Doctoral Degrees

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL HIGHER DEGREES

Degrees higher than the baccalaureate are granted at The University of Mississippi because of special attainments achieved by degree candidates. Prospective students should understand clearly that a graduate degree is not awarded upon the basis of a collection of course credits, or the passing of certain prescribed examinations, or the submission of a thesis or dissertation. In other words, the student cannot expect to receive a higher degree because of successfully completing the individual parts of the degree program. Course schedules, examinations, and other requirements explained in this catalog are to be regarded as minimal; and any student may be required to satisfy whatever additional requirements academic advisers deem appropriate.

To receive a higher degree from The University of Mississippi, the student must demonstrate to the satisfaction of the graduate faculty of the department, school, or college of the student and to the faculty of the University that the student has attained through intelligence, scholarship, industry, and personal qualities the high level of professional and academic competence that the faculty of each department expects of a person holding the degree being sought. The determination of fitness to qualify for the degree rests solely upon the estimate that the faculty makes of the student’s right to the degree. (See also “Operational Procedures” section).

The requirements stated below are basic for all master’s degrees. Additional departmental requirements may be found preceding the lists of courses offered in the various departments.

Requirements for the Doctorate • In addition to the above “General Requirements for all Higher Degrees” and those requirements listed below, additional program requirements may be found in the description of individual graduate degree programs in the Academic Structure.

Course Requirements • The aim of the doctoral program is to afford instruction and guidance leading to the mastery of a major field. Specific course requirements as deemed necessary are stipulated by the student’s advisory committee. In certain instances, a student may be required to take courses in a minor field. For students required to take a minor, a specific program will be formulated.

Degree Credit Requirement • To fulfill the degree credit requirement, the student must (a) have completed three years (54 hours) of study beyond the bachelor’s degree; (b) have completed a minimum of two years (36 hours) of graduate study at The University of Mississippi; and (c) have completed a minimum of one year (18 hours) of graduate work in continuous residence.

Where course work (excluding dissertation hours) is required for the degree, at least one-half, up to 30 hours, must be completed at The University of Mississippi.
Certain nontraditional graduate programs have been approved for delivery at off-campus sites, including centers at Tupelo and Jackson. Course work taken at these sites can fulfill the above requirements.

**Preliminary Examination** • At or near the beginning of the student’s work beyond the master’s degree, the department or school may require a preliminary examination to determine the student’s qualifications to undertake a program leading to the doctorate and to assist the student’s adviser in planning the student’s program.

**Time Limit** • The total duration of study for a doctoral degree may not exceed seven years. It is expected that students will have been admitted to candidacy, i.e., passed all parts of their comprehensive examinations, within four years.

Students who have not defended a dissertation prospectus within seven years will forfeit all credit earned toward the doctorate. However, students who do not complete all requirements for the degree within seven years may appeal to re-defend their prospectus in oral examination. The prospectus committee may be the same or may be different from the previous committee. The prospectus topic may be the same or different from that presented earlier. If it is the same, the student must review work published in the last five years that impacts the proposed dissertation. The faculty may question the student to assess competency to perform the proposed work. As a result of this questioning, the department may require the student to take another written comprehensive examination, take specific courses, or other remedies deemed appropriate by the faculty. Successful presentation and adoption of the prospectus, as determined by a unanimous vote of the committee, and the completion of any other requirements, will extend up to two years the student’s eligibility to graduate.

**Transfer Credit** • See Transfer of Graduate Credit From Another Institution.

**Admission to Candidacy for the Doctorate** • Upon notification to the Graduate School that a doctoral student has successfully completed all portions of a comprehensive examination, the student will be admitted to candidacy.

**Continuous Enrollment** • After admission to candidacy, enrollment must be continuous. Continuous enrollment is defined as enrollment for at least 3 semester hours credit during two of the three terms of the calendar year: fall, spring, summer. Minimum enrollment for any summer term would be 1 hour if this enrollment were not to satisfy the Continuous Enrollment Policy.

