hours.

- Special topics courses (usually numbered as 590, 591, 592, 679, 680, 681) and independent study (usually numbered as 597, 598, 599, 697, 698, 699) are examples of courses which are not considered permanent course offerings.

While Seminar courses (usually numbered as 693, 694, 695, 696) and Workshop courses (usually numbered as 594, 595, 596, 597, 682, 683, 684, 685) are traditionally included, some may have undergone a review and become permanent course offerings. Students should check with their advisor to confirm the status of Seminars and Workshops.

While the maximum number of credits allowed of this type is 12, no more than six credit hours of independent study courses may be included.

Further, no more than six hours of Thesis/Final Project (usually numbered as 690, 691, 692, 790, 791, 792) may be used to satisfy graduate degree requirements.

For combined bachelor's-master's programs, students may apply only the undergraduate version or graduate version of cross-listed courses, or courses with predominantly shared topics or content. (If confusion arises over whether a course qualifies, determinations will be made by the Graduate School.)

#### **XIV. Attendance**

Students who will be absent from classes to observe major religious holidays may arrange with their instructors to make up missed work, including examinations. If satisfactory arrangements cannot be made with the instructor, students may appeal to the department head/school director.

Expectations regarding class attendance should be included in the printed syllabus distributed by the instructor at the beginning of the semester.

#### **XV. Withdrawal**

Graduate students are expected to follow University policies and procedures for withdrawal, both from individual classes and from the University. Non-attendance and/or non-payment of tuition do not constitute a withdrawal or absolve a student of academic or financial responsibility.

##### **A. Withdrawal from Individual Classes**

A tuition credit adjustment of 100 percent minus the non-refundable registration fee will be made for students who decrease their academic load before the published deadline. These dates are published online each semester by the Office of Records and Registration. No credit adjustments will be made after the published dates. NOTE: Students with financial holds should contact the Office of Records and Registration or a Service EMU location to process withdrawals. The dates below reflect deadlines for full-term (15 weeks) courses. Deadlines for shorter courses are available on the Registrar's website ([emich.edu/registrar/calendars/](http://emich.edu/registrar/calendars/)).

Please note: A student may not drop, or withdraw from, the last remaining course for a given semester through the online system. Contact a Service EMU location or the Office of Records and Registration to drop or withdraw from the last course.

- I. **First Eight Days.** Any change in the student's course registration occurring during this period may be processed through the registration system. Courses are recorded as drops and do not appear on the student's academic transcript. No grades will be posted. Students receive a 100 percent tuition credit adjustment, less a transaction fee for dropping the course.
- II. **Ninth Day Through the Tenth Week.** All student-initiated withdrawals are processed through their NetID (my.emich) account and are accepted automatically and recorded on the student transcript with a "W" grade. Withdrawals initiated during this period will not result in tuition adjustment or reimbursement.
- III. **After the Tenth Week, Until the Beginning of the Final Exam Period.** Students must initiate a late withdrawal request. Forms are available on the Registrar's website ([emich.edu/registrar/forms](http://emich.edu/registrar/forms)). A late withdrawal will be granted by the review committee only if the student provides documentation of

extenuating circumstances resulting in an inability to complete the course (e.g., illness, family concerns, or an inability to withdraw from the course within university deadlines). These extenuating circumstances must not have been present before the deadline for withdrawal. Poor academic performance, dissatisfaction with instruction, and inability to pay financially are not valid reasons for late withdrawal, and such requests will be denied.

Although instructor approval is not required, students considering withdrawal should consult with their instructor(s). Students should continue to attend class after submitting a late withdrawal request until they receive official notification that their withdrawal has been approved. If a student stops attending class without officially withdrawing and does not take the final examination, University policy requires that the instructor assign a grade of F for the course. Students who believe they have received an unearned F grade and who wish to appeal must do so the following semester through the University Grade Grievance process.

