



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

Document Name: Residency Requirements - Doctor of Philosophy  
Effective Date: November 27, 2007  
Document Status: Approved

## Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to define the minimum residency requirement for earning a Doctor of Philosophy degree. The degree of Doctor of Philosophy is awarded for exceptional scholarly attainment and demonstrated capacity in original investigation. Requirements for the degree are, therefore, not determined merely in terms of a fixed number of courses, credits, and years of resident study, but primarily in terms of arrangements that guarantee sustained, systematic study; productive research; and superior attainment in a particular field.

## Policy Details

Doctoral programs normally include six or more terms of full-time study beyond the bachelor's degree. At least one academic year of the required term of study must be in residence at UTHSC. The student must be admitted to candidacy within three years, and all requirements must be completed within eight years, from the time of a student's first enrollment in a doctoral program. An extension for extraordinary circumstances (e.g., an official leave of absence) may be considered by the Dean upon written petition from the student.

All doctoral degree students, except those on active military duty, will enroll each term (see Absence policy).

## Policy Scope

Applies to all Doctor of Philosophy degree students regardless of degree candidacy status.

## Related Policies

Absence  
Admission to Degree Candidacy - Doctor of Philosophy



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## Definitions

Active military duty. “Full-time duty in the active service of a (United States) uniformed service, and includes full-time training duty, annual training duty, full-time National Guard duty, and attendance, while in the active service, at a school designated as a service school by law or by the Secretary concerned. The term ‘active service’ means service on active duty.” [37 USCS § 101]

Degree candidacy. The satisfactory demonstration of the necessary preparation to continue pursuit of the desired degree.

Term of full-time study. A term of full-time study is defined as nine or more hours of graduate credit earned in one academic term.

## Supporting Information

United States Code, 2011 Edition

Title 37 - PAY AND ALLOWANCES OF THE UNIFORMED SERVICES

CHAPTER 1 - DEFINITIONS

Sec. 101 - Definitions (<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/USCODE-2011-title37/html/USCODE-2011-title37-chap1-sec101.htm>)

## Document History

Approved November 27, 2007 by Graduate Studies Council.

Revised and approved January 22, 2013 by Graduate Studies Council to align Leave of Absence and Withdrawal policies with UTHSC policy.

Administratively reviewed by Graduate Studies Council October 27, 2015.