**Penalty Clause** • The penalty for failure to maintain continuous enrollment is a fee equal to 6 hours of tuition for each semester of suspended enrollment.

**Foreign Language Requirement** • The foreign language requirement is determined by each department or school.
Comprehensive Examinations • There must be at least one intervening semester between the semester in which the comprehensive examination is completed and the semester in which the final oral examination is given. The entire summer session (both terms) is considered to be the equivalent of one semester. The comprehensive examination may not be taken until after the student has been admitted in full standing to the degree program, has satisfied any foreign language requirement, and has completed all or nearly all of the program of course work. Students in programs offering cumulative examinations may not undertake the last two examinations until they have met the above requirements.

Students with outstanding I grades or a grade-point average of less than 3.0 are not eligible to take comprehensive examinations. The comprehensive examination will be a written examination; however, departments may require that part of the examination be oral. The examination will require the student to demonstrate full competence in all phases of the degree program. Extra-departmental areas of concentration of more than 12 hours that are required in the degree program must be examined by the department offering those courses. In any situation in which a student wishes to appeal the results received on his or her comprehensive examinations, he or she should contact the dean of the Graduate School for a copy of the Graduate School Appeal Process, which shall apply in this case.

Dissertation Prospectus • A Dissertation Prospectus Committee will be appointed by the chair of the department to which the student has been admitted. The chair of this committee must be a full member of the graduate faculty. A minimum of two additional members of the department and one member external of the discipline comprise a committee, all of whom must be members of the graduate faculty. The dissertation prospectus must be defended in oral examination and, in its final approved form, submitted to the Graduate School. The form of the dissertation prospectus will be determined by the committee. There must be one intervening semester between the defense of the dissertation prospectus and a defense of the dissertation.

Dissertation • A minimum enrollment of 18 hours of dissertation credit is required of every Ph.D. student. The dissertation must conform to the regulations governing style set forth in *A Manual of Thesis and Dissertation Preparation*, available in the Graduate School. Two copies of the dissertation must be presented to the Graduate School after the final examination for the doctorate has been accepted and before the beginning of the regular examination period for the semester in which the candidate plans to graduate.

Binding and Microfilming • A fee of $85 for binding and microfilming doctoral dissertations must be paid at the Office of the Bursar and the receipt presented to the Graduate School Office. The microfilming fee covers the cost of microfilming the dissertation, the storage of the negatives by University Microfilms, the printing of the abstract in Dissertation Abstracts, the cost of one positive to be placed in the library of the University, and transportation charges. It is
recommended, but not required, that the candidate copyright the dissertation; copyright fee is $45.

Final Oral Examination ● Every candidate for the Ph.D. degree must successfully pass a final oral examination (defense of dissertation) administered by the student’s dissertation committee and scheduled by the Graduate School. The committee shall direct the examination primarily to the defense of the dissertation, though it may include material from the student’s major and/or minor fields. Departments may require in addition a written examination, but the oral examination must be conducted. The oral examination may be given only after the dissertation is in final form (that is, ready for submission to the Graduate School except for corrections required by the examining committee at the oral examination). The dean of the Graduate School will not schedule oral examinations during the regular University examination periods at the end of enrollment periods or when the University is officially closed.

DOCTOR OF ARTS

The Doctor of Arts degree programs in chemistry and music have been designed to prepare teachers who possess a comprehensive knowledge of their academic area of interest and an ability to perform effectively in the classroom. Unlike the Doctor of Philosophy degree in which the primary emphasis is placed upon research, the Doctor of Arts degree program places stress upon the breadth of the candidate’s knowledge and the attainment of teaching skills.

