

SENATE ACTION FORM

No. 1247

Subject: 799 Policy Update

Reference to Senate Minutes dated: February 27, 2023

Senate Action:

MOTION: It is moved to approve the revised catalog language for 799 dissertation and 699 thesis credits policy.

VOTE: Approved by unanimous voice vote.

Response requested:

Approval for placement in University Catalog, Graduate

Approval for placement in University Regulations

Recommendation to Board for placement in Board Policy Manual

None (sent as information item)

Other action requested/comments:

Dawit Senbet

Faculty Senate Chair

2/28/2023
Date

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Administrative review of Senate action (unnecessary for information items):

Reviewed by **VPAA/Provost**. Check if comments attached

Reviewed by **General Counsel**. Check if comments attached

Presidential action:

Approve Reject Return to Senate for discussion/modification (comments attached)



President/Designated Administrative Officer

03/01/2023
Date

Date of Board approval (if applicable): not applicable

PLEASE RETURN SIGNED ORIGINAL AND ATTACHMENT TO THE FACULTY SENATE OFFICE, CARTER HALL 2004, BOX 75.

Faculty.Senate@unco.edu

Attachment to Senate Action #1247
Approved by the Faculty Senate
February 27, 2023

FACULTY SENATE POLICY PROPOSAL/MOTION

Subject: Update to 799 Dissertation and 699 Thesis Credits policy

Originator/Date: Graduate Council, Fall 2022

Placement(s): Graduate Catalog, [Doctoral Dissertation](#) and in [Master's Degree Requirements](#)

Reviewed by APC on 12/5/2022 and sent to Codification

Approved by APC on 2/13/2023 and sent to Faculty Senate 2/27/2023

Motion: Adopt the changes to Dissertation and Thesis Credits policy for placement in the Graduate Catalog as outlined below.

Purpose/Rationale: Current Graduate School policy requires that students enrolled in doctoral programs successfully complete 12 credits of 799 Dissertation in completion of their degrees. However, for many programs this number of credits insufficient for the preparation and completion of the student's dissertation or Doctoral Scholarly Project (DSP).

With current practice, students often enroll in and sometimes complete all the allowed 799 credits prior to advancing to candidacy. This results in challenges when students reach candidacy and do not have sufficient 799 credits remaining to complete their degree. To address this, students often inappropriately pay the Continuous Registration Fee, which keeps their program open for up to one year for them to complete their degree. If a student does not complete their degree during this time, their program is closed, and they must reapply if they wish to complete their program. In addition, as students are not formally enrolled in classes during this time, they do not have access to many campus resources. They are also not eligible for financial aid and, since they are not considered enrolled, their existing loans may come out of deferment resulting in the need to begin payment. Of note, international students are not eligible for the Continuous Registration and current practice puts their visa status in jeopardy.

Finally, current policy defines full-time graduate enrollment as 9 credits, and part-time enrollment as 5 credits through the entirety of a graduate program. Once a student advances to candidacy, they often do not have didactic coursework remaining, requiring them to enroll in 5-10 credits of 799 in order to maintain eligibility for financial aid and to keep existing loans in deferment. This results in students enrolling in and paying for more credits than are necessary to complete their degree.

Current Language:

Doctoral Dissertation:

A dissertation or doctoral scholarly project proposal and final dissertation or doctoral scholarly project should be developed pertaining to a significant topic in the candidate's major. A dissertation or doctoral scholarly project is required of all doctoral students. For students in programs requiring a dissertation (i.e., D.A., Ed.D., Ph.D.) minimum credit for the dissertation proposal (797) is 4 semester hours, and for the final dissertation (799) is 12 semester hours. No more than 4 hours of proposal (797) and 12 hours of dissertation (799) semester hours may be applied to the minimum credit requirements of a student's program. Students in programs requiring a doctoral scholarly project (i.e., Au.D. or D.N.P.) are not required to register for 797 or 799.

For thesis-bearing master's degrees:

N/A

Proposed Language:

Doctoral Dissertation

All doctoral programs require either a doctoral dissertation or Doctoral Scholarly Project (DSP) pertaining to a significant topic in the candidate's major. For students in programs requiring a dissertation (i.e., D.A., Ed.D., or Ph.D.), four (4) credit hours of dissertation-proposal (797) are required. No more than four (4) credit hours of proposal (797) may be applied to the minimum credit requirements of a student's program. Programs will determine the total number of dissertation credit hours (799) for completion of a doctoral degree. Doctoral programs must require at least twelve (12) credit hours but no more than thirty (30) credit hours of dissertation. The number of dissertation credit hours (799) required for the program is listed in the graduate catalog.

Students may not enroll in more than one-half of the required 799 dissertation credit hours before advancing to candidacy. Work associated with 799 credits completed prior to candidacy must directly apply to the dissertation.

After advancing to doctoral candidacy, students may be eligible for an exception to the [full-time/part-time enrollment status policy](#).

Students enrolled in programs requiring a doctoral scholarly project (i.e., Au.D. or D.N.P.) are not required to register for 797 or 799. The program will determine the content and methodology of the Doctoral Scholarly Project (DSP), and the total number of credit hours for the course assigned. Expectations and requirements for the DSP are listed in the graduate catalog.

For Thesis-Option Master's Degrees:

Students must complete six (6) to twelve (12) credit hours of thesis (699) for a master's degree. The total number of credits required for completion of a thesis is determined by the program. The total number of thesis credits (699) required by a program is listed in the graduate catalog.

Changes to <https://unco.smartcatalogiq.com/Current/Graduate-Catalog/General-Information/Policies-and-Procedures/Full-Time-and-Part-Time-Enrollment-Status>

Full-time/Half-Time Status Exception

An exception to the minimum credit hours for a half-time/full-time status as a graduate student may be made when either of the following apply:

- The student has advanced to doctoral candidacy, in which case the student will be full-time if they take at least three (3) credits of graduate coursework and half-time if they take at least one (1) credit of graduate coursework.
- The student is working half- or full-time (20 hours or 40 hours a week respectively) in an internship, practicum, or field experience that counts toward completion of the student's degree in the following programs during the respective academic term:
 - School Psychology, Ph.D.
 - Counseling Psychology, Ph.D.
 - Professional Counseling, Master in Marriage, Couples, and Family Counseling/Therapy, M.A.
 - School Counseling, M.A.
 - School Counseling, Ed.S.
 - Special Education, Ph.D.
 - Audiology, Au.D.