International students holding F-1 or J-1 visas must seek additional approval from the Office of International Students. Students who are on financial aid or who hold scholarships, fellowships, or graduate assistantships should consult the Graduate School before withdrawing from courses to fully understand the potential financial impact.

Policies governing the refund of tuition and fees are to be found in the Tuition and Fees section of the graduate catalog. The Student Guide, published each semester by the Office of Records and Registration, should be consulted for the calendar regulating withdrawals.

## **B. Withdrawal from All Classes**

Students may withdraw from all classes during a semester but before the first day of exams and receive a grade of W for all courses. This transaction is handled by the Office of Records and Registration or a Service EMU location. Such withdrawal may necessitate the updating of a student's admission status, and students in their first semester must notify their academic department and the Office of Admissions before re-enrolling. The dates below reflect deadlines for full-term (15 weeks) courses. Deadlines for shorter courses are available on the Registrar's website ([emich.edu/registrar/calendars/](http://emich.edu/registrar/calendars/)).

Please note: A student may not drop or withdraw from the last remaining course of a given semester through the online system. Contact a Service EMU location or the Office of Records and Registration to drop or withdraw from a last course.

- I. **First Eight Days:** Students receive a 100 percent tuition credit adjustment, less a transaction fee, for dropping the course.
- II. **Ninth through the 19th Day:** Students receive a 50-percent tuition-and-fee credit adjustment, excluding the non-refundable registration fee. Grades of W will be posted.
- III. **Twentieth through the 38th Day:** Students receive a 25-percent tuition-and-fee credit adjustment, excluding the non-refundable registration fee. Grades of W will be posted.
- IV. **Thirty-ninth Day through the Day Before Final Examinations:** Students receive no tuition or fee credit adjustment. Grades of W will be posted.
- V. **After the First Day of the Final Examination Period:** No withdrawal will take place.

Students may initiate a late withdrawal request. Forms are available on the Registrar's website ([emich.edu/registrar/forms](http://emich.edu/registrar/forms)). A late withdrawal will be granted by the review committee only if the student provides documentation of extenuating circumstances resulting in an inability to complete the course (e.g., illness, family concerns, or an inability to withdraw from the course within university deadlines). These extenuating circumstances must not have been present before the deadline for withdrawal. Poor academic performance, dissatisfaction with instruction, and inability to pay financially are not valid reasons for late withdrawal, and such requests will be denied.

## **XVI. Course Numbering System**

Eastern Michigan University recognizes the following course numbering system for its graduate-level courses:

500-599: for graduate students. The 500-level courses are open to advanced undergraduates (with instructor and Office of Records and Registration approval) but may not subsequently be used on a graduate degree program; see Enrollment in 500-Level Graduate Courses for Undergraduate Credit by Advanced Undergraduates.

600-699: for graduate students only. The 600-level courses (a) contain advanced level material; (b) preserve a common pedagogical or coherent experience for a group of graduate students; or (c) contain graduate-level research, thesis, or independent studies experiences.

700 - 799: for advanced-level graduate degree students.

800 - 899: for doctoral and specialist students.

Graduate course sections may be cross-listed so long as the first digit of the course numbers are within 1. For example, a 500-numbered course section may be cross-listed with a 600-numbered course section but not a 700-numbered course section. Lecture sections with course numbers beginning 100, 200, and 300-level may not be cross-listed with graduate course sections. Deans may approve exceptions for certain modes of course delivery (e.g., studio or project sections with independent learning).

In a cross-listed 400/500 level course, the 500 level section must include analysis and synthesis of course content consistent with graduate-level work. The syllabus must include assessments that measure the advanced expectations for those enrolled in the graduate section.

## **XVII. Grading System**

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Significance</b>	<b>Grade points per credit hour</b>
A	Exceptionally high order	4.0
A-		3.7
B+		3.3
B		3.0
B-	Distinctly above average	2.7
C+		2.3
C		2.0
C-	Average	1.7
F	Unsatisfactory (denoting failure)	0.0

Grades below a C- are considered a failing grade by the Graduate School. They will be reflected as an F on the transcript.

