

Procedure 11.04.99.R0.14

Course Requirements for the Doctoral Degree

Approved September 1, 1996

Revised June 2001

Reviewed by Graduate Council FY02

Revised October 19, 2009



Procedure Statement

The Graduate Council has established basic requirements that insure the quality and validity of doctoral degrees awarded by Texas A&M University-Commerce.

Reason for Procedure

This procedure documents the course requirements for a doctoral degree program.

Procedures and Responsibilities

1. A minimum of 90 semester hours beyond the bachelor's degree or 60 semester hours beyond the master's degree is required for the doctoral degree. Graduate credit earned for research tools can be included in this requirement. A minimum of 45 hours of graduate credit must be earned from Texas A&M University-Commerce.

2. Major

All doctoral programs require a major of at least 36 semester hours, excluding dissertation hours (718); however, specific programs may require additional semester hours for a major. All courses applied toward the doctoral major must be designated as 500-level courses or higher. (Specific program requirements are listed under each departmental section of the Graduate Catalog.)

3. Minor

Students selecting the 60-hour degree option are not required to have a minor. All 90-hour doctoral programs, except the Counseling, English, and Educational Psychology programs, require a minor of at least 30 semester hours (see the Graduate Catalog in reference to these programs). All courses applied toward the doctoral

minor must be designated as 500-level courses or higher. The minor requirement can be fulfilled by one of the following options:

- 3.1 A comprehensive minor with all course work in one academic area. A committee member will be assigned from the academic area, will determine the courses to be taken, and will be involved in evaluating the written and oral qualifying examinations, the dissertation, and the dissertation defense.
- 3.2 A split minor in two academic areas with at least four courses in each area (6-4 or 5-5 format). Committee members will be assigned from both academic areas, will determine the courses to be taken, and will be involved in the written and oral qualifying examinations, the dissertation, and the dissertation defense.
- 3.3 An interdisciplinary studies minor in three academic areas (4-3-3 format). In rare cases an interdisciplinary studies minor consisting of at least three courses in each of three academic areas may be approved. Committee members will be assigned from each of the academic areas and will be involved in the written and oral qualifying examinations, the dissertation, and the dissertation defense.

Regardless of the option chosen, the following conditions will apply: assignment of minor advisors rests with the minor department(s) head; all courses applied to the minor area(s) must be approved by the head of the appropriate minor department; at least one committee member must be from outside the student's major department; transfer courses applied toward a minor must be in academic areas taught at A&M-Commerce.

4. A dissertation (718) is required for all doctoral programs, and credit will be given for no less than nine semester hours and no more than twelve semester hours of dissertation.

Individual departments may impose additional course requirements beyond those required by The Graduate School.

5. The candidate must demonstrate proficiency in the use of research tools, and courses may be necessary to satisfy research tool requirements.
6. Transfer of Credit.
 - 6.1 Credit for work taken in other graduate schools is granted in accordance with an evaluation by The Graduate School and upon approval by the student's advisory committee and the Dean of Graduate Studies and Research; however, under no circumstances will a course with a grade lower than "B" be transferred.
 - 6.2 Transfer course content must be in academic areas taught by A&M-Commerce.

6.3 While there are no limitations on the number of hours than can be transferred, a minimum of forty-five hours of graduate credit must be earned from A&M-Commerce

Related Statutes, Policies, or Requirements (Required)

Supplements System Policy [*11.04 Admissions Standards*](#)

Contact Office

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