
Section B: Policies Updated September 2009

Some of the information in this manual was obtained from the *BYU Graduate Catalog* and the pamphlet entitled *Principles and Characteristics of Graduate Education*. For information on national policies and standards for graduate study, you may contact the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS), One Dupont Circle, N.W., Suite 230, Washington, DC 20036-1173, or telephone at (202) 331-7157, or visit the CGS web site at <http://www.cgsnet.org/>. CGS publishes numerous handbooks and policy statements relating to various aspects of graduate study.

Admissions

Recruitment

Departments are responsible for graduate student recruitment. Each department is expected to have an active recruitment program to attract excellent students from undergraduate and graduate programs at other universities. Departments should not rely solely on an applicant pool of their own undergraduates, but should aim to have a student cohort in which half of the master's students or two-thirds of the doctoral students have earned undergraduate degrees from a university other than BYU.

Graduate Studies coordinates the Graduate Studies Recruiting Council and invites all interested parties to attend. These meetings are typically held each month throughout the fall and early winter semesters. Graduate Studies also annually advertises the graduate programs through the LDS Institutes of Religion. Departments may not directly contact Institutes of Religion in recruiting efforts.

Inquiries

Online inquiries regarding graduate studies are handled jointly by Graduate Studies and individual departments. Prospective applicants may navigate to the Graduate Studies web site (<http://www.byu.edu/gradstudies>) and click the *Register Your Interest* link to complete an online form. Each inquiry is acknowledged through email. All departments should configure an automatic email to be sent to prospective students who request information about the department's programs from Graduate Studies. Departments that have not configured an automatic email are expected to check regularly for inquiries in the *ApplyYourself Webcenter* (<https://webcenter.applyyourself.com>) in the *Prospect System*. Departments may request regular notifications (called reports) from *ApplyYourself*, and may also contact Graduate Studies for *ApplyYourself* to set up automatic emails or to request training or assistance.

Applications

All applicants should apply online through the Graduate Studies web site (<http://www.byu.edu/gradstudies>.) The J. Reuben Clark Law School uses a separate application.

Graduate Studies uses ApplyYourself, an Internet vendor, for online applications. At the Graduate Studies web site, applicants click Apply Online and are taken to the ApplyYourself site. Each applicant is required to set up an account by providing his or her name, email address, birth date, postal code, and a password. Upon creating the account and receiving a PIN, applicants may fill out the application at their leisure and edit it as many times as necessary until submitted.

Application Deadlines

There are three different types of application deadlines in the admissions process: (1) department application deadlines, (2) university application deadlines, and (3) university decision deadlines.

Department Application Deadlines

Each department is encouraged to establish its own application deadlines for each semester and term of entry, but the selected deadlines should conform to national best practices in graduate admissions. The following deadlines are suggested: February 1, Fall Semester; September 15, Winter Semester; January 15, Spring Term; and February 15, Summer Term.

Department application deadlines may not extend beyond university application deadlines (see chart below). In addition, departments are urged to restrict entry semesters to one, or at most two, to increase the likelihood of selecting a strong class of graduate students. Application deadlines need to provide enough time to correspond with applicants to clarify admission requirements, evaluate transcripts, prepare and send visa clearance documents to international applicants, and allow those in foreign countries sufficient time to obtain a visa. Deadlines should be early enough to allow time for application materials to be collected and processed, for the department to give full and fair consideration, for response to be timely, and for the student to accept (or decline) an offer of admission.

Departments should submit application deadline changes to Graduate Studies early enough for deadlines to be listed accurately in the Graduate Application and Catalog. The Graduate Admission Administrator sends out requests for annual admission updates each March. Departments requesting changes to deadlines and program names after the admission update deadline will incur a \$500 processing fee.

University Application Deadlines

The university application deadlines represent the limit beyond which departments may not set department application deadlines. All applications received after university application deadlines are marked *late*. In order for an application received after this deadline to be considered, the department must contact Graduate Studies and have the application status changed from *late* to *in-process*.

University Application Deadlines

Fall	May 15
Winter	September 15
Spring	February 15
Summer	March 15

University Decision Deadlines

Departments may enter admissions decisions until the university decision deadline has passed. To enter a decision on an application marked late, departments will need to contact Graduate Studies. A petition is required to consider an application received after the university application deadline.

University Decision Deadlines

Fall	June 15
Winter	October 15
Spring	March 15
Summer	April 15

Application Requirements

An applicant seeking admission to a program leading to a doctoral or master's degree must meet university and departmental requirements as outlined in the Guide for Applying to Graduate Study and the Graduate Catalog. Prospective students may consult with individual departments for specific requirements. Admission to graduate study is highly selective and is granted to a specific program for a specific semester or term. As a minimum, applicants who wish to be considered for admission must complete the following steps:

1. Submit a complete online application before the application deadline. An application is not considered complete until the online application for graduate admission, fee, all official transcripts, and Ecclesiastical Endorsement (GS Form E) have been received. Students applying concurrently to more than one program must complete a separate online application for each program and pay

a separate fee for each application, but they need submit only one Ecclesiastical Endorsement. Non-LDS international applicants who cannot obtain an ecclesiastical interview in their home country can contact the Graduate Studies International Admission Staff to make arrangements for a telephone interview with the University Chaplain.

2. Receive a four-year baccalaureate degree or equivalent from a regionally accredited U.S. or a foreign university accredited by the International Association of Universities before the expected semester of entry. For U.S. applicants, Graduate Studies must receive an official transcript showing that the degree has been conferred. Without such verification, registration will not be permitted beyond the first semester. An exception is allowed for students in integrated programs. For international applicants, degrees must be verified with a credential evaluation report by one of the Graduate Studies approved agencies.

3. Post at least a 3.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale (a scholastic average of “B” for foreign degrees) in the last 60 semester hours of course work. The minimum GPA is determined by calculating the last 60 semester hours of upper-division (junior and senior level) coursework of an applicant’s undergraduate degree. If an applicant’s upper division courses do not constitute 60 semester hours, lower level courses (beginning with the most recent) will be applied to satisfy the difference.

The minimum GPA for an international undergraduate degree will be derived from the overall scholastic average of all of the courses counted towards the bachelor’s degree. All foreign credentials will be evaluated using a credential evaluation agency approved by Graduate Studies. The agency will verify the authenticity of the documents; provide a U.S. degree equivalency, and a course-by-course report. Only course work for the bachelor’s degree will be used in calculating a GPA.

4. Satisfy specified departmental requirements before the application deadline, including national examinations (such as the GRE), letters of recommendation, and essay responses including the statement of intent or writing samples. Separate statements of intent and copies of letters of recommendation are required for each program to which an applicant applies.

5. Satisfy the minimum score requirements for English proficiency if your native language is not English—an English-proficiency examination score of at least 580 if paper-based, at least 85 on the TOEFL iBT (at least 22 in Speaking and at least 21 in Listening, Reading, and Writing), or a total band score of at least 7.0 with no band score below 6.0 on any module of the IELTS. Some departments require higher minimum scores.

Score reports must be sent directly to BYU from Educational Testing Service

(ETS) <http://www.ets.org> Student copies are unacceptable. The English proficiency examination is required of all applicants whose first language is not English and who have not earned at least a bachelor's degree from an accredited university in the U.S. Conferred U.S. bachelor's degrees must be less than two years old at the time of enrollment. English Proficiency exam scores (TOEFL, IELTS) are only valid for two years and must be current at the time of enrollment.

Each application must be accompanied by an application fee that may not be waived for any applicant. Occasionally departments may wish to pay the fee for an exceptional applicant whose application is otherwise complete. To do so, send an OGS Form 1 to Graduate Studies. Once the payment has cleared, then the applicant can submit the online application.

International Applicants

In addition to the requirements described above, all non-U.S. applicants must submit the following before an appropriate student visa document can be issued upon admission:

1. **Financial Certification.** A completed Financial Certification (GS Form I-1) with supporting documents and, if applicable, a Contract of Support (GS Form I-2) for parents or sponsors must but be provided. Applicants must provide proof of sufficient funds for the duration of their programs: two years for a master's program, three years for a doctoral program. Financial certification documents are valid for six months from the date the visa documents are produced. Applicants should submit proof of financial support upon formal admission to the university. Fall applicants typically should send financial documents no earlier than March 1.
2. **Credential Evaluation Report.** All transcripts, mark sheets, and degree certificates, as well as accompanying English translations, should be sent to one of the Graduate Studies approved credential evaluation agencies. The agency will verify the authenticity of the documents; provide a U.S. degree equivalency and a course-by-course evaluation. This report will be used to clear the GPA and bachelor's degree admission requirements. Reports are sent electronically.
3. **Transfer Letter.** Applicants transferring from another U.S. school are required to submit the International Student Transfer/Release Form (GS Form 8). The designated school official (DSO) at an applicant's current school should verify the applicant is eligible for transfer to BYU upon admission. This will release their current visa record from one school and allow us to transfer it to BYU.

Financial Certification

The United States government requires Brigham Young University to verify that international students can provide evidence of the financial support necessary to complete the degree program to which they are applying (exclusive of travel expenses). Financial support must be provided for at least two years for master's students and three years for doctoral students. Evidence of financial support may be furnished in any or a combination of the following ways:

- Proof of necessary cash from personal savings
- A Contract of Support from parents or a sponsor who will pay educational expenses (Form I-2 in the application)
- Proof of a grant or funding from a government or other agency
- Proof of a scholarship or assistantship from a department at BYU

Supporting Financial Documents

All international applicants must submit supporting financial documents to verify any amounts listed under personal, parent or sponsor, or government agencies. The U.S government requires that all international applicants verify financial support with valid recent official financial documents produced or procured from a financial institution within six months of submission to Graduate Studies. Documentation older than six months at the time a department recommends an applicant for admission must be resubmitted with current supporting financial documents to be considered valid. Supporting financial documents must clearly indicate the name on the account, the account balance, the date the document was produced, and the currency. Faxed documents are not permitted.

International Student Employment

International students are eligible to seek part-time employment after receiving approval from International Services. Students with F-1 visas are not permitted to work off campus. F-2 visa holders are not permitted to be employed or to attend the university. For more information students and departments should contact International Services.