Students who do not attend a course for which they are registered will have an “NA” (Never Attended) grade submitted by their instructor. An “NA” grade is reflected as an “F” on their academic transcript.

Student academic records are kept on permanent file in the Office of Records and Registration. See [emich.edu/registrar/transcripts](http://emich.edu/registrar/transcripts) for ordering options.

Please note: Latin honors are not awarded to graduate students.

## **XVIII. Credit/No-Credit**

The Graduate School awards credit/no-credit only for theses, practicums, selected fieldwork, selected independent study courses and special cases such as exhibitions in art. It is not a student’s prerogative to elect a course for credit/no-credit; only previously designated courses are available for such grading mode. To receive credit for a credit/no-credit course, a student must perform in a manner equivalent to B work in the judgment of the faculty member supervising the student’s work.

## **XIX. Repeating Courses**

Students who meet the prerequisites and all other conditions for enrollment may repeat a course. Note that the policies articulated below do not apply to courses (such as independent study) that can be taken for credit more than once. Multiple attempts in such courses are not considered repeats and all grades received will be used in determining the student’s grade point average.

- Programs are not required to permit students to repeat courses.
- Courses that are dropped, or from which a student has withdrawn, are not counted as attempted repeats for the purpose of this policy. Further, courses in which grades were adjusted to reflect Academic Renewal grades (R) are also not included.
- Unless otherwise noted in the course description, credit for any repeated course (including all attempts at EMU and transfer credit granted) will apply only once toward all degree requirements.
- A student who earned credit in a course will lose the credit if they subsequently retake the

course and receive an F. If a student receives an Incomplete in the final attempt of a repeated course, the most recent earlier grade is the grade of record until the coursework is completed and the "I" is replaced by the new grade earned.

- A course may be repeated only once and only if the original grade was a B- or lower.
- The last grade received will be used in determining the students' grade point average.
- All course attempts will remain on the permanent record, with repeats indicated, even if not used to determine the grade point average.

## **XX. Incomplete (I) and In-Progress (IP) Grades**

An incomplete grade of "I" may be awarded at the discretion of the instructor when illness or other unavoidable extenuating circumstances prevent completion of a course by an individual student, provided that academic performance for the completed portion of the course (50% or more) merits a grade of B or better. The instructor will provide the student and the department head/school director with a rationale for the "I" grade and will specify the work required to remove the Incomplete and the time by which the work must be completed.

An "I" grade must be removed within 12 months. The instructor of the course determines the actual amount of time. A request to extend the 12-month limit may be made only under unusual circumstances and upon the written recommendation of the instructor, department head/school director and academic dean. The initiative for the conversion of an "I" to a letter grade rests with the student. No extensions will be granted after three years, or the conferral of a degree, whichever is first. At such time, the "I" or "IP" grade becomes a permanent part of the student's academic record and will show on the student's transcript.

Incomplete (I) or In-Progress (IP) grades received in courses that constitute the final project/experience required for graduation, such as those with "capstone," "practicum," "final project," "thesis," "dissertation," "research," or "internship" in the title are not governed by the 12-month limitation regulation. (If confusion arises over whether a course qualifies, determinations will be made by the Graduate School.) Both Incomplete and In-Progress courses must be completed within the Time Limitations requirements governing the applicable degree. See Time Limitations for Degree Completion requirements below.

## **XXI. Grade Changes**

When a letter grade (excluding "I" for an incomplete grade or "IP" for an in-progress grade) is posted to a student's permanent record, it will be considered final unless an error was made in assigning the grade. Permitting a student to submit missing work or extra credit to improve a grade after the grade has been posted is not acceptable.

If an instructor error is identified, the instructor must file a grade change form, explaining the error. This form requires the approval and signature of the department head/school director. The appropriate academic dean will also review and approve grade changes to ensure consistency with academic policies. All changes in letter grades (except from an "I" or "IP" grade within one year) will require all three signatures. The grade change will then be submitted to, and processed by, personnel in the Office of Records and Registration.

