

# FMS MS Enrollment and Credits Information

1. Specific courses are approved by the student's advisor or advisory committee and depend on the student's research area, interests, and goals.
2. Enrollment requirements vary depending on the form of assistantship you have that semester please check the [enrollment site](#) for guidelines.
3. MS students must complete the 30-credit minimum degree requirement.
4. MS students must complete the minimum residence requirement of 16 credits.
5. Minimum graduate coursework requirement half of degree coursework (**15 credits out of 30 total credits**) must be completed graduate-level coursework; courses with the Graduate Level Coursework attribute are identified and searchable in the university's [course search & enroll app](#). Graduate level courses are usually 700 and above; but some courses in 300-600 have been deemed graduate level in their course attribute in the course search enroll app.
6. Residence credits and graduate level coursework can count towards the minimum 30 credit degree requirement.
7. Overall GPA requirement the minimum is a 3.00 (on a 4.00 scale) for all courses (excluding research).
8. Students must earn a B or above in all courses counting toward degree requirements.
9. All incomplete, unreported grades, or progress grades in anything other than research/thesis (usually 690, 790, 990) must be cleared. Independent study (usually 699, 799, or 999) must be given a grade (not progress) each semester.
10. Research/thesis courses in progress or not graded don't have to be cleared but they won't count towards the degree if not graded with an S.
11. If you have any questions, please contact your graduate coordinator.
12. For more information about the final defense and graduation check out the FMS graduation guidelines form.
13. This form is a brief summary of enrollment and credit information for FMS MS students. This is not a substitute for the grad program handbook. The handbook is a much more in-depth resource for graduate students concerning various topics like the preliminary exam, funding, and much more.

## **Advisory Committee and Meetings**

1. The committee must have at least 3 members. In some cases, there may be a compelling reason to include a fourth committee member.
2. **At least two of the committee members must be UW–Madison graduate faculty or former UW–Madison graduate faculty up to one year after resignation or retirement.** Here are some examples of UW graduate faculty: Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, and Professor. Some examples that don't count as UW graduate faculty are teaching faculty, scientist, lecturer, and faculty outside of UW-Madison. If you aren't certain of their title, you can look them up through the UW directory. You can also speak with your grad program manager about this. UW Directory: <https://www.wisc.edu/directories/>
3. For FMS, committee members should be from at least two distinct disciplines.
4. All committee members have voting rights. To receive a master's degree, students cannot receive more than one dissenting vote from their committee on the final degree warrant.
5. FMS students should have an annual progress meeting with their advisory committee.
6. This is a brief summary of committee information for FMS Ph.D. students. This is not a substitute for the grad program handbook. The handbook is a much more in-depth resource for graduate students.