Post-Baccalaureate Studies Applicants

Prospective applicants for BYU graduate programs are not encouraged to register for classes on a post-baccalaureate studies basis in hopes of subsequent admission to a graduate program. Students who have earned a baccalaureate degree and wish to take classes at BYU without being admitted to a graduate program must apply through the undergraduate admission application. These students

are given post-baccalaureate studies status. To be considered for admission for post-baccalaureate studies, applicants should have a 3.0 (B) grade point average and complete an undergraduate application with a statement attached explaining their purpose in seeking enrollment and describing the courses they intend to take. There is no application fee. Students with a baccalaureate degree who are seeking teacher certification should refer to the Undergraduate Catalog or the Undergraduate Admissions Office for information. Post-baccalaureate studies students must register on a space-available basis after they are admitted and the semester begins, obtaining permission from the graduate class instructor and adding the course using an ADD/DROP card. International students (unless they are permanent residents) are not eligible for post-baccalaureate studies. During Fall and Winter Semesters enrollment is limited to part time (11.5 hours or less). Questions about post-baccalaureate studies applications should be directed to the BYU Undergraduate Admissions Office.

Joint Degree Programs at BYU

There are a few programs at BYU that are approved as joint degree programs. Joint degree programs provide students with the opportunity to earn two graduate degrees simultaneously within their course of study at BYU. Joint programs respond to innovations in thought, practice, and technology, preparing graduate students to integrate knowledge from two or more disciplines in order to extend a new frontier of understanding.

Principles that Guide Joint Degree Programs

- The major motivation for a joint program is to integrate information from different disciplines in order to facilitate theoretical understanding and practice. Synergy has been demonstrated in the combination of the programs; the joint program offers more than a sum of its parts.
- Joint programs offer an academic core of courses, fieldwork, and/or research experiences that directly address the overlap and integration of the disciplines involved. Faculty members from both programs are usually involved in teaching the academic core.
- A structure and governance are in place to coordinate the joint programs and to provide advisement for students. A critical mass of faculty members develop the integrated nature of the program, and graduate committees contain at least one member from each discipline.
- A strong graduate culture exists within the joint program enabling graduate students to learn with and from each other.
- Graduate students may apply some coursework to fulfill requirements in

both degree programs. Joint programs, however, extend beyond the “double counting” of credits and represent the merging of disciplines in order to increase understanding of theoretical principles and to inform practice.

- Culminating graduate experiences—including theses, dissertations, internships, and comprehensive exams—require that students demonstrate the integrated nature of their preparation.

Decision Process

Role of Graduate Studies

Recommending Admission. Graduate Studies receives and checks all parts of the application for completeness. A five-digit, year/term code is assigned to each application, indicating the year and semester (or term) of a student’s entry into a program. The first four digits refer to the year, and the last digit represents the semester or term. Semesters and terms are coded as follows:

1 = Winter 3 = Spring 4 = Summer 5 = Fall

In this system, a code of 20105 indicates Fall 2010 Semester.

Graduate Studies calculates a U.S. GPA for U.S. applicants, and enters a GPA from the credential evaluation report for international applicants. Once all university requirements have been met such as GPA, transcripts, degree, Ecclesiastical Endorsement, and English language an official admission letter will be produced. Departments may recommend applicants for admission prior to all university requirements being met, but an official letter of admission will not be processed until all university requirements have cleared.

Only an admit letter from Graduate Studies grants official university acceptance.

After the admission file has been reviewed for final acceptance by the department and by Graduate Studies, the university notifies the applicant of the admission decision. Only an admit letter from Graduate Studies grants official university acceptance.

Recommending Denial of Admission. In most cases, Graduate Studies does not intervene in the decision to admit or deny an applicant. Nevertheless, the university may deny an applicant without departmental review for the following reasons:

- The applicant does not receive an unconditional endorsement from an LDS bishop or another ecclesiastical leader.
- The individual has requested his or her name to be removed from official church records or is currently disfellowshipped or excommunicated from

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, or he or she is affiliated with apostate or polygamous groups.

- He or she has been previously dismissed from BYU.
- He or she lacks a prerequisite undergraduate degree.
- An international student fails to meet the minimum score required on a test of English.
- An international student lacks the appropriate visa to pursue studies.
- An applicant is or has been involved in criminal activity.

In such cases Graduate Studies collects more information if necessary and, if sufficient cause for denial exists, sends an appropriate letter to the applicant along with a copy to the department.

Role of the Department

Information for the department, the statement of intent, one copy of the official transcripts, letters of recommendation, and other items required by the departments are available to the individual departments; other parts of the application are retained in Graduate Studies or imaged. Departments determine procedures and criteria for evaluating applications and decide whom to admit. Applicants may be judged on criteria such as academic record, performance on the GRE or other required exams, preparation for advanced study in the field of interest, letters of recommendation, written intentions for graduate study, and scholarly interests matching the department's offerings. Additional materials may be required, such as writing samples, interviews, portfolios of previous work, or other test scores.

Although it is inadvisable to act on an application before it is complete, departments may waive, in unusual cases, any or all departmental portions (Form C, Statement of Intent) of the application for a particular applicant or make a decision to admit if university portions are missing. Nevertheless, an official letter of acceptance will not be sent until all the university requirements have been met. A decision to deny should not be made on a partial application. A decision to admit or deny cannot be made until the fee is paid. Applications not completed by the department deadline should be marked *Late* and do not need to be considered.

Admissions Standards and Practices. Departments should have clearly stated and effectively communicated admissions standards that are reviewed regularly and revised as needed. High expectations should include several criteria, such as the undergraduate GPA, entrance examination scores, and professional experience. Applicants should only be admitted when all or virtually all prerequisite requirements have been met; provisional admittance may be granted if an

applicant shows exceptional promise.

Departments should be consistent in applying their admission standards, as well as timely in making admission decisions. The decisions are made by a faculty admissions committee or by the faculty as a whole, including input from all members. Only as many students as can be effectively guided through a rigorous and carefully advised program should be admitted. Departments should consider their admission target number and the student-faculty ratio in the emphasis area applicants wish to pursue.

Recommending Provisional Admission. An applicant who lacks certain prerequisite courses or academic preparation may be provisionally admitted, with the provision describing the prerequisite courses the applicant must successfully complete. Applicants with a GPA below 3.0 *may* also be provisionally admitted. If the applicant's GPA is below 2.5, the department must submit a petition for exception, providing substantive evidence that the student is capable of succeeding in a graduate program.

Additional Actions on Applications

Labeling and Notification

An application is considered *In Process* until a departmental recommendation has been made and all university requirements have been cleared. Applications are withdrawn when the applicant formally notifies the university that he or she does not wish to pursue the application process further or that he or she is unable to accept an offer of admission. Departments should immediately mark *withdrawn* for admitted applicants who have indicated they will not attend. This will also free up a spot to admit another student. It also provides a letter to the student so they know the university has been informed of their withdrawal. Departments may mark applications *late* at any time after their published deadlines to inform applicants that portions of their application were not received on time. Applicants receive letters and emails informing them of the status of their application. Detailed instructions for changing application decision status are found in the Procedures section of this manual.

Postponement of Application Consideration

Note: Admission cannot be deferred, but applicants may be reconsidered for admission for a subsequent semester or term. Please be aware that application materials have limited validity. To be considered for another semester or term of admission, applicants must reapply with a new PIN and password. They must also submit a new Ecclesiastical Endorsement (GS Form E).

Applicants Previously Suspended from BYU

Individuals who were previously suspended from BYU for academic reasons but have subsequently received a baccalaureate degree from another university may apply for graduate studies at BYU. The application requirements and the admission process are the same for all applicants.

Applicants Awaiting a Clearance

Applicants who are recommended for admission but still have items needing clearance will receive a “recommended for admission, but missing items letter” from Graduate Studies. The letter will inform the applicant of the department’s recommendation and will advise him or her that no official university acceptance can be offered until certain items are cleared. For international applicants, the I-20 will not be sent until all items have been cleared.

Application to Resume Graduate Study

Students are eligible to be considered for readmission only if they have completed at least one full semester of graduate study. They become ineligible for readmission when more than three years have passed since their last semester or term of graduate registration. In such cases, students must complete a new application and be considered for admission with a new applicant pool. Former students returning to BYU to pursue a degree in a different department must follow the regular application process.

Students should expect departments to evaluate previous graduate work in making a readmission recommendation. The committee may choose to readmit the student with specific provisions or with a change in the Program of Study. Readmission does not extend the time limit for completion of the degree (five years from the semester of entry for a master’s program, eight years from the semester of entry for a doctoral program). Students are required to register for at least two credit hours in the semester or term of readmission or forfeit their readmission. The semester of readmission determines the credit hours of minimum registration required for the year: 6.0 for Fall Semester, 4.0 for Winter Semester, and 2.0 for Spring/Summer Terms.

Former graduate students who were dropped from programs for failure to meet the minimum registration requirement who wish to resume their graduate studies may do so with departmental and university approval. Dropped students must submit an Application to Resume Graduate Study (GS Form 6--available from Graduate Studies or the Graduate Studies web site), pay a non-refundable processing fee equivalent to two hours of tuition credit, and submit a Reapplication Honor Code Commitment Form (GS Form 6a). International students will also need to submit new financial certification forms. In addition the resuming student must

register for two hours the semester of reacceptance. The time limit for finishing the program is still calculated from the original date of admission. Students should expect their previous course work to be re-evaluated and their degree requirements to reflect current expectations of the program.

Graduate Studies must approve readmission of all students who have withdrawn or been dropped from graduate programs.

Full Disclosure and Confidentiality

Submission of incomplete information or falsification of information constitutes grounds for immediate dismissal and loss of all credit earned at BYU. Once the university receives application materials, those materials become university property and are kept in strictest confidence, as required by university policy. Once the parts of an application have been received, materials will not be returned to the applicant, even if he or she is denied.

On Form C (Letter of Recommendation) under Part I (Confidentiality), applicants indicate either that they waive or do not waive their right of access to this form and letter of recommendation. When an applicant waives right of access, the recommender expects that his or her comments will remain confidential and frequently makes more candid observations than would be likely if no such pledge of confidentiality had been made. For this reason, if the applicant has waived the right of access, he or she should never, under any circumstances, be shown, given information contained in, or have released to him or her or a third party a copy of that part of the application.