It is the responsibility of the student to call the instructor's attention to a possible grading error in a timely manner, but not more than 12 months after the questionable grade is posted.

Three (3) years following the close of any term of enrollment, or at the time of the student's graduation (whichever is first), the student's transcript will be considered to be the final indisputable record of academic achievement.

Specifically, at the end of three years, grades are considered final, and no changes will be made to transcripts (e.g., no term or individual withdrawals, no grade omissions, no recalculated grades based on a mathematical or clerical error, no incomplete (I) or In-Progress (IP) removals). This rule does not apply to graduate courses that constitute the final project/experience required for graduation, such as those with "capstone," "practicum," "final project," "thesis," "dissertation," "research," or "internship," in the title. (If confusion arises over whether a course qualifies, determinations will be made by the Graduate School.) These courses must, however, be completed within the Time Limitations requirements governing the applicable degree. See Time Limitations for Degree Completion below.

## **XXII. Academic Load**

Eight hours of graduate credit for the semester is the standard full-time load. International students enrolled in less than eight credit hours should contact the *Office of International Students*.

Graduate students may not enroll in more than 15 hours for any semester without prior permission from the Office of Records and Registration. Support of the faculty advisor/program coordinator is required for consideration.

If students seeking professional teaching certificates or additional endorsements need to take more than the maximum allowable number of credit hours, they may do so by contacting the Office of Records and Registration, [registrar@emich.edu](mailto:registrar@emich.edu). Support of the faculty advisor/program coordinator is required for consideration.

By federal regulation, students must be enrolled in four hours per semester to be considered half-time. For Title IV programs, veteran's benefits, and loan deferments, the following requirements must be met: *Maximum load*: 15 hours per semester *Full-time load*: Minimum of 8 hours per semester *Half-time load*: 4-5 hours per semester *Three-quarter-time load*: 6-7 hours per semester.

## **XXIII. Full-time Status during Low Enrollment**

Doctoral students who have completed ALL academic coursework (excluding comprehensive exam, dissertation and/or internship), but who continue to work toward completion of those requirements may be considered full-time during periods of registration in those (comprehensive exam, dissertation and/or internship) courses. After such registrations are no longer needed to satisfy program requirements, a doctoral student may enroll in a Continuous Enrollment (767) course and be considered a full-time student. A FINAL program of study must be on file to verify eligibility, and a formal request is required. Request forms are available on the Registrar's website ([emich.edu/registrar/forms](http://emich.edu/registrar/forms)).

This opportunity for full-time status does not apply if other courses on the program of study are not completed, or during terms in which registration in other courses exists (including, but not limited to, independent study).

Enrollment in the Continuous Enrollment (767) course will not apply toward degree completion, nor will there be assignments or a grade.

The full-time status will assist in several ways, including:

- enabling access to University services such as the library as the thesis/dissertation or final project is being completed;
- delaying loan repayment while completing a thesis, dissertation, or final project;
- providing liability coverage during internship or field placement.

Some graduate programs, such as the doctoral program in Educational Leadership, may require continuous enrollment. Students may repeat registration in a continuous enrollment course as often as needed.

#### **XXIV. Transfer of Credit to Degree Programs**

Graduate credit(s) may be accepted from other accredited institutions and be used on a program of study. Acceptable transfer credit(s) are determined by the department, subject to the approval of the department head/school director and the Office of Records and Registration.

Transfer credit must:

- apply to the EMU degree program;
- have a grade of B or higher (grades of “pass,” “satisfactory,” or “credit” cannot be transferred unless noted on the transcript key as, equivalent to a B or better grade);
- not be out-of-date per the degree time limitation (see below);
- be recommended by the advisor and approved by the Department Head/School Director and Office of Records and Registration;
- be documented as graduate credit on an official graduate transcript from an accredited institution (i.e., appear on a graduate transcript);
- be reflected in the student’s program of study.

