

## Policy to Allow Waiver of Doctoral Courses and Credit Hours

**Current Policies:** Students may transfer credit earned in other institutions to master's degree programs and reduce the number of courses they need to complete at UTA to earn their degrees. However, transfer credit is not available to doctoral students. Doctoral students may request that UTA courses be waived on the basis of prior completion of equivalent courses. However, waiving a course does not reduce the number of credit hours required for a doctoral degree. These policies are described in the Graduate Catalog (<http://grad.pci.uta.edu/about/catalog/current/general/regulations/#transcredit>) and the rules pertaining to course waivers are quoted from the Catalog below.

### Credit Toward Doctoral Degrees

Transfer work is not accepted in doctoral programs. However, formal graduate-level coursework completed in the student's major area of doctoral study at other institutions granting doctoral degrees in the student's major may serve to establish the student's competency in those subject areas and may provide a basis for waiving some UT Arlington course requirements. Such waivers must be recommended by the student's advisory committee and approved by the Committee on Graduate Studies of the student's major area and the Office of Graduate Studies. Waivers must be shown on the Academic Plan.

**Proposal:** Formal graduate-level coursework completed in the student's major area of doctoral study at institutions granting doctoral degrees in the student's major may serve to establish the student's competency in those subject areas and may provide a basis for waiving some UT Arlington course and credit hour requirements. UT Arlington doctoral students who have completed courses equivalent to UT Arlington courses required for their doctoral degrees may request that these UT Arlington courses and their associated credit hours be waived from their academic plans. Waiver requests must be approved by the academic program and the Office of Graduate Studies.

**Rationale:** The current policy gives doctoral students who have completed graduate courses equivalent to those required for their doctoral degrees two choices: 1) they may repeat the required course during their doctoral studies or 2) seek a waiver and take a different course in order to earn credit hours required by their program. These choices have several negative consequences

- Needless repetition of courses or enrollment to earn replacement credit hours for waived courses may reduce time available to focus on research and publication and increase time to complete the doctoral degree.
- Providing assistantships or other financial resources to support unnecessary coursework can only reduce the return on the investment from these limited resources.
- Senate Bill 961, passed by the Seventy-fifth Legislature states that students with over 99 doctoral hours may be subject to the payment of nonresident tuition. Requiring unnecessary hours will raise the student's credit hour total and make it more likely that he or she might cross the 99 credit hour threshold.

Providing units with the authority to waive doctoral course and credit hour requirements based on careful assessment of a student's demonstrated competencies solves these problems.

### **Waiving Courses Required for Doctoral Degrees**

Graduate-level coursework completed in the student's major area of doctoral study at institutions of recognized standing that grant doctoral degrees in those subject areas may serve to establish the student's competency in equivalent UT Arlington courses. Competency demonstrated by successful completion of equivalent courses may provide a basis for waiving some UT Arlington course requirements and the credit hours associated with those courses. Waivers must be recommended by the student's graduate advisor and current supervising professor and their recommendation must be approved by both the Committee on Graduate Studies of the student's major area and the Office of Graduate Studies. Only courses in which the student has earned a B or better (or a P if the UTA course is also graded P/F) will be considered for purposes of a waiver. In no case will final semester Dissertation course (6x99 or 7399) requirements be waived. Waived courses must be shown on the student's academic plan.

**Process:** To obtain a waiver for courses required for a doctoral degree, students must complete the Waiver of Doctoral Courses form and obtain approvals from the appropriate graduate advisor, current supervising professor, chair of the Committee on Graduate Studies and the Graduate Dean. Official transcripts showing the final grade of the equivalent course are required. The form is available online at the [Graduate School web site](#).