Under the *Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974* (FERPA), applicants who have not waived their right of access have the right to see comments written about them only after they have been admitted and have enrolled. This act does not apply to applicants who are not admitted or to admitted applicants who do not enroll. **Admitted** students who did not waive their right of access and wish to view their letters of recommendation may be shown them after submitting a written request to Graduate Studies. All employees of the university with access to student information are required to view the FERPA DVD. For more information on FERPA, contact the Registrar's Office. The web address to view this information online is:

<https://saas.byu.edu/registrar/aimaccess/ferpavideo.php>.

If applicants (in person or by telephone) ask about the status of their application, they must first verify their identity via picture ID and/or their social security number and birth date. Questions may then be answered with the following restrictions:

- Applicants will not be given information about letters of recommendation

(content or ratings).

- Applicants will not be told whether they have been recommended for admission or denial unless they have paid their application fee.
- Employees should not say to an applicant, “You’ve been admitted.” Applicants may be told, “We’ve recommended that you be admitted; nevertheless, your acceptance is not guaranteed or official until you receive the official letter of acceptance from Graduate Studies.”

Often a friend or relative will telephone or visit Graduate Studies to check on an applicant’s status or to look at the application. Giving information to a third party may be a violation of BYU’s confidentiality policy (depending on the information given), so university policy requires applicants to write or telephone directly rather than having friends check for them.

Financial Assistance

Graduate Funding

Departments are encouraged to provide adequate financial support for graduate students. Sources of funds for graduate students include college and department funds, funds allocated by Graduate Studies to departments, and external grants and contracts.

Four types of funding are offered through individual departments: assistantships, internships, private scholarships, and supplementary awards. Most graduate awards given by BYU are in the form of teaching and research assistantships because teaching and research are vital components of graduate programs. Supplementary awards can be given and applied towards tuition or travel. Audit credit, special examination credit, or independent study courses may not be paid for by a supplementary tuition award.

New students may apply for departmental graduate funding during the regular admission process. Continuing students can obtain information and applications from their departments. To be eligible for an assistantship or supplementary award, one must be a degree-seeking graduate student in good standing who is registered for at least two credit hours in the semester (or one credit hour in the term) for which the award is granted.

In addition, Graduate Studies lists on its web site a limited number of internal and external fellowships available to graduate students. Awards and eligibility vary. Departments should publish information about financial aid opportunities for students in their programs.

BYU Hawaii Alumni International Graduate Scholarship

Alumni from BYU Hawaii who are not US citizens are eligible to apply for this scholarship. Other eligibility criteria include a minimum GPA of 3.0, enrollment at BYU or recent admission, and full-time status for fall and winter semesters. The award is normally \$3,000 per semester, for two semesters as long as all aspects of the criteria are met. Receipt of the scholarship for one academic year does not guarantee it will be awarded in subsequent years. Applications must be submitted each year.

Applications and instructions are found on the Graduate Studies web site. The deadline for submission is June 15th and recipients are notified by June 30th.

The Graduate Research Fellowship Award

The Graduate Research Fellowship Award is a university award sponsored by Graduate Studies, designed to support dissertation, thesis, or other research and creative activity. Two levels of award are granted: doctoral and master's.

Graduate students from all disciplines are encouraged to apply. Those working toward doctoral degrees are eligible if they have completed at least one year of graduate school at the time the award is funded; master's degree candidates must have been matriculated in their programs on or before Fall Semester of the current academic year. Recipients must be in good academic standing and making satisfactory progress toward the degree. The award is intended to be for *proposed* research or creative activity, not for work nearing completion. The monies are dispersed the following Fall semester. Before graduating from BYU, recipients must submit a written final report to the Dean of Graduate Studies.

Applications are judged on the quality of the proposal as well as the applicant's potential for accomplishing the proposed project. A panel of university faculty reviews the applications, and the Dean of Graduate Studies makes the final awards decision.

To apply for this award a student should access the online application form through the Graduate Studies web site, (<http://www.byu.edu/gradstudies>). Select "Financial Assistance" and then "Fellowships and Grants" to access the fellowship announcement. The applicant will answer questions, identify his or her advisor and others who will submit a letter of reference, and upload the actual proposal.

The Research/Creative Work Proposal

The research/creative work proposal is to be written in language and style clear to reviewers outside the applicant's field. It should not exceed eight pages total, four

pages double-sided or eight pages single-sided. The following should be clearly stated:

- Purpose of the project
- Essential features of the methodology
- Projected results of the project
- Potential impact/value/importance of the project

Three letters of recommendation must be submitted: one from the applicant's advisor and two others from BYU faculty who are familiar with the applicant's project and academic performance.

Research Presentation Awards

Graduate Studies provides funding annually to assist qualified graduate students in presenting research and/or creative works at conferences or other forums. Research Presentation Award applications are solicited twice yearly, in Fall and Winter Semesters. If a student presents their research between January 1st and June 30th, they apply at the beginning of Winter Semester. If the student presents between July 1st and December 31st, they apply at the beginning of Fall Semester. Interested students may complete a Research Presentation Award Application online at the BYUGSS web site, ([http://www.byu.edu/gss/.](http://www.byu.edu/gss/)) Each application must be accompanied by an online recommendation completed by a professor of the student's choice. Each application is reviewed by three members of the GSS student council and the student's graduate coordinator and makes award recommendations to the Dean of Graduate Studies. More information can be found on the GSS web site, ([http://www.byu.edu/gss/.](http://www.byu.edu/gss/))

Graduate Mentoring Awards

Graduate Studies allocates some funding for graduate mentoring awards to supplement financial support packages offered to recruit and maintain excellent graduate students. These awards are available for graduate students who are mentored by faculty and in turn act as mentors for undergraduates in research, classroom teaching, or applied settings. College deans invite faculty to submit a 1-2 page proposal for graduate mentoring awards for specific projects. Based on these proposals, deans then make recommendations for funding to the Dean and the Assistant Dean of Graduate Studies. At the conclusion of the academic year in which the funding was awarded, faculty and graduate students each submit a one-page report describing the outcomes of the project. Additional information about Graduate Mentoring Awards is available from Graduate Studies.

Student Loans

Two types of student loans are available to graduate students who qualify: BYU loans (short-term, Law School, and Marriott School) and Federal Stafford Loans. Only degree-seeking students who are making satisfactory academic progress will be considered for loan approval. International students are not eligible for Federal Stafford Loans.

On-Campus Employment

Student campus jobs other than assistantships and internships are listed at Student Employment Services. Graduate students wishing to seek on-campus employment must be registered for a minimum of two credit hours. Full-time graduate students are not permitted to work more than 20 hours at on-campus employment outside of their academic departments or 30 hours within their departments. International students must be registered for at least 9 credit hours or have full-time status in order to work on campus. Special employment restrictions may apply to international students. For more information regarding on-campus employment, contact Student Employment Services at 2-3561.

Matriculation

Advisement and Student Handbooks

Departments are required to provide all entering graduate students with access to a graduate student handbook describing current policies, requirements, expectations, and procedures that graduate students need to know to successfully complete a degree in the department. The handbook must be accurate, updated annually, made available to students online or given as a hard copy, and ensured reception by sign-off.

This handbook should give details on degree requirements, including course work, committees, examinations, dissertations, theses, projects, internships, practica etc., and explain department-specific policies and procedures for obtaining advisement, forming a committee, establishing a Program of Study, etc. In addition to the details of the department's graduate offering (i.e., courses, program/track options, etc.), the handbook should contain information on university procedures that students need to be aware of, such as applying for graduation, scheduling final exams, and submitting dissertations, theses, or selected projects. Departments will specify what constitutes satisfactory, marginal, and unsatisfactory progress in their handbooks and will inform students of the rating process and the consequences of the ratings. The handbook should also specify department and university policies and procedures with regard to dismissal and grievances. Another important element of the handbook is a discussion of financial aid opportunities

available through the department and the university.

Departments should have formal orientation procedures or seminars to acquaint new students with the expectations and requirements of graduate study in the department and the university. Departments should assign an initial advisor who makes sure new students are well informed and assists in selecting a permanent advisor. The permanent advisor should be selected by the end of the student's first semester.

Graduate Committees

The following university requirements apply to graduate committees:

- The chair must be from the student's major department.

Master's degree committees must consist of at least three members; doctoral committees must consist of at least five. If a student declares a minor, one member of the committee must be from the minor department. The committee is formed at the same time the student's Program of Study is created.

All committee members share in the responsibility for conscientiously advising and directing the student concerning course work, degree requirements, and research (thesis and dissertation) and creative work. For example, all will participate in such events as prospectus meetings, comprehensive exams, and (dissertation, thesis, or selected project) defenses and will be responsible for evaluating the student's performance. The individual contribution of committee members may vary in effort, and intensity, but all members must be available for frequent scholarly interaction with the students they advise. Effective committee members return thesis drafts and other materials promptly so that students do not experience unnecessary delays in completing their programs.

Program of Study

The Program of Study is a carefully considered plan which identifies the student's major, lists all courses required, and designates the graduate committee. It may also include a minor. Prerequisite and skill courses are neither determined nor required by the university, but they are tracked in AIM if entered on the Program of Study. Each Program of Study must meet the minimum university degree requirements and all the requirements of the individual programs as specified in the *Graduate Catalog* and graduate student handbooks. Necessary changes in a student's program or committee can be made if authorized by the student's committee and department graduate coordinator. After making a change, the department must resubmit the Program of Study or graduate committee for university approval; the department retains the Program of Study Change (Form

3b) in their records.

Master's degree students should outline their Program of Study under the direction of their graduate committee during their first semester, completing it no later than the third week of the second semester. Doctoral students should receive approval and submit their Program of Study during the first year, with completion no later than the third week of the beginning of the second year of study.

Departments may contact Graduate Studies to prevent students who have not submitted a Program of Study from registering for subsequent semesters.

Departments should publish and distribute to graduate students a multi-year schedule of course offerings so they may plan their course of study. Graduate course offerings must be sequenced appropriately and offered with sufficient frequency to prevent delays in degree completion.

Progress Reports

Progress Reports list all course requirements from a student's Program of Study and summarize the student's progress including completed classes, current registration, deficient classes, and grade point average. In addition, these reports indicate possible problems with academic status, GPA, current registration, prerequisite degrees, courses, minimum registration requirements, and time limit. Students are responsible to work with their departments regarding any needed change. Departments and students may view Progress Reports online or print them at any time for their own records or for distribution.