Students are limited in the number of transferred credit hours they may apply to their program of study (see Residency Requirements). Some departments have a more restrictive transfer-credit policy; refer to program information in the graduate catalog for details.

Transfer credit(s) must be evaluated before the graduation degree audit. Official transcripts for courses planned to be transferred to Eastern Michigan University should be on file in the Office of Records and Registration at least one month before the end of the semester in which the student plans to graduate. Such credits are recorded on the student’s record at the time of approval, even if the course is not ultimately used on the program of study.

Request forms are available on the Registrar’s website ([emich.edu/registrar/forms](http://emich.edu/registrar/forms)). Approval of the Program Coordinator is required before submitting to the Office of Records and Registration.

#### **XXV. Residency Requirements**

Regardless of the number of credit hours required for the receipt of an EMU graduate award/degree, a graduate student at EMU must take a minimum number of credit hours once accepted and enrolled in an EMU degree program to receive an EMU graduate degree.

A Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree must require a minimum of 90 credit hours post-bachelor’s degree.

**For students admitted to post-bachelor’s-admitting Ph.D. programs**, at least 48 new graduate hours beginning the semester of acceptance and enrollment into the degree program must be

earned at EMU.

The remaining 42 program requirement hours may be met through the following at the discretion of the doctoral program advisor:

- Prior graduate degree credit, whether the degree was earned at EMU or elsewhere. A maximum of 30 credit hours may be used to satisfy doctoral degree requirements, regardless of the length/credit hours of the prior degree. Only credit hours from one prior completed degree may count as prior degree credit. Note: Hours applied from a prior, completed graduate degree are excluded from the time-to-degree requirements.

Exception: If the doctoral program awards a master's degree en route to the doctoral degree, then an EMU graduate of the same master's program may apply all earned EMU master's program credits toward the 90-hour doctoral program, even if the number exceeds 30 hours. Time-to-degree limits apply to all credits used in the POS.

- A maximum of 12 credit hours earned through a combination of the ways listed below may be applied to the doctoral degree. Note: Hours applied from these options must meet time-to-degree requirements.
  - Prior EMU graduate credits not applied to a previous, completed graduate degree.
  - Transfer of prior graduate credits not applied to a previously completed graduate degree.
  - Transfer of graduate credits after admission to the program.

**For students admitted to post-master's Ph.D. programs,** at least 48 new graduate hours beginning the semester of acceptance and enrollment into the degree program must be earned at EMU.

The remaining 12 hours may be met through the following at the discretion of the doctoral program advisor. Note: Hours applied from these options must meet time-to-degree requirements.

- Prior EMU graduate credits not applied to a previous, completed graduate degree.
- Transfer of prior graduate credits not applied to a previously completed graduate degree.
- Transfer of graduate credits after admission to the program.

**For students admitted to post-specialist's Ph.D. programs,** at least 36 new graduate hours beginning the semester of acceptance and enrollment into the degree program must be earned at EMU.

The remaining program requirement hours may be met through the following at the discretion of the doctoral program advisor:

- Prior EMU graduate credits not applied to a previous, completed graduate degree.
- Transfer of prior graduate credits not applied to a previously completed graduate degree.
- Transfer of graduate credits after admission to the program.

A maximum of 12 credit hours earned through any combination of these ways may be used to satisfy doctoral degree requirements. Note: Hours applied from these options must meet time-to-degree requirements.

**For students admitted to clinical or practitioner doctoral programs admitting post-master's,** at least 41 new graduate hours beginning the semester of acceptance and enrollment

into the degree program must be earned at EMU.

**For students admitted to clinical or practitioner doctoral programs admitting post-bachelor's**, at least 84 new graduate hours beginning the semester of acceptance and enrollment into the degree program must be earned at EMU.

**For students admitted to master's/specialist degree programs of 36 or fewer required hours**, at least 24 new graduate hours beginning the semester of acceptance and enrollment into the degree program must be earned at EMU. The remaining program requirement hours may be met through transfer or use of prior degree credit (EMU or elsewhere).

