Regulations for Doctor of Philosophy Programs

Description
The Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree is the most advanced research degree awarded by the University. It requires demonstration of expertise in a major field of study, a working understanding of one or more related disciplines, independent research leading to a significant and original contribution to knowledge, and (in some cases) proficiency in one or more foreign languages. Recipients of the Ph.D. degree generally engage in careers of active scholarship in a wide variety of employment settings.

Degree Requirements

Supervisory Committee A student admitted to a Ph.D. program must be under the guidance of a supervisory committee appointed soon after admission: see Guidance of Graduate Students in the Graduate Academic Regulations section of this catalog.

Credit Requirements The program of study leading to a Ph.D. degree must satisfy the following minimum credit requirements: 66 total, at least half of which need to be earned in courses exclusive of dissertation. All credit applied to meet the credit requirements must be graduate academic credit except that a limited number of credits earned in undergraduate courses outside the major field of study are allowed (see Restrictions on Certain Courses). In all cases, at least two thirds of the total credit requirement must be earned at Boise State University after admission to the program. All credit must be approved for application by the supervisory committee.

Residency A Ph.D. student must spend at least one academic year in full-time, on-campus graduate study at Boise State University.

Comprehensive Examination A Ph.D. student must pass a comprehensive examination that assesses 1) depth and breadth of knowledge in the major field of study and in one or more related disciplines and 2) readiness to undertake dissertation research; see Comprehensive Examination below.

Language Proficiency A Ph.D. student must be proficient in English and may be required to demonstrate a prescribed level of ability in one or more other languages. If language ability beyond proficiency in English is required, the means of verification are defined by the academic unit responsible for the program.

Dissertation A Ph.D. student must prepare a dissertation written in clear and effective English that embodies the results of his or her original scholarly research (see Dissertation below).

Final Oral Examination A Ph.D. student must pass a final oral examination that rigorously and deeply probes the ability of the candidate to describe and defend all aspects of the dissertation research in both a public setting and in a private conference with experts (see Final Oral Examination below).

Duration of Graduate Study The minimum duration of study for the Ph.D. degree is three academic years beyond the baccalaureate degree. All requirements for a Ph.D. degree (including courses completed at another college or university) must be started and completed within a single continuous interval of no more than ten years.

Restrictions on Certain Courses
All Ph.D. programs must be consistent with the following restrictions. An academic unit responsible for a particular Ph.D. program may impose more stringent restrictions for that program.

Undergraduate Courses An undergraduate course may be applied to meet the credit requirements of a Ph.D. degree subject to the following restrictions:
1. The course must be an upper-division course and must be in a discipline outside the major field of study of the Ph.D. program.
2. A grade of B or better must be earned in the course.
3. The course cannot represent effort for an undergraduate thesis, internship, practicum, independent study or research, conference or workshop, experiential learning, study abroad, seminar, or colloquium.

Previously Applied Courses In general, any course applied to a previously earned degree or certificate of any type at any institution cannot be applied to meet the credit requirements of a Ph.D. degree. The only exception is a course applied to a master’s degree previously earned at a regionally accredited U.S. institution or non-U.S. institution approved by the Graduate College and the Registrar. Each course allowed under this exception is subject to the following additional restrictions:
1. A grade of B or better must have been earned in the course.
2. The course cannot represent effort for a graduate culminating activity or for experiential learning.

Courses allowed under this exception are limited by the fundamental requirement that at least two thirds of the total credit requirement for the Ph.D. degree must be earned at Boise State University since admission to the program.

Aggregate Restriction No more than one third of the total credit requirement exclusive of culminating activity credit (693 Dissertation) can be met by the sum of credits earned in undergraduate courses, pass-fail courses, and university-wide courses numbered 590, 594-598, and 696-697 (or equivalent courses that may appear as transfer credits).

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