Evaluations of Student Progress

Departments should encourage students to complete their degree programs in a timely fashion. Toward this end, departments formally monitor each graduate student's progress twice during the academic year, at clearly designated times, and inform the student in writing of his or her status. If marginal or unsatisfactory progress is noted, the student should be advised in writing what they need to do, when it needs to be accomplished, and whom to contact for help in order to demonstrate satisfactory progress.

Students who receive an unsatisfactory rating or do not receive an evaluation will not be eligible to obtain financial aid. The Financial Aid Office is required by federal regulations to evaluate a student's performance to ensure that the student will be able to graduate within the maximum time frame. Evaluations must be recorded on *ADV12*. Failure to enter evaluations may result in the student being denied federal financial aid.

- I. Departments will monitor graduate student progress twice each academic year.
 - A. The graduate faculty or a committee consisting of graduate faculty (at least the student's thesis/dissertation advisory committee or program advisor [for non thesis programs] and the graduate coordinator) discusses the progress of each student.
 - B. Each student is rated as making satisfactory, marginal, or unsatisfactory progress.
 - C. Students are notified in writing of their progress.
 - D. Students making marginal or unsatisfactory progress are informed:
 1. What they need to do to make satisfactory progress.
 2. When each task needs to be accomplished.
 3. What faculty member(s) they should contact for more information or support.
 4. What will happen if these tasks are not accomplished (e.g., an unsatisfactory rating for the next semester, termination from the program, etc.).
- II. Two unacceptable ratings will have the following consequences:
 - A. If a student receives a marginal and an unsatisfactory or two unsatisfactory ratings in succession the university will:
 1. Terminate the student's program at the conclusion of the semester (NOTE: A report that includes the names of students with two unacceptable evaluations will run September 30th, January 30th, and May 30th. A termination letter will be sent to these students unless Graduate Studies receives a Petition for Exception from their department.)
 2. OR Graduate Studies will receive a Petition for Exception (OGS Form 2) from the student's department making a convincing case that the student be given another semester to demonstrate satisfactory progress. A copy of a contract to completion listing student and faculty responsibilities and a time line must be attached. This document will include the signatures of the student and the student's graduate committee. Note: The completion deadline in AIM will be shortened based on the contract to completion.
- III. If a student receives a marginal rating in one semester and is not making satisfactory progress in the next semester, the student should be rated as making unsatisfactory progress. In other words, a student should not be rated

as making marginal progress in two sequential semesters. Failing to correct marginal progress is unsatisfactory.

IV. Departments will specify what constitutes satisfactory, marginal, and unsatisfactory progress in their handbooks and will inform students of the rating process and the consequences of the ratings. In the case of marginal or unsatisfactory progress, communication by certified letter with return receipt is required. The letter should list requirements that the student must fulfill, time deadlines for those requirements, and the faculty whom the student should contact for information or help.

A. Marginal progress may include the following:

1. Failure to submit Program of Study
2. Failure to establish a graduate committee
3. Registering for thesis hours when little or no work has been done
4. Failure to submit an approved thesis/dissertation prospectus
5. Minimal contact with chair or advisory committee members
6. Prospectus or thesis/dissertation draft not approved
7. Limited progress toward courses and requirements on Program of Study
8. Poor performance in clinical/externship/applied experience
9. Poor performance in research

B. Unsatisfactory progress may include the following:

1. Grade in a course falling below B-
2. Failure to complete Program of Study
3. Failure to establish a graduate committee
4. Failing a course
5. Registering for thesis hours when little or no work has been done
6. Failure to submit an approved thesis/dissertation prospectus
7. Failure of comprehensive exams
8. Minimal or no contact with chair or advisory committee members
9. Prospectus or thesis/dissertation draft not approved
10. Lacking progress toward courses and requirements on Program of Study
11. Poor performance in clinical/externship/applied experience
12. Rated as marginal in previous review and has not remediated weak areas

13. Concerns about ethical or professional behavior
14. Poor performance in research
15. Failure to resolve any problems or fulfill any requirements indicated in a previous marginal or unsatisfactory review

Graduate students matriculated in programs should continually be enrolled in course work, be completing internships, and/or be actively involved in scholarly or creative work. Departments must recognize that a student's first responsibility is to his or her own academic program. Other duties, such as teaching assignments, should enhance the graduate education experience, not impede progress toward a degree. The number of courses a graduate student teaches should be strictly limited by departments.

Leave of Absence

Students may request a leave of absence for the following reasons: medical, military, or missionary. While on leave, the student will be excused from minimum registration requirements (which would normally require 6 credit hours per academic year). Also, students on leave will not be required to demonstrate satisfactory progress in the program (which is normally assessed by two evaluations per academic year). However, the 5 year time limit for the master's degree and the 8 year time limit for the doctoral degree will still apply.

Students requesting leave must submit the *Leave of Absence (Form ADV 5)* (located at <http://www.byu.edu/gradstudies/?action=forms.student>). Additionally, students requesting leave will be required to provide the following documentation, depending on the reason for the requested leave:

- Medical—letter from doctor or therapist including the amount of leave time recommended by the professional, (up to one year at a time).
- Military—copy of the military assignment including the length of assignment, (up to one year at a time).
- Mission—copy of mission call letter including anticipated date of return, (up to one year at a time).

Once Graduate Studies has received and processed the request, the “leave” status will appear in the AIM system on adv12 (Graduate Evaluations) and reg01 (Registration).

Credit Policies

Recommended Registration Limit

Because graduate study is more rigorous than undergraduate study, students should generally not be required to register for more than 12 credit hours in a semester or 6 credit hours in a term. Graduate students may not register for more than 22 credit hours in a semester or 11 credit hours in a term.

Departments should monitor course loads carefully. Furthermore, registration for thesis or dissertation credit, as well as work on the thesis or dissertation, should be concurrent and reasonable. It would be inappropriate, for example, for a student to register for all 18 dissertation credit hours in one semester or term. Students should consult with their committee chair in determining an appropriate and reasonable credit enrollment.

Graduate Credit

Courses at the 600-level and above are reserved for graduate students. In exceptional circumstances selected post-baccalaureate studies students and undergraduate students may register for a 600-level course with permission from the instructor.

Senior Credit

In some restricted instances students seeking a master's degree may apply credit taken during the senior year at BYU toward the degree, but in no instance can this credit apply to both a baccalaureate and a graduate degree. Senior and post-baccalaureate credit combined cannot exceed 10 semester hours in a graduate program. Thoroughly qualified undergraduates who are willing and able to meet graduate level standards may enroll in graduate 500-level courses.

Post-Baccalaureate Studies Credit

Credit taken after the baccalaureate degree has been received without admission to a graduate program is defined as post-baccalaureate studies credit. Students subsequently admitted to graduate programs **should not** expect all post-baccalaureate credit to apply to their graduate programs. Similarly, departments should not encourage students to enroll in post-baccalaureate studies courses as a means of gaining admission to graduate programs. In some instances, departments may recommend that post-baccalaureate studies credit apply to a master's or doctoral degree; however, post-baccalaureate studies and senior credit combined cannot exceed 10 semester hours in a master's or doctoral program.

Other BYU Credit

In some instances, a limited number of 300 and 400 level courses can apply to a master's degree. However, lower-division courses (100 and 200 level), Independent Study (correspondence) courses, 300 and 400 level religion courses, and education courses numbered 514R cannot apply toward a graduate degree. No undergraduate courses may apply toward a doctoral degree (except those already applied to a master's degree).

Transfer Credit

Credit taken at other accredited universities in the United States or in Canada may, with departmental approval, be applied toward a graduate degree at BYU under the following conditions:

- Transfer credits must be clearly graduate level.
- The grade for any such course must be B or higher. (Pass/fail credit is non-transferable.)
- Home study, correspondence, and extension courses are non-transferable.
- Courses taken before a student begins graduate work at BYU must be approved during a student's first semester of study at BYU.
- Courses taken at another university after the student has begun studies at BYU must be pre-approved by graduate committee members and the graduate coordinator. Also the proposed credit must be submitted on the Program of Study in AIM.
- Credit cannot have already been applied to another degree.

The number of credits a student may transfer varies according to the number of credit hours required for the BYU graduate program. The maximum number of transfer credits should constitute no more than 25% of the total required for the program, not to exceed 15 credit hours in any program. For example, if senior and/or post-baccalaureate studies credits are used in conjunction with transfer credit, the total may not exceed 15 credit hours.

Required Program Hours	Transfer Credit Limit
30	7
36	9
40	10
50	12
60	15
>60	15

Under certain circumstances credit from accredited or certified international universities may be considered for transfer if all the conditions required for transferring credit are met and the department submits a written justification assuring the following, before the classes are taken:

- The international university is highly regarded as an institution of higher education and accredited by the International Association of Universities.
- The content, rigor, and applicability of the courses are appropriate for the student's graduate program and will enrich the student's graduate experience.

A student may also choose to transfer the credit by successfully completing a challenge examination in the course(s).

NOTE: Transfer credits from other universities may be considered for BYU Doctoral Programs as long as they exceed the university minimums (see doctoral degree) and they meet the rules for transfer credit.

Credits Certified by Challenge Examination

In rare circumstances, with the approval of the department and Graduate Studies, up to 10 semester hours may be certified by challenge examination. The following are examples:

- A student may wish to transfer normally disallowed graduate credit from a non-accredited institution or from a international university.
- A student may wish to challenge a course on the Program of Study that covers material already mastered.

A graduate student may challenge only credit specific to the graduate program to which he or she has been admitted. A student may obtain the Graduate Degree Course Challenge Examination (ADV Form 3d) from Graduate Studies or the Graduate Studies web site:

<http://www.byu.edu/gradstudies/forms/forms.php?s=advforms>.

Combined Credit Limit

The number of combined transfer, senior, and post-baccalaureate studies credit hours may constitute no more than 25% of the total hours required for the program and may not exceed 15 credit hours in any program.

Required Program Hours	Combined Senior/ PBS/ Credit Limit
30	10

Required Program Hours	Combined Senior/ PBS/ Credit Limit
36	10
40	10
50	12
60	15
>60	15

Outdated Credit

Only credit taken within the time limit for each degree may count toward the degree (eight years for doctoral degrees and five years for master's degrees). Departments and colleges may petition to allow credit outdated by more than one year, but by no more than five years, to apply toward a degree. The petition must be accompanied by impressive documentation that the credit in question has been updated by courses retaken, by special readings courses, or by examinations in each of the courses. If a master's degree is conferred in 2015, no credit taken before 2005 may apply to the degree, regardless of circumstances.