**For students admitted to master's/specialist degree programs of 37 or more required hours**, at least 30 new graduate hours beginning the semester of acceptance and enrollment into the degree program must be earned at EMU. Minimum degree hours must still be met for graduation. The remaining program requirement hours may be met through transfer or use of prior degree credit (EMU or elsewhere).

***Residency and enrollment in multiple programs:*** Students enrolled in multiple master's/specialist degree programs must have 24 unique credit hours in each degree program.

***Application of completed certificates toward prior degree credit:*** Only credits from one completed graduate certificate may be applied to a master's or specialist degree in a relevant field of study, as determined by the Graduate School and with the approval of the degree-granting academic department, and be included in the residency hours above.

**For students admitted to a graduate certificate program**, at least nine graduate hours beginning the semester of acceptance and enrollment into the program must be earned at EMU. Students completing multiple certificate programs must have a minimum of 9 unique credit hours per certificate.

## **XXVI. Time Limitations for Degree Completion**

- Students have seven (7) years to complete the requirements for the doctoral degree from the date of first enrollment in the doctoral program at EMU (see the section on doctoral programs).
- Specialist's degree requirements must be completed within six (6) years of degree admission if entering with a master's degree or eight years if entering with a bachelor's degree.
- master's degree requirements must be completed within six (6) years of first enrollment in the master's degree program.
- Combined bachelor's-master's programs must be completed within six (6) years of first enrollment in courses numbered 500 and above.
- Graduate Certificate requirements must be completed within three (3) years of first enrollment in a course applicable to the certificate.

Any exception to the time limits indicated above must be approved through the Graduate School petition process and competency must be verified.

Regardless of the time limitations above, coursework older than ten years, whether taken at EMU or elsewhere, may not be used to satisfy degree requirements. Use this link to make requests: [app.emich.edu/gradpetition/views/login](http://app.emich.edu/gradpetition/views/login)

Programs are not required to permit students to extend time-to-degree limitations.

***Readmission into a closely related program:*** Students transferring to or admitted into a closely related program may be exempt from the requirement to accrue credit hours post-acceptance into the program. The Graduate School makes the final determination of what constitutes a closely related program if questions arise. Students are required to meet course requirements and minimum credit hour requirements for their new degree program as it is listed in the EMU Graduate Catalog. Further, students must meet the Time Limitations for Degree Completion policy. Under no condition will the requirements of the degree be waived or altered.

## **XXVII. Academic Probation and Dismissal**

Students are placed on academic probation at the end of any semester in which their cumulative EMU grade point average in courses taken for graduate credit is below 3.0. Students must complete six graduate credit hours at EMU before being subject to academic probation. Students are notified via their NetID (my.emich) email each semester of their status, and enrollment is permitted only on a semester-by-semester basis until the probation is removed. Students placed on academic probation are encouraged to contact their program advisor for assistance in determining how to return to good academic standing.

A probationary student must obtain a semester grade point average of at least 3.0 in the first semester of probation. Failure to do so will result in academic dismissal. If a probationary student earns a semester GPA of 3.0 or higher during the first semester of probation, but their overall GPA is still below a 3.0, the student will be given one additional semester to raise their cumulative GPA to a 3.0 or higher. Failure to do so will lead to dismissal. Students will be notified via their NetID (my.emich) email.

Individual departments may specify additional grounds for dismissal from their program. Students dismissed from an individual program while in good academic standing may still be eligible for another graduate program at EMU.

## **XXVIII. Process for Requesting Reinstatement after Dismissal**

After dismissal, students may request reinstatement by submitting a Request for Reinstatement packet to the Office of Records and Registration. The deadline for submission of a request will be included in the notice of dismissal.

