Course Requirements for the Doctoral Degree

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Procedure Statement

The Graduate Council has established basic requirements that ensure 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 GENERAL

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 A&M-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.

3.4 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 RESEARCH TOOLS

Candidates for the doctoral degree must possess proficiency in the use of the research skills necessary to successfully complete the doctoral dissertation.

4.1 Research tools requirements for doctoral degrees in the College of Education and Human Services can be met by successfully completing required course work.

4.1.1 The Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) requires 12 hours of prescribed course work.

4.1.2 The Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) requires 15 hours of prescribed course work.

4.1.3 Courses must be completed with a grade of B or better.

4.1.4 Only doctoral research tools courses approved in advance of their offering, by the Graduate Council, can be used to satisfy these requirements.

4.1.5 These course requirements cannot be met through individual studies courses (689 or 589).

4.2 The research tools requirement for the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in English can be met with any of the following options:
4.2.1 Twelve semester hours of college-level classes in one foreign language, as verified by official transcript, or

4.2.2 Successful completion of a foreign language reading exam, as assessed by department faculty and written verification sent to the Graduate School, or

4.2.3 Verified native or near-native competence in a second language, as assessed by department faculty and written verification sent to the Graduate School, or

4.2.4 Completion of any four of the following courses, with a grade of B or above: ENG 501, ENG 520, ENG 599, ENG 613, ENG 686, ENG 710, ENG 780, PSY 612.

4.3 Research tools courses must include bibliographic research skills, so that candidates are able to find, evaluate, use, and communicate information in all its various formats.

4.4 These requirements are to be viewed as minimal requirements. Consequently, a department may require additional research tools courses either for all of their students or as a requirement for an individual student based upon that student's need.

4.5 Students cannot be admitted to doctoral candidacy until the research tools requirement has been met.

5 DISSEPTION CREDIT

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.

5.1 After doctoral candidates are admitted to candidacy, they will be required to enroll in at least three hours of Dissertation 718 each fall and spring semester until the dissertation is completed and approved by the advisory committee and Dean of the Graduate School.

5.2 Doctoral candidates will not be required to enroll during the summer term, unless using the counsel and advice of the major advisor and university facilities, such as the library.

5.3 Students who fail to enroll for dissertation during a fall or spring semester after admission to candidacy will be prohibited from enrolling until the tuition has been collected for those semesters.

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

6 TRANSFER OF CREDIT AND EXPERIENTIAL 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 the Graduate School; 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 that can be transferred, a minimum of forty-five hours of graduate credit must be earned from A&M-Commerce.

6.4 Awarding of experiential credit will be based solely on experiential learning that is part of an official agreement between the University and another national, state, or regionally accredited institution or certifying agency.

Related Statutes, Policies, or Requirements

University Procedure 11.99.99.R0.15 Time Limitations for Graduate Programs

University Procedure 11.04.99.R0.25 Graduate Level Courses by Independent Study

Suspends University Procedure 11.04.99.R0.14 Course Requirements for the Doctoral Degree

Suspends University Procedure 11.04.99.R0.24 Continuous Enrollment in Dissertation 718

Suspends University Procedure 11.99.99.R0.11 Doctoral Research Tools

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