Time Limit Extensions

Departments and colleges may petition for an extension of up to one year by providing reasonable evidence that extenuating circumstances caused an unavoidable delay in the student's progress toward a degree. To petition for an extension of more than one year, the department and student must write up a contract with a detailed time line to degree completion. This contract must include impressive documentation that any outdated credits have been updated, and it must be signed by the student and all the members of the graduate committee.

Degree Requirements

Minimum standards for graduate degrees have been established by the university; department requirements may exceed those standards. Current information about specific program requirements should be published in department graduate student handbooks.

Master's Degree

A graduate committee or appointed program advisor helps each student prepare a Program of Study. The following requirements must be met:

1. At least 30 credit hours must be completed in the master's program after completion of a baccalaureate degree. The Program of Study may not include more than the minimum required thesis hours (6) or project hours (2-6). Only students actively involved in thesis or project research should register for

thesis or project credit.

2. Time limitations must be observed. Most master's degree programs are designed to be completed within two years. All master's degrees must be completed within five years of the first semester of enrollment in the program or from the first course taken, whichever comes first. Matriculation in a program may be terminated at any time for failure to make satisfactory progress toward the degree.
3. To receive a minor, a master's student must:
 - Obtain the approval of the department chair or graduate coordinator of the major and minor departments
 - Select a graduate faculty member from the minor department (approved by the department chair or graduate coordinator of the minor department) to serve as a graduate committee member
 - Have the major department add the minor in AIM (*ADV07*)
 - Register for and complete nine semester hours of approved graduate credit in the minor
 - Pass an oral or a written comprehensive examination in the minor field (prepared by the minor committee member)

Doctoral Degree

Graduate committees help students prepare a Program of Study. The following requirements must be met:

1. The student must complete the minimum number of credit hours required by the graduate program. The Program of Study may not include more than the minimum required dissertation credits (18). Registration for dissertation credit and work on the dissertation must be concurrent. Doctoral students may not take all dissertation credit in one term or semester. With graduate committee approval, students may apply up to 36 credit hours of a master's program towards a doctoral degree. The following are the minimum required hours for doctoral degrees:
 - 54 hours beyond a bachelor's degree for a doctor of philosophy degree when no master's degree has been earned
 - 36 hours at BYU for a doctor of philosophy degree if a master's degree has been earned

Note: Transfer credits from other universities may be considered for BYU doctoral programs as long as they exceed the university minimums and they meet the rules for transfer credit

2. The program must be completed in a timely manner. Most doctoral degree programs are designed to be completed within four to five years. All doctoral degrees must be completed within eight years of the first semester of enrollment in the program or from the first course taken, whichever comes first. Matriculation in a program may be terminated at any time for failure to make satisfactory progress toward the degree.
3. The student must register for at least two consecutive six-hour semesters on the BYU campus to fulfill the doctoral residency requirement.
4. To receive a minor, a doctoral student must:
 - Obtain the approval of the department chair or graduate coordinator of the major and minor departments
 - Select a graduate faculty member from the minor department (approved by the department chair or graduate coordinator of the minor department) to serve as a graduate committee member
 - Have the major department add the minor in AIM (*ADV07*)
 - Register for and complete 12 semester hours of approved graduate credit in the minor
 - Pass an oral or a written comprehensive examination in the minor field (prepared by the minor committee member)

Changing Degree Levels

In some cases departments may request that a student be allowed to change from one degree level to another without interrupting enrollment. A Request to Change Graduate Degree Level (GS Form 7) is required, and in some cases a fee is charged. International students must submit new financial certification and supporting documentation with the GS Form 7. A student wishing to seek a degree in a different department must apply as a new applicant online.

Integrated Programs

There are a few integrated master's programs in which students will earn their baccalaureate and master's degrees concurrently. Students in an integrated program will:

1. Be admitted to as a graduate student at least two semesters prior to graduation.
2. Complete a Notification of Integrated or Joint Program Status (GS Form 5).
3. Pay at least two semesters (or one full-time semester and two full-time terms) of full-time graduate student tuition upon full-time formal admittance.
4. Earn no fewer than 150 semester hours for both degrees (120 for the bachelor's degree; 30 for the master's degree).
5. Receive both the bachelor's degree and the master's degree simultaneously (the same semester and year/term).
6. Once admitted, students will not be allowed to back date their graduate admission to a prior semester/term.
7. Graduate Studies cannot consider a prior semester's undergraduate tuition as partial payment for graduate tuition.

Registration

Eligibility and Requirements

Upon receipt of an official letter of acceptance from Graduate Studies, new graduate students are eligible to register. To maintain graduate status and registration eligibility, new students must register for a minimum of 2.0 credit hours in the first semester or term for which they have been admitted. Departments may not defer an applicant's acceptance to a subsequent semester or term. Continuing graduate students are eligible to register if they have fulfilled the minimum registration requirement (6.0 credit hours per year) in the preceding academic year.

Once enrolled, a graduate student is eligible to register for subsequent semesters if the following requirements are met:

- The student has fulfilled the minimum registration requirement (6.0 credit hours with acceptable grades per year).
- The student has submitted a Program of Study as required: master's students are to submit by the third week of the second semester after admission, doctoral students by the third week of the beginning of the second year.
- Graduate Studies has received an official transcript showing that the required prerequisite degree has been conferred.
- The student's time limit has not expired.

- The student has not voluntarily withdrawn or been terminated by the department.
- The student has submitted an annual continuing ecclesiastical endorsement.
- The student has complied with the BYU Honor Code and is cleared by the Honor Code Office.
- The student has not completed the degree program.

Minimum Registration Requirement

To retain active status and to qualify for subsequent registration, graduate students must register for and receive acceptable grades in at least six credit hours each academic year. (D, E, W, NS, and I grades do not count towards the minimum registration requirement, nor do audit or independent study courses.) Students who are admitted to begin graduate studies in the middle of an academic year or who are graduating must fulfill partial minimum registration requirements as listed below:

- Students who are admitted to begin graduate study in the winter semester are required to register for and receive acceptable grades for at least 4 credit hours over the remaining course of the academic year (winter, spring, and summer).
- Students who are admitted to begin graduate study in the spring or summer term are required to register for and receive acceptable grades for at least 2 credit hours for the term for which they are admitted to begin.
- Thereafter, all students are required to register for and receive acceptable grades for at least 6 credit hours over the course of the full academic year (fall, winter, spring, and summer).
- Students are required to register for and receive acceptable grades in at least 2 credit hours per semester and 2 credit hours over the course of the spring and summer terms during any period in which they are using university facilities (including faculty time) or in which they will defend and graduate.
- Students who apply for graduation in August and are unable to defend until Fall will need to meet the six-hour requirement for the previous academic year as well as the two hours required to defend and graduate in the fall.

Students who do not fulfill the minimum registration requirements are dropped from their graduate programs; they lose their graduate status and must apply for readmission if they decide to complete their graduate degree.

In January, Graduate Studies sends a report to each department listing students who have not met the yearly minimum registration requirement after Winter Semester registration. Students on this list must register for the additional credits needed before the end of Summer Term in order to avoid being dropped from their program. Each year in July a report is sent to every graduate department notifying them of students who have been dropped for failure to meet the minimum registration requirement. Departments have ten days to notify Graduate Studies of any errors before students are notified by email of minimum registration problems. Once a student is dropped, he or she loses graduate student status.

Graduate students from the United States and international students who are permanent U.S. residents are required to register for at least 2.0 credit hours during any semester or term in which they use any university facilities, consult with faculty, or take comprehensive oral or written examinations. The number of graduate credit hours for which they register must, in the judgment of the faculty advisor, accurately reflect the student's involvement in graduate study and use of university resources such as libraries, laboratories, and computer facilities. In no case will the registration be for fewer than 2.0 credit hours per semester. International students must register for at least 9.0 credit hours in both Fall and Winter Semesters to fulfill U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) requirements. Questions should be directed to International Services.

Financial Aid Registration Requirements

The student is responsible for complying with any registration requirements established by sponsoring agents for student loans, loan payment deferrals, assistantships, internships, scholarships, and awards. Graduate students receiving assistantships, awards, or internships through BYU must register for at least 2.0 credit hours per semester or for 1.0 credit hour per term. Departmental requirements may exceed these minimums.

Only degree-seeking students enrolled in day school are eligible for short-term BYU tuition loans. Since the amount borrowed is applied directly toward the cost of tuition, no minimum level of enrollment is required.

Students should consult with the Financial Aid Office for information on credit hour requirements for obtaining and deferring federal student loans. Only degree-seeking students who are making satisfactory academic progress (SAP) will be eligible for federal financial assistance. The Financial Aid Office is required by federal regulations to evaluate a student's performance to ensure that the student will be able to graduate within the maximum allotted time. See <http://saas.byu.edu/depts/finaid/sap.aspx> for the complete SAP Policy. Evaluations must be recorded on *ADV12*; failure to enter evaluations may result in the student being turned down for federal financial aid.

Enrollment Status (Full time, Half time etc.)

U.S. citizens and permanent residents who are enrolled for at least 8.5 credit hours in a semester or at least 4.5 credit hours in a term are considered full time for tuition purposes. International students must register for at least 9.0 credit hours for both Fall and Winter Semesters to be considered full time. Students receiving financial assistance may be required to register for more hours to obtain full-time status. A student enrolled for 4.5 to 8.0 credit hours a semester or 2.5 to 4.0 credit hours a term is considered a half-time student. Graduate students may request verification of their enrollment status from the Records Office.

Eligibility for Campus Services

Campus privileges are extended to part-time graduate students (those registered for at least 2.0 credit hours per semester or 1.0 credit hour per term), including campus privileges normally limited to full-time undergraduate students: for example, on-campus employment, student housing, student insurance, intramurals, use of physical education facilities, graduate parking permits, and discount admission to sporting and cultural events.

Petition for Full-Time Status

Part-time graduate students who are enrolled for at least 2.0 credit hours per semester, and can be certified by their department as being engaged full time in pursuit of their degrees can petition for graduate full-time status (ADV Form 2a). Requests for such an exception are submitted to Graduate Studies.