General Requirements ● The general requirements for the Doctor of Arts degree include the completion of the master’s degree or its equivalent in the candidate’s subject matter area before admission to the program, the completion of 60 hours of course work or the equivalent with a grade-point average of 3.0 or above, the writing of a doctoral essay or thesis, the passing of a comprehensive examination, and the completion of an internship supervised by members of the graduate faculty in the area of concentration.

Comprehensive Examination ● Departments giving the Doctor of Arts degree have the option of making comprehensive the final examination for the degree or of requiring the student to defend a thesis or doctoral essay in an additional final oral examination. The comprehensive examination may not be taken until after the student has been formally admitted in full standing to the degree program, has satisfied the foreign language requirement, and has completed all or nearly all of the program of course work. Students in programs offering cumulative examinations may not undertake the last two examinations until they have met the above requirements. Students with outstanding I grades or a grade-point average of less than 3.0 are not eligible to take comprehensive examinations. The comprehensive examination will be a written examination; however, departments may require that part of the examination be oral. The examination will require the student to demonstrate full competence in all phases of the degree program. Extra-departmental areas of concentration of more than 12 hours that are required in the degree program must be examined by the department offering those courses. In any situation in which a
student wishes to appeal the results received on his or her comprehensive examinations, he or she should contact the dean of the Graduate School for a copy of the Graduate School Appeal Process, which shall apply in this case.

**Doctoral Essay** • The doctoral essay or thesis for the Doctor of Arts degree must conform to the regulations governing style set forth in *A Manual of Thesis and Dissertation Preparation*, available in the Graduate School. Two copies must be presented to the Graduate School after the final examination for the doctorate has been accepted and before the beginning of the regular examination period for the semester in which the candidate plans to graduate.

**Binding and Microfilming** • A fee of $7 payable at the Bursar’s Office will be charged for doctoral essays or theses in the Doctor of Arts program; a receipt for this fee must be presented to the Graduate School.

**Final Oral Examination** • Unless required by their departments, Doctor of Arts students are exempt from the requirement of a final examination. If requested to do so, the dean of the Graduate School will appoint an examining committee for a final oral examination.

**DOCTOR OF EDUCATION**

**Comprehensive Examinations** • There must be at least one intervening semester between the semester in which the comprehensive examination is completed and the semester in which the final oral examination is given. The entire summer session (both terms) is considered to be the equivalent of one semester. The comprehensive examination may not be taken until after the student has been admitted in full standing to the degree program, has satisfied any foreign language requirement, and has completed all or nearly all of the program of course work. Students in programs offering cumulative examinations may not undertake the last two examinations until they have met the above requirements. Students with outstanding I grades or a grade-point average of less than 3.0 are not eligible to take comprehensive examinations. The comprehensive examination will be a written examination; however, departments may require that part of the examination be oral. The examination will require the student to demonstrate full competence in all phases of the degree program. Extradepartmental areas of concentration of more than 12 hours that are required in the degree program must be examined by the department offering those courses. In any situation in which a student wishes to appeal the results received on his or her comprehensive examinations, he or she should contact the dean of the Graduate School for a copy of the Graduate School Appeal Process, which shall apply in this case.

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approved form, submitted to the Graduate School. The form of the dissertation prospectus will be
determined by the committee. There must be one intervening semester between the defense of the
dissertation prospectus and a defense of the dissertation.

**Dissertation** ● A minimum enrollment of 18 hours of dissertation credit is required of every
Ed.D. student. The dissertation must conform to the regulations governing style set forth in *A Manual of Thesis and Dissertation Preparation*, available in the Graduate School. Two copies of
the dissertation must be presented to the Graduate School after the final examination before the
doctorate has been accepted and before the beginning of the regular examination period for the
semester in which the candidate plans to graduate.

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by University Microfilms, the printing of the abstract in *Dissertations Abstracts*, the cost of one
positive to be placed in the J.D. Williams Library of the University, and transportation charges. It
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the defense of the dissertation, though it may include material from the student’s major and/or
minor fields. Departments may require in addition a written examination, but the oral examination
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