All reinstatement requests must be in writing, accompanied by documentation. There are no exceptions to this process. The request packet should include a personal letter that states the causes of the student's academic problems, changes in the student's situation that may rectify those problems, and proposed plan of action to ensure success in graduate studies. Students are required to have a letter of support from the Graduate Coordinator or Department Head. Letters from individual faculty members in the program are not sufficient. All documents become the property of EMU and will not be returned or copied after submission. Students should make copies for their personal use before submitting them to the committee.

Dismissed students whose cumulative GPA is less than 2.0 are automatically denied reinstatement.

After the deadline for submission of requests for reinstatement has passed, the Office of Records

and Registration will initiate the appeals process with the Academic Status Review Committee. Personal interviews will not be considered, and reinstatement request decisions are final. Notification of decisions will be sent to the student's NetID (my.emich.edu) email account within 14 days of the request submission deadline.

## **XXIX. Final Project/Experience**

Each graduate program has a culminating or capstone experience required for graduation. Some require a thesis or dissertation; others require a special project or internship; others require students to pass a final exam. See the Graduate School website for Thesis and Dissertation Manuals, all forms, and information about research and human subject approval.

Every completed thesis or dissertation must be submitted to Digital Commons. Any form of graduate student work that is submitted to Digital Commons must first be approved by a faculty advisor and the Graduate School.

Students who choose to change their final culminating experience (e.g. thesis to research, research to project) will need to register for courses related to the new experience. Prior registrations associated with the previous experience chosen may not be changed to reflect the new type and any grades already recorded will remain on the student's transcript.

### **A. Graduate Research Conference**

Once nearing completion of a culminating or capstone experience, students are highly encouraged to share outcomes or findings with others on campus. The Graduate School and the Division of Academic and Student Affairs annually sponsor a Graduate Research Conference to highlight student work. Many students use this forum to practice their oral or poster presentation skills before presenting at local, state, or national conferences. A nomination form is required to participate in the event.

## **XXX. Graduation**

### **A. Graduation Requirements**

It is the student's responsibility to see that all requirements for graduation have been met. Candidates for graduation must submit an application through their my.emich account, on or before the deadline listed in the Student Guide each semester.

Deadlines are generally within the first two weeks of the semester. A non-refundable fee is associated with the application and is automatically charged to the student's account. Students who apply for graduation but fail to complete their degree requirements in a timely manner must notify the Office of Records and Registration in writing and submit a new graduation application for a subsequent semester. No additional fee is required; however, previously charged fees are not refunded.

Failure to apply for graduation will result in a delay in graduation date (conferral of degree).

Students should expect to receive their degree-verification letter within three to four weeks after the close of the semester in which their degree is conferred. Diplomas and a student-issued transcript are mailed approximately eight weeks after the close of the semester in which the degree is conferred.

Students must maintain a 3.0 cumulative GPA in all graduate-level courses taken at EMU and in their program of study, to remain in good academic standing and be eligible for graduation. Students do not need to be registered for classes during the semester of graduation.

### **B. Graduation Fee**

A non-refundable graduation fee (\$110 for the 2021-2022 academic year) is charged to each student applying for a degree or a graduate or advanced graduate certificate.

Licensure fees for teaching certifications are set by the State of Michigan Department of Education.

### **C. Commencement**

Information about commencement, including tickets, regalia, and procedures, is published on the EMU website ([emich.edu/commencement/](http://emich.edu/commencement/)). Information is updated before each ceremony.

Those students who fulfill their degree requirements during the summer semester (i.e., August graduation), will have their names appear in the December commencement program, and they may participate in that commencement event.

## **XXXI. Continuation of Coursework**

Many EMU graduate students return to complete a second master's degree, a graduate certificate, a specialist degree or a doctoral degree. Once a degree is conferred, the student's status becomes inactive. Therefore, a new admissions Graduate School application and any other admission materials the new program may require must be submitted. If admitted, the student's status will be reactivated, and a course registration begins the cycle anew.

See the Graduate School ([emich.edu/graduate](http://emich.edu/graduate)) for other helpful links.