Departments determine whether a student is to be certified as engaged full time in pursuit of a degree. In making this judgment, departments must be rigorous and consistent in the criteria they use, since this information determines a student's eligibility for initiating loans and deferring payments on existing student loans. Students must have an approved committee and Program of Study. Students are not granted full-time status certification for semesters in advance. "Full time" pursuit of a degree means the student is devoting 40 or more hours per week to fulfilling graduate degree requirements during the semester in question. A student's full-time load may include any combination of courses, assistantships, research, or special studies. Valid reasons for a student registering for fewer than 8.5 credit hours per semester or 4.5 credit hours per term and petitioning for full-time status include the following:

- The student has completed all the required course work for the degree and is working full time on the thesis, dissertation, project, or internship.
- The department limits the student's enrollment to less than full time because of a required TA/RA assignment.

Students who are employed full time, are newly admitted (unless the department limits enrollment), or are international students on F-1 or J-1 visas and do not have the approval of International Services are not eligible.

Academic Standards

Curriculum and Course Work

Graduate curricula should be well designed and up to date, leading to strong preparation of students. Departments should offer enough courses to support a full graduate program, and not list courses that are “on the books” but rarely taught. The curriculum should be appropriate for the preparation and specialties of the faculty and should reflect leadership in the discipline. The classroom experience should be qualitatively different from courses in the undergraduate program. Departments should not double-list courses by undergraduate and graduate numbers (such as 400 and 600) and should avoid all practices that dilute the classroom experience for graduate students. A master’s Program of Study should consist largely of 600 level courses while doctoral programs should consist largely of 600 and 700 level courses.

The following uses for a 500 level course are **approved**:

- As graduate introductory, foundation, or elective courses
- As courses that require a 400 level prerequisite
- As advanced undergraduate courses that must exceed upper-division (300-499) level
- As foundational or introductory post-baccalaureate courses leading to professional certification or licensure
- As courses essential to programs that bridge between five-year undergraduate programs and graduate foundation studies

The following uses for a 500 level course are **inappropriate**:

- For cross listing of similar undergraduate and graduate courses
- For mixing graduate and undergraduate students because of inadequate department resources
- For permitting a small class environment for *undergraduate-level* mentoring
- For advanced graduate-level courses

Departments are expected to enrich their graduate curriculum with presentations by visiting lecturers, with colloquia, and with other opportunities for learning outside the regular curriculum, even within the disciplines of other departments.

Every graduate course should have a course outline and syllabus in which the instructor's expectations are clearly stated and the course description is comprehensive and clear. Courses are to require extensive writing assignments of substance and consequence that train students to think critically. Student papers should adhere to high standards of composition, and they should be carefully criticized and assessed, sometimes by both instructor and peers. All courses, even those considered to be applied courses, should have a strong theoretical foundation based on current research. They should require investigation beyond classroom experiences and textbooks. Where possible, they should include demanding essay examinations. Graduate course grades should accurately reflect student achievement and should not be inflated. It is recognized, however, that graduate courses are usually graded on the basis of competency rather than on a competitive model.

Credits earned through directed readings, independent or off-campus projects, or employment-related projects should be kept to a minimum; such courses must be approved by the department and should be as rigorous and demanding as regular courses. For credit to be applied the instructor and student formulate an agreement of requirements and expectations and file that "contract" with the department office. The student will receive credit only when the agreement has been fulfilled.

Grade-Point Average (GPA) Requirements

Graduate students whose Program of Study GPA falls below 3.0 (prerequisite and skill courses exempt) will not be allowed to graduate and may be dismissed from their graduate programs. Graduate faculty should consult with students whose grades frequently fall in the C range or below about the advisability of continuing graduate study. No *D* credit may apply toward a graduate degree.

Termination of Graduate Status

A student's graduate status may be terminated for the following reasons:

- Failure to satisfactorily complete the conditions of acceptance
- Failure to fulfill the university's minimum registration requirement
- A request to withdraw (with the intent to pursue a degree at another university, for personal reasons, or in response to department recommendation)
- Consecutive and unsatisfactory ratings or two less than satisfactory ratings are

received in succession

- Failure to make what the department or the university deems to be satisfactory progress toward a graduate degree
- Failure on the departmental comprehensive examination
- Failure on the final oral examination (defense of dissertation, thesis, or selected project)
- Violation of the university's standards of conduct or Honor Code
- Failure to comply with the time limit (five years for master's, eight years for doctoral)

A student dismissed or facing dismissal may request review of termination or impending termination. Such requests should be submitted in writing to the department chair. A student who wishes further consideration may request review by the college dean. Ultimately, a final request for review may be made to the Dean of Graduate Studies who may appoint a committee to review the matter. All requests for review of termination must be initiated within one year of the semester in which the termination takes place. For more information, refer to the Graduate Student Academic Grievance Policy.

Withdrawal

When a student withdraws from a program or the department wishes to terminate the program, the department should submit a Departmental Request to Terminate (Expire) Graduate Status (ADV Form 7). This notifies Graduate Studies to expire the student's graduate status.

The ADV Form 7 allows the department to indicate how the student's record should officially show the withdrawal. Checking *Academic Suspension* will cause a suspension notice to be placed on the student's transcript, preventing the student from being readmitted to BYU. The other three withdrawal categories do not affect the student's transcript, and the student may be considered for readmission.

The ADV Form 7 need not be submitted in any of the following circumstances:

- No Show: The student fails to register for 2.0 credit hours the first semester of admission
- Minimum Registration Requirement: The student registers for fewer than 6.0 credit hours in an academic year
- Time Limit for Program Completion: The student fails to complete the degree

within the specified time limit

Petition for Exception

The Petition for Exception (OGS Form 2) allows departments to request for graduate students an exception to university graduate study policies regarding any part of the graduate program, including credit policies, committee composition, and degree requirements. The petition must be prepared by the student's graduate committee chair and be endorsed by the graduate coordinator, department chair, and college dean before it is submitted to Graduate Studies. The petition should include a detailed explanation of the exception requested and reasons for the department's support of the request.

Petitions to extend the time limit for degree completion beyond one year must be accompanied by a contract for completion of the student's remaining requirements. This contract must include a specific time line developed by the student and the student's committee and be signed by all of them. Petitions without a contract for completion will not be considered.

A department petition to include an individual without graduate faculty status on a committee must be accompanied by the individual's curriculum vita.

Graduate Academic Grievance Policy

Despite the well-meaning efforts of students and faculty, there may be occasions when a graduate student feels that his or her work has been unfairly or inadequately evaluated. Usually such differences can be amicably resolved between the student and faculty member. The following procedures are designed to encourage satisfactory resolution of academic grievances with a minimum of formal procedure.

The grievance must be initiated by the graduate student no later than one year from the last day of the examination period of the semester in which the alleged unfair or inadequate evaluation occurred.

The graduate student should initially address the grievance to the involved faculty member for review and resolution. If for any reason the faculty member is unavailable or the student believes the matter will not be fairly dealt with or may result in retribution, the student may direct the grievance to the department chair. If there is no department chair, the grievance shall be directed to the graduate coordinator or other person designated by the dean of the college to consider such matters (hereinafter referred to as the department chair). The faculty member or department chair shall have the right to consult others regarding the matter as reasonable, with due regard for the graduate student's right to privacy under the

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.

If the grievance is originated with the faculty member and is not resolved satisfactorily, the student may submit a written request for review to the department chair. Decisions of the department chair, including matters originated with the department chair, shall be given in writing to both the student and the faculty member within 45 days of the student's written request for review. If no further request for review is taken, as described in the following paragraph, the decision of the department chair will be implemented.

If the matter is not resolved to the student's satisfaction by the department chair, the student may submit a written request for review to the dean of the college or school, outlining the grievance, explaining its disposition, and setting forth facts supporting the student's request. The request for review must be made within 45 days of the date of the written disposition by the department chair. The college dean will conduct a review and will communicate his/her decision in writing to the student and to the department chair within 30 days of receipt of the graduate student's request for review.

If the matter is not resolved to the graduate student's satisfaction by the college dean, and it involves terminating the student from the graduate program, the student may submit a written request for review to the Dean of Graduate Studies. The written request for review should contain an outline of the grievance and its disposition and should set forth facts supporting the student's request for review. The request for review must be made within 45 days of the date of the written disposition by the college dean.

The Dean of Graduate Studies will convene a formal administrative review of matters that have not been resolved at the department or college level if terminating a graduate student from his/her graduate program is involved. Following the proceeding, which takes place under "Administrative Proceeding Format" as described below, the review panel will deliberate in a closed session and make a formal recommendation to the Dean of Graduate Studies, whose decision is final and cannot be appealed. A member of the Graduate Council chairs the administrative review and may ask questions but is not a voting member of the three-person review panel. Review panel members will consist of two graduate faculty members and one graduate student from departments outside that of the graduate student requesting the review. Review panel members will be appointed by the Dean of Graduate Studies.

Administrative Proceeding Format

The format for an administrative proceeding is as follows:

1. Chair's introduction, summary of issues, and process overview

2. Graduate student's presentation of issues (15 minutes maximum)
3. Department representative's presentation of issues (15 minutes maximum)
4. Optional presentation by witnesses (limited to three per side and a maximum of 15 minutes per side)
5. Graduate student's (grievant's) rebuttal (limited to 10 minutes)
6. Questions by panel members
7. Opportunity for the department representative and the grievant to make a final statement (limited to 5 minutes), grievant following the department representatives
8. Dismissal of presenters and witnesses
9. Deliberation by panel members
10. Written recommendations to the Dean of Graduate Studies (within 30 calendar days, unless extended by the panel by written notification to the Dean of Graduate Studies and to the grievant and the department)
11. Written decision by the Dean of Graduate Studies (within 30 days of receipt of the written recommendation of the panel, unless extended by the Dean of Graduate Studies with written notice of the extension to all parties)

Preparation for the Administrative Proceeding

All materials, including a list of witnesses with a short summary of the content of their presentations and a short statement (not to exceed two pages) of the issues and facts to be considered by the review panel, must be submitted to Graduate Studies at least two weeks (14 days) in advance of the administrative review. Materials will then be distributed to the grievant(s), to the chair of the department against which the grievance has been filed, and to the members of the review panel. Thereafter, if any of the parties wishes to have additional materials or witnesses considered by members of the review panel, such materials or witness names must be received by Graduate Studies no later than one week in advance of the administrative review, at which time all materials will be distributed to the parties as well as to the members of the review panel.

