

**The Graduate School
University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES)
Princess Anne, MD 21853**

INFORMATION PAGE ON FULL TIME GRADUATE STUDENT STATUS

This information page provides general information on determining full time status for graduate students in degree program or non-degree status

The following:

- a. insurance carrier, e.g., for medical/health benefits,
- b. international students on F-1 student visa or J-1 exchange visa, or other visa,
- c. graduate assistantships, fellowships or federal/state financial aid programs

usually need clarifications on graduate status. Organizational and agencies identify full time undergraduate status as typically 12 or more credit hours per academic semester.

At the graduate level, nine credit hours per semester are typically equivalent to 12 undergraduate credit hours; 10 to 12 graduate credit hours as equivalent to 13 to 15 undergraduate credit hours; 13+ graduate credit hours as 16 to 21 undergraduate credit

A precise determination is by the graduate school's use of the graduate unit described below (taken from the UMES Graduate Catalog).

Designation of Full and Part-time Graduate Students

In order to accurately reflect both involvement of graduate students in their programs of study/research and use of University resources in these programs, the UMES Graduate School employs graduate units. These graduate units, in turn, are utilized in making calculations to determine full – or part –time student status in the administration of minimum registration requirements, and responding to student requests for certification of full-time student status. The number of graduate units, per semester credit hours, is calculated in the following manner:

Courses in the series: 000-399	carry 2 units/credit hour;
Courses in the series: 400-499	carry 4 units/credit hour;
Courses in the series: 500-599	carry 5 units/credit hour;
Courses in the series: 600-898	carry 6 units/credit hour;
Research course: 799	carries 12 units/credit hour
Research course: 899	carries 12 units/credit hour

To be certified as a full-time graduate student, an individual must be officially registered for a combination of courses equivalent to 48 units per semester. Graduate assistants, holding full time appointments, are full time students if they are registered for at least 24 units, in addition to their assistantship. Courses taken for Audit do not generate graduate units and cannot be used in calculating full-or part-time status.

For example, a graduate student with two 600 level courses and one 400 level course (9cr. Hrs.) would have 48 graduate units (6 units x 6 cr. Hrs. = 36; 4 units x 3 cr. Hrs.= 12; total of 48), and hence be a full time graduate student. A graduate student with 4 credit hours of 799 (thesis research credits) or 899 (dissertation research credits) would be full time (12 units x 4 cr. hrs. =48 graduate units).

During the summer sessions, six credit hours per session is the maximum graduate student load. In the winter session two credit hours is the maximum graduate student load.

Specific questions on the determination of full or part time graduate student status should be addressed to the Dean of Graduate Studies, Child Development Center, University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Princess Anne, MD 21853. The office fax number is (410) 651-7571, the office telephone numbers are (410) 651-6507, 7966 and 8626.

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