

FMS Ph.D. 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. Ph.D. students must complete the **51 credit** minimum degree requirement.
4. Ph.D. students must complete the minimum residence requirement which is **32 credits** this must be completed before becoming a dissertator.
5. Minimum graduate coursework requirement half of degree coursework (**26 credits out of 51 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. There are two different options for Ph.D. minors. Check this [link](#) for Minor information, it must be completed before dissertator status.
7. Residence credits, Ph.D. minor, and graduate level coursework can count towards the minimum **51 credit** degree requirement.
8. Ph.D. students must complete the preliminary exam. Please check the FMS handbook for more information about the exam. At least 3-4 weeks before the defense, you must [request](#) a prelim warrant from the graduate program coordinator. The coordinator will provide you with the warrant, signing instructions, and other paperwork.
9. Overall GPA requirement the minimum is a **3.00 (on a 4.00 scale)** for all courses (excluding research).
10. Students must earn a B or above in all courses counting toward degree requirements.
11. 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.
12. 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.
13. All requirements with the exception of the **51 credit** degree requirement, graduate level coursework requirement, and dissertation must be completed before becoming a dissertator.

14. If you have any questions, please contact your graduate coordinator.
15. For more information about the final defense and graduation check out the FMS graduation guidelines form.
16. This is a brief summary of enrollment and credit 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 concerning various topics like the preliminary exam, funding, and much more.

Advisory Committee and Meetings

1. Students must have 5 committee members, although 4 members are acceptable for the initial committee meeting held during the first year.
2. **At least 3 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. The chair or one of the co-chairs of the committee must be UW graduate faculty from the student's program.
4. The committee must have members from at least two University of Wisconsin—Madison graduate programs and all committee members are dissertation “readers.” If appropriate for a student's If appropriate for a student's research and scholarship interests, a sixth member can be added to the committee.
5. All committee members have voting rights. To receive a doctoral degree, students cannot receive more than one dissenting vote from their committee on the final degree warrant.
6. FMS students should have an annual progress meeting with their advisory committee.
7. 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.