Graduate Studies will pay for reasonable reproduction costs, but the cost of reproducing packets in excess of 50 pages will be charged to the submitting party (graduate student or department). No audio/visual equipment will be allowed at the administrative review unless a written request for equipment is received by Graduate Studies at least one week before the scheduled date of the administrative

review. The requesting party is responsible for providing the requested audio/visual equipment.

The chair of the review panel may, at his or her discretion, convene a planning meeting with the department representative and the grievant to discuss the material and witnesses submitted, in order to expedite the review by eliminating redundant and irrelevant information and by defining the precise issues that will be considered by the panel.

Presentation of the issues should be concise and relevant. The chair of the review panel shall be responsible for conducting the administrative review and making decisions regarding applicable procedures. The points of dispute may be summarized or illustrated by anecdote. Experience suggests that the best approach is to carefully tailor the formal presentation to the pertinent issues and to allow the panel members time for questions.

Attendance at the Administrative Proceeding

Attorneys are not allowed to attend at any point in the review process. The grievant, however, may bring one or two additional persons to the administrative review for support and counsel. The grievant will be solely responsible for his or her presentation. The review panel described in this document operates as part of an academic administrative review, not a judicial proceeding. The graduate student must notify Graduate Studies, in writing, at least two weeks before the scheduled date of the administrative review if he/she wishes to have one or two additional persons present. The presence of these additional person(s) does not change the proceeding, as they will not be able to examine witnesses, ask questions, advocate, or otherwise take part.

Honor Code Violations

Honor Code violations are handled through the Honor Code Office and are not subject to the same procedures as academic grievances. For more information regarding Honor Code policies and procedures, contact the Honor Code Office.

Graduation

Information Relevant to All Graduating Students

Before applying for graduation, a graduate student should have completed all course work on his or her approved Program of Study or be currently registered for the remaining requirements. During the final semester or the semester of final oral and written examinations, a graduate student must register for at least 2.0 credit hours. In special cases, students may pay an equivalent registration

fee through Graduate Studies for 2.0 credit hours. Audit and independent study credits are not acceptable. Students who are registered for at least 2.0 credit hours (or who have paid the 2.0 credit hour minimum registration fee) and successfully defend their dissertation, thesis, or selected project and complete all remaining requirements by the last day of the semester will graduate the following semester but will not need any additional tuition fees. However, if any incomplete requirement carries over to the following semester, the student is required to register for two credit hours.

The graduate committee chair (or advisor) should work closely with students as they prepare to complete the final requirements for their degree and apply for graduation. Missed deadlines and misunderstandings about final requirements can lead to serious delays in graduation plans. The graduate committee chair should periodically check the student's record to see what progress is being made and what help may be needed.

Graduate students should apply for graduation by the deadlines listed in the Graduation Deadlines for Graduate Students found on the Graduate Studies web site: http://www.byu.edu/gradstudies/images/forms/ADV_Form_8_0709.pdf. Applications received after the deadlines will be processed for the next graduation. All students must obtain the Application for Graduation (ADV Form 8a) online at http://www.byu.edu/gradstudies/images/forms/ADV_Form_8_a.pdf and then complete and submit the ADV Form 8a to their department. After the department has entered the graduation information in AIM, Graduate Studies will instruct students by email to review their progress report. Students should report any discrepancies to their departments. Students who do not meet graduation deadlines will be withdrawn from graduation and must reapply.

Oral and Comprehensive Examinations

Departments may require students to take an oral exam, a master's course work exam (oral or written), and/or a doctoral comprehensive exam (oral and/or written). The examination is normally given when the student has completed the required course work for the degree. A culminating experience such as a comprehensive examination in combination with the defense of the dissertation or thesis is considered part of the preparation for the graduate degree. If a student has a declared minor, it is expected that the examination will include subject matter from the minor field. Some master's degree programs require comprehensive exams but not theses. Department comprehensive and oral examinations are expected to be demanding and fair. They should require currency in the field, thorough analysis of the questions or problems posed, and synthesis of knowledge in the discipline—all at a level appropriate for the degree to be awarded. They should also require skill in expression.

Departments should provide published and well-publicized criteria for what constitutes acceptable performance on department oral and comprehensive examinations. The purpose, format, range of content, and nature of examinations should be described, and sample questions from past examinations should be available for study. Departments are expected to apply consistent and rigorous standards in evaluating examinations. Departments are required to establish a mechanism for providing feedback and a clear policy on retaking failed comprehensive examinations.

Commencement, Convocation, and Diplomas

All candidates for graduation are invited to participate in the university's commencement and convocation exercises in either April or August. (Students completing degrees in December are invited to participate in the following April commencement activities; students completing degrees in June are invited to participate in August commencement.) Doctoral candidates are hooded and master's candidates are recognized in their respective college convocation exercises. No honor designations are given upon conferral of advanced degrees. Various honor societies, however, may nominate graduate students for membership. Diplomas are mailed to graduates six to eight weeks after graduation. The degree is recorded on the student's official transcript within one month after graduation. For students who have completed all of their course work but will not receive their degree until the next graduation, a Letter of Completion may be requested from Graduate Studies to certify to an employer or an external institution that they have completed all degree requirements and the degree will be conferred. In order to receive an official university seal, the letter must be signed by the Dean of Graduate Studies or the University Registrar.

Information Relevant to Graduating Students in Dissertation, Thesis, and Selected Project Programs

Every department is expected to require a culminating experience of its graduate students, regardless of whether the student is in a traditional or applied program. The culminating experience is usually a research-based dissertation or thesis, but it may be a project or report in a master's program. Students in selected project programs must meet the same requirements as students in thesis programs with regard to the scheduling of the final oral examination, the composition of the graduate committee, and the standards of the major written work, as well as submission to the library.

Excellence in Dissertations, Theses, and Projects

Students should take their department's course in research methodology before

they begin the culminating writing experience. The student's graduate committee should carefully direct the culminating writing experience, including the research design, the prospectus preparation, the research itself, and the preparation of the written document. The topic should be one of consequence that makes substantial contributions to some aspect of the discipline, and one that the graduate committee chair is well prepared to direct. The prospectus is a critical aspect of the student's project that precedes intensive research; careful departmental review of the prospectus should eliminate any major problems. By their excellence and uniqueness, these research and writing experiences impressively demonstrate the achievements, knowledge, and skills of the students at the time the graduate degree is completed. The final product should be well written and should lead directly to a publishable piece of work. Faculty mentors should encourage students to publish their work and should assist in that effort.

Graduate Studies is not responsible for the content or format of dissertations, theses, and selected projects. The Dean of Graduate Studies, as part of the university review of academic programs, selects dissertations, theses, selected projects, and performances for external review. Format requirements of the title page, graduate committee approval page, final reading approval and acceptance page, abstract, etc. are described in the handout entitled *Minimum Standards for Submitting Dissertations, Theses, and Selected Projects*, available from Graduate Studies and the Graduate Studies web site (http://www.byu.edu/gradstudies/images/forms/ADV_Form_11.pdf). All dissertations, theses, and selected projects, must meet the following minimum university standards:

- Fonts are to be black and of a standard 12 point size, (10 or 11 for tables and figures), in a serif face such as Times Roman or Palatino. Paper copies submitted for binding (may be double-sided) should be on 24-pound, acid-free, bond paper.
- Margins are to be 1 inch on all sides.
- The style guide approved in the department must be followed. The format must be consistent and correct throughout.
- Pages are to be correctly paginated. Preliminary pages are to be numbered in Roman numerals, starting with i. The body of the work should be numbered with Arabic numerals beginning with 1. All pages are to be numbered consecutively in the body and the appendix (1a, 10c, etc. are not allowed).
- The standard university format should be followed for title page and acknowledgments.

The department may establish its own standards and guidelines beyond the

university minimums regarding format. The department should select a standard style (i.e., Turabian, MLA, or APA) and require that students consistently follow it.

Students writing dissertations, theses, or selected projects need to be informed early of the university's style requirements in addition to the department's requirements. The graduate committee chair has particular responsibility for assuring that the following are completed correctly:

- The final work's format, citations, and bibliographic style are consistent and acceptable.
- Illustrative materials including figures, tables, and charts are in proper places and formatted correctly.
- The final manuscript is satisfactory to the graduate committee and ready for submission to the university library as an ETD.

The oral defense should be scheduled to allow time for making corrections to the work after the defense and before the deadline for submitting the final document as an ETD. After the defense of the dissertation, thesis, or selected project followed by any required content revisions, the final version of the document is submitted as an ETD for review by the department, college, and Library Administration Office. All theses, dissertations, and selected projects are **REQUIRED** to be submitted as an ETD. Paper copies are not required by the library. Department committee chairs or coordinators may request a bound copy and students may also desire personal bound copies. Any library bound paper copies are paid for by the student. The binding fee includes the fee for mailing personal copies within the U.S. Doctoral students are responsible for a microfilming fee for dissertations. Also doctoral students may choose to pay a fee to have UMI register the copyright of their dissertation. Students wishing the library to mail copies outside the United States may pay for air mail or for overseas surface mail (which requires two to three months for delivery). Students should contact the Library Administration Office for current fee information.

Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETDs)

Electronic theses and dissertations (ETDs) are electronic documents that represent the culminating research of a graduate student. The ETD is similar to its paper predecessor, but offers a technologically advanced medium suitable for machine archives and worldwide retrieval. They may include multimedia objects that could not be reproduced in a printed volume. They do not require advanced technological skills, as they can be prepared on most word processor or document preparation systems, and they do not require printing or binding costs. ETDs require no library shelf space and are available to any interested persons through

Internet access.

Graduate students receive benefits from having their theses and dissertations submitted and archived electronically. As the results of their research become available to scholars throughout the world, they become participants in worldwide learning communities. Also, better presentation of research is possible using color diagrams and images, hypertext links, audio enhancement, simulations, animation, video, spreadsheets, databases, etc. that can be integrated into an electronic document. Finally, ETDs enable the university to economically fulfill its responsibilities of recording and archiving theses and dissertations. All graduate students must submit their thesis or dissertation electronically. The University requires electronic submission. Students should refer to the ETD web site (<http://etd.byu.edu>) for detailed information on the electronic submission standards.

ETD Creation

Students submit their theses or dissertations as a single PDF (portable document format) file. Typically, the PDF files are generated using Adobe Acrobat software, which retains all formatting information and allows the addition of multimedia objects. Documents prepared with many common software programs and document preparation systems, Microsoft Word, WordPerfect, TeX, LaTeX, and other applications that can output to a print file (postscript) can be easily converted to PDF files.

