



# The University of Tennessee Health Science Center College of Graduate Health Sciences College Policies

Document Name: Credit Hours - Master's Degree  
Effective Date: January 23, 2007  
Document Status: Approved

## Purpose

This policy defines credit hour requirements for Master's degree-seeking students

## Policy Details

A candidate for a Master's degree must complete a minimum of 30 semester credit hours of graduate courses; specific programs may require additional credit hours for completion. The program of study must be approved by the student's Faculty Committee and the Program Chair. Eighteen semester hours or more of credit are required in the discipline. The student must continue to register for Course 800 for the entire period during which the student is engaged in thesis or project research, including the semester in which the thesis or project is accepted by the College.

If a full-time or a part-time student's faculty committee certifies that the student has completed all experimental work for the degree and will be primarily writing and completing the thesis in the next semester of enrollment, then the student may register for one credit hour of research. The request for permission to register for one credit hour must be made by the student's research advisor. If the student fails to submit an approved thesis or project by the deadline for graduation in that semester, the student will be required to register for nine credit hours in the subsequent semester(s).

A Master's degree candidate in the Epidemiology Program, the University of Tennessee - University of Memphis Joint Graduate Program in Biomedical Engineering, Dental Sciences Program, Biomedical Sciences Program, or Pharmaceutical Sciences Program may elect to take the degree with a project option. Credit hour requirements for each option are detailed in the Catalog under the specific program.



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## Policy Scope

Applies to all Master's degree-seeking students.

## Related Policies

Admission to Degree Candidacy - Masters  
Research and Thesis

## Definitions

**Candidate.** A student who has been admitted to Master's degree candidacy.  
**Course 800.** The specific Masters Thesis Research course for the discipline (e.g., BIOE 800).

**Project option.** An option for research resulting in a publication quality manuscript.

**Thesis option.** An option for research resulting in a formal thesis that meets the College formatting standards.

## Document History

Approved January 23, 2007 by Graduate Studies Council.

Revised July 1, 2007 by Graduate Studies Council to require Master's students to continually enroll in Course 800 and to allow less than full-time enrollment for students completing their thesis writing.

Administratively revised May 14, 2013 to add project option for all masters programs.

Administratively modified December 11, 2013 to adjust the minimum number of credit hours during thesis writing to one credit hour.

Revised November 24, 2015 by Graduate Studies Council to require research advisor approval for reduced registration hours.