

University of Kentucky Senate Admissions and Academic Standards Committee

From: Senate Admissions and Academic Standards Committee (Joe Sottile (Chair), Kenneth Calvert, Raphael Finkel, Lee Ann Jung, Peggy Piascik, Suzanne Segerstrom, Glenn Telling)

To: Sheila Brothers, Office of the Senate Council

Date: January 10, 2008

The following proposal has been reviewed by the University Senate Admissions and Academic Standards Committee.

Simplify Pre-Qualifying Residency Requirements (Submitted by the Graduate School)

The Graduate School has proposed to eliminate the existing Pre-Qualifying Residency Requirement (Model I, Model II, and Model III) and replace it with a requirement in which

“...36 hours of coursework or the transfer of a Master’s degree and 18 hours of coursework should be completed within 5 years of enrollment into the doctoral program.”

The committee voted to approve the change in pre-qualifying residency requirements and suggests the following language to achieve this objective:

The pre-qualifying residency requirement is completion of 36 hours of coursework, or a Master's degree and 18 hours of coursework, within five years of enrollment in the doctoral program.

2. PROPOSAL TO SIMPLIFY PRE-QUALIFYING RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS

Students must complete the equivalent of two years of residency (36 credit hours of coursework) prior to the qualifying examination. Currently, students may fulfill this pre-qualifying residency requirement via one of three models (subject to approval by the individual doctoral program):

Model I

- master's degree or 18 graduate hours at the University of Kentucky, or transfer of residence credit from an awarded master's at another accredited school; plus,
- two consecutive semesters enrolled full-time, i.e., 9 or more credits per semester (may include combined first and second summer sessions)

Model II

- master's degree or 18 graduate hours at the University of Kentucky, or transfer of residence credit from an awarded master's at another accredited school; plus,
- enrollment part-time (at least 6 graduate credits per semester) during three consecutive semesters

Model III

- master's degree or 18 graduate hours at the University of Kentucky, or transfer of residence credit from an awarded master's at another accredited school; plus,
- accumulation of 24 graduate credits at the University of Kentucky during three consecutive academic or calendar years (exclusive of short courses; no more than nine of these 24 credits may be earned in summer sessions)

At the time of establishing these models there was no requirement for taking the qualifying examination within a specified period of time after initial enrollment. Effective fall 2005, students are now required to take the qualifying examination within five years of entry into the program.

With this time limit in place, we propose that Models I, II and III be eliminated, and that the new pre-qualifying requirement will simply be that 36 hours of coursework on the transfer of a Master's degree and 18 hours of coursework should be completed within 5 years of enrollment into the doctoral program.

Proposal to Simplify Pre-Qualifying Residency Requirements

Rationale:

The Graduate School proposes that we do away with the Models I, II, and III for a required distribution of 18 hours of the pre-Qualifying Examination residency period.

In 2004 University Senate enacted a time limit of five years for doctoral students on the period preceding the Qualifying Examination. Before, there was no time limit on this period. The Graduate School proposes that this time limit makes the three models for fulfilling the residency requirement essentially redundant. There continues to be a residency requirement of 36 hours (or 18 hours and an earned Master's degree) as a minimum prerequisite for the Qualifying Examination, now within a time frame of 5 years. Programs, if they wish to, can make the local time limits or requirements more stringent.

We argue that the defined distribution of these 36 hours (or master's plus 18) is best handled at the program level. We find we have to make frequent exceptions and waive this rule, simply because a student has not taken the 18 hours sequentially or not taken the 24 hours within a prescribed time frame of 3 years. Often they will stop out for one semester, but still have the requisite 9-9 or 6-6-6 distribution. As our doctoral student body diversifies and has a greater range in age, professional experience, and employment, the residency model hinders program flexibility and the student's timetable.