ETD Copyright and Intellectual Property Issues

One of the important aims of the ETD policy is to properly manage intellectual property rights associated with research performed at BYU. This is accomplished by: (1) documenting the student author's intellectual property rights by depositing his or her work in BYU's digital depository and (2) determining whether the student's work is released a) immediately to the public, b) delayed for one year, or c) held in "secured access" status for a specified period of time to acquire patent or other rights.

ETD Access

ETDs will be available worldwide using the following methods:

- Accessed on the Internet through BYU's collection with ability to link directly to a specific ETD
- Library catalog searches to find theses or dissertations by subject, title, or author and link directly to them
- Search engines that allow full-text searching for specific ETDs
- Utilizing the Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations
- Dissertation abstracts available electronically through UMI Dissertation

Publishing

Students may decide how widely their theses and dissertations will be made available. In consultation with faculty, students should consider patent, publishing, and other proprietary issues as they make their decisions. BYU allows three levels of access:

Immediate Release allows worldwide access to the entire work through the WorldWide Web; it is strongly recommended.

Delayed Release postpones the release of the entire work for up to one year for publication or other reasons. After the one year delay, the work will be automatically released for worldwide access.

Secured Access secures the thesis or dissertation for patent purposes. At the end of the secured period, the ETD will be released for worldwide access. The secured access option requires the approval of the Dean of Graduate Studies.

Final Oral Examination (Defense)

The final oral examination (defense of the dissertation, thesis, or selected project) must be scheduled by the department in the AIM system at least two weeks in advance. Students should be reminded of this deadline by their graduate committee chair as their work nears completion. Final examinations may not be held during the interim periods between semesters or terms. All members of the BYU academic community are invited to attend the final oral examination, but only members of the student's graduate committee may question the candidate and vote on his or her performance. Examination questions are to be carefully framed to require a grasp of discipline essentials and the ability to analyze and synthesize.

The oral examination or defense of the thesis, dissertation, performance, or other culminating product is an important part of graduate education. Accordingly, the *Principles and Characteristics of Graduate Education* note that exams should be “demanding and fair. They require currency in the field, thorough analysis of the questions or problems posed, and synthesis of knowledge in the discipline, all at a level appropriate for the degree to be awarded” (p.8). In order for students to pass the final defense/exam, (with or without qualifications) they must demonstrate a sound understanding of their work and its implications.

Programs are encouraged to help students prepare for the defense of the culminating experience by communicating expectations for student performance. Such expectations might include the following:

1. A well thought-out, well-organized, cogent summary of the student's work including,

- a. An explanation of how the current work relates to the student's discipline
 - b. The rationale behind the project in the context of available literature
 - c. If the student has been part of a research team or lab, an explanation of the student's intellectual contribution to the project and a description of how the student's work fits into the broader research conducted in this lab
 - d. The questions or issues the current work has designed to address
 - e. The way the design, method, and/or approach addressed those questions.
 - f. The analysis of data gathered
 - g. The results, outcomes, final products, or performance
2. An interpretation of results, findings, contributions, insights, and conclusions and their significance. What does this work add to existing knowledge?
 3. A discussion of implications the work suggests for future research or creative endeavor
 4. A discussion of any applied or clinical implications suggested by the work
 5. Thoughtful, well-founded responses to all questions the committee members might ask.

The student and all committee members are expected to be present for the defense. Departments may request accommodations for committee members (not committee chairs or students) under the following circumstances:

1. A member of the graduate student's committee is employed at another university, and the student has worked in that professor's lab/studio during the graduate program. An accommodation may be requested for the committee member to participate in the defense via video conferencing.
2. A committee member has left the university during the student's program but has continued to work actively with the committee and the student. An accommodation may be requested for the committee member to participate in the defense via video conferencing.

Accommodations require the approval of the student's department, the college dean, and the graduate dean.

The graduate committee may vote to pass, pass with qualification, recess, or fail the student. If the decision is to pass, no further work is required. If the decision is to pass with qualification, the committee may require minor revisions of the dissertation, thesis, or selected project, or may request that the candidate strengthen his or her preparation in subject matter areas, or both. When these qualifications are cleared and the committee chair has properly recorded the clearance in AIM, the student is judged to have passed the examination. If two or more examiners vote to recess, the examination is recessed, meaning that with the approval of the Graduate Committee the candidate may schedule a second and final examination. The new examination cannot be held sooner than a month after the recessed examination. If two or more examiners vote to fail, the examination is failed and the graduate degree program of the student is terminated. Because examination results of recess or fail may lead to termination of graduate status, the department is required to submit Form 10 (Report of Committee Action for Final Oral Examination) to Graduate Studies.

Grade Change Authorizations

Graduate students typically take dissertation, thesis, or selected project credits (799R, 699R, or 698R) throughout their graduate program. Nevertheless, until the dissertation, thesis, or selected project has been successfully defended, only a *T* (course work in progress) grade is assigned for these credits. After successfully defending the dissertation, thesis, or selected project, departments submit a Grade Change Authorization to the Records Office to change the *T* grades to *P* (pass). For 799R and 699R credits, departments need only submit one form for all semesters (writing "All" in the "Semester/Term" blank). For all other courses (such as 698R project) departments must submit a separate form for each semester the student received a *T*.

Policy on Granting Graduate Degrees Posthumously

In some cases a graduate degree may be awarded posthumously at the request of the student's family and the department. The general principle underlying the awarding of posthumous degrees is that the student had completed most program requirements at the time of death. The following conditions should apply:

1. The graduate student had completed all coursework requirements and had been awarded a "pass" or "pass with qualifications" in the defense of the culminating graduate product (e.g., thesis, project, or dissertation).
2. In a non-thesis program the student had completed all coursework and applied experiences (practicum, internships) with the exception of a few requirements

in the last semester of study.

Procedure: Requests for awarding a degree posthumously must come from the student's academic department to the college dean. The college dean makes a recommendation to the graduate dean, who makes a recommendation to the AVPs.

Program and Curricular Review

Graduate Program Reviews and Graduate Curriculum Information

All graduate programs are expected to follow precepts described in the pamphlet entitled *Principles and Characteristics of Graduate Education, Brigham Young University*. Graduate programs are reviewed every six or seven years as part of the department/unit review conducted by the Office of Planning and Assessment. The review process involves a self-study and a university-level evaluation conducted by an internal review team and an external reviewer from within the discipline. A sampling of graduate student works (dissertations, theses, projects, performances, etc.) is also submitted for external review.

Review teams are asked to address the following questions:

1. Does the program have a clear definition of purpose in line with the university and department missions? Is this purpose evident in both the planned programs and the theoretical orientation of the program?
2. Does the program include sufficient numbers of qualified graduate faculty who mentor students effectively? Are faculty members productive scholars with research/creative programs into which they can involve graduate students?
3. Does the department maintain high academic standards as evidenced by admissions standards and practices; curriculum and course work; student dissertations, theses, and projects; and comprehensive and oral examinations? Are the curriculum and program requirements appropriate, current, and clearly graduate level?
4. Are procedures for program governance and student advisement well defined, clearly articulated, and helpful? Is student progress monitored so that students complete their degrees in a timely fashion?
5. Are there sufficient resources to support the graduate program? Consider faculty expertise, faculty availability, research support, student funding,

library resources, outside funding, and space.

Admissions Targets and Ceilings

Each program has identified a target number of graduate students for whom the department has the resources to offer a graduate experience of rigor and quality. BYU has assigned each program an admission ceiling related to this target number.

If the target number of graduate students for a particular program needs to be increased, a meeting should be arranged to include the department graduate coordinator, the department chair, the college dean, and the Dean of Graduate Studies. Department representatives need to be able to demonstrate that resources are adequate to support additional graduate students and that a larger graduate program in the area would enhance the mission of the department and the university.

Requesting Curriculum and Program Changes

Departments may submit proposals for curriculum changes to their college curriculum representative at any time, but they should consider the timing of the change in relation to the admissions cycle. Such changes may include addition, deletion, or alteration of any of the course offerings. The college curriculum representative in turn submits the proposal to the university's Curriculum Committee. The Curriculum Committee, which consists of representatives from all colleges on campus, is responsible for approving all changes in both undergraduate and graduate curricula.

Graduate program changes (e.g., changes to core requirements, program hours, etc.) and proposals for new programs require that a proposal be submitted to the Dean of Graduate Studies. Such proposals may be submitted at any time during the academic year. The proposal is first approved by the Graduate Council, then directed to the Associate Academic Vice President who will present it to the Academic Vice President, the President's Council, and in some cases the Church Commissioner of Education and the Board of Trustees.

Graduate Catalog

The *Graduate Catalog* is updated annually and is available online (<http://saas.byu.edu/catalog>). The catalog provides current and prospective graduate students with detailed information about graduate study at BYU, including policies, admissions procedures, and requirements that apply across the university. An entry is included for each graduate department describing specific program requirements, courses, and graduate faculty.

Departments should submit new information for the catalog as early as possible during Fall Semester. Changes integrated in the *Graduate Handbook* should be reflected in the materials that departments send to applicants.

Records Management and Retention

Graduate Studies maintains student records pertinent to graduate study at BYU, including original applications and official transcripts received from other universities. All U.S. student application documents are imaged, as are the documents of international students who are admitted. The imaged documents of U.S. applicants not admitted are purged in the second year after the submitted application. The imaged application of students who are admitted but fail to finish their degree are destroyed after ten years. Records of students who are admitted and complete their degree are maintained in imaging for permanent storage.

Departments are encouraged to archive their records of graduate student applications. Each year near the end of July, Graduate Studies provides departments with a Graduate Admissions Clean Out Report, which lists all non-admitted U.S. and international applicants whose records are two years or older. Upon completion of this report, the records are purged from imaging, and departments may purge these applications from their files.

The BYU policy concerning confidentiality of student academic records reflects a reasonable balance between the university's obligation for the instruction and welfare of the student and the university's responsibility to society. Every possible effort is made to maintain student academic records in confidence by withholding information from individuals who are not authorized to receive it. Faculty and administrative officers who have a legitimate need to use students' records will be allowed access as needed without prior permission from the student. Because all student records and reports contain confidential information, it is necessary to shred them. The Confidentiality of Records Policy is detailed in the *University Handbook* and the *BYU Undergraduate Catalog*.