

9.5

Institutional Credits for a Graduate/Professional Degree

At least one-third of credit hours required for a graduate or post-baccalaureate professional degree are earned through instruction offered by the institution awarding the degree.

Judgment

Compliant Non-Compliant Not Applicable

Narrative

Graduate Degrees

The Graduate School has established policies to ensure the integrity of its post-baccalaureate degree programs. Academic policies concerning degree requirements, the maximum number of transfer credits, and policies concerning combination degrees or concurrent enrollment are detailed in the [Graduate Studies Bulletin](#) (see sections on [Academic Regulations](#) and [Degree Requirements](#)). For instance, the specific section on "Transfer of Course Credit" states: *"No more than 12 semester hours of graduate credit may be transferred into a master's program that requires 30-36 hours; no more than 15 semester hours of graduate credit may be transferred into a master's program that requires 37-45 hours; and no more than 18 semester hours of graduate credit may be transferred into a master's program that requires 46 or more semester hours. Only credits with grades of B or better (equivalent to a 3.0 on a 4.0 scale) may be transferred from another institution into any graduate degree program. Course work transferred for credit toward a Master's degree, Graduate Certificate or Specialist Program must be from an accredited institution and must be no more than six years old at the time of graduation and coursework transferred into a doctoral degree program must be no more than ten years old at the time of graduation."*

These long-standing policies and degree requirements have been approved by the [Graduate Council](#) and are implemented by the dean of the Graduate School. Any exceptions to policy or requirement undergo rigorous examination by the dean of the Graduate School before approval. Exceptions are granted only with sufficient and appropriate justification and any necessary documentation.

The Graduate School awards transfer credit on the recommendation of the graduate student's academic program. The program reviews the course syllabus and official transcript for semester (or equivalent) hours awarded, course rigor, relevance, and course content with a level of instruction equivalent to that offered by the university's own graduate programs. Once reviewed, the program makes a recommendation to the dean of the Graduate School to approve transfer of credits within approved limits to the student's program of study. The approval of the dean of the Graduate School is communicated to the Office of the University Registrar and transfer credit is posted with designation as transfer credit to the academic record of the student.

Course work not part of a completed certificate program or graduate degree from another institution may be transferred for credit toward a Certificate of Graduate Study or Specialist Degree. No more than 6 hours of credit may be transferred into graduate certificate programs of 12 to 17 hours; no more than 9 hours of credit may be transferred into graduate certificate programs of 18 or more hours. Only credits with grades of B or better (equivalent to 3.0 on a 4.0 grading scale) may be transferred from another institution and applied towards a Certificate or Specialist program. Course work transferred for credit toward a Certificate of Graduate Study or Specialist Program must be from an accredited institution and must be no more than six years old at the time of graduation.

No more than 12 semester hours of graduate credit may be transferred into a master's program that requires 30-36 hours; no more than 15 semester hours of graduate credit may be transferred into a master's program that requires 37-45 hours; and no more than 18 semester hours of graduate credit may be transferred into a master's program that requires 46 or more semester hours. Only credits with grades of B or better may be transferred from another institution and applied towards a master's degree program. Course work transferred for credit toward a master's degree must be from an accredited institution and must be no more than six years old at the time of graduation. Transfer work from other institutions is [presented on the University of South Carolina transcript](#) with the course name, the academic term and the name of the institution at which the credit was earned.

A maximum of 12 semester hours of graduate credit that are part of a completed graduate degree or certificate program at the University of South Carolina may be applied towards a second University of South Carolina master's degree program.

A doctoral degree requires a minimum of 60 graduate credit hours, including 12-30 hours of dissertation preparation (899), beyond the baccalaureate degree or a minimum of 30 graduate hours, including 12-30 hours of dissertation preparation (899), beyond the master's degree. Doctoral degree students must complete at least half of the hours listed on the [Program of Study](#) in courses numbered 700 or higher.

A limited amount of course work may be transferred from another institution for credit toward a doctoral degree. The exact number of transfer hours varies by program, but may not constitute more than 50 percent of the hours listed for a program of study, not including dissertation preparation (899) or the equivalent. The transfer course work must be relevant to the program and have course content and a level of instruction equivalent to that offered by the university's own graduate programs. Approval for acceptance of transfer credit to a student's program of study must be approved and justified by the student's academic program and submitted to the dean of the Graduate School for final approval on the [Request for Transfer of Academic Credit \(G-RTC\)](#) form. Only credits with grades of B or better may be transferred from another institution into a doctoral degree program. Course work transferred for credit toward a doctoral degree must be from an accredited institution and must be no more than ten years old at the time of graduation.

Combination graduate program arrangements are documented in the list of [Academic Programs section of the Graduate Bulletin](#). Combination degree programs are approved by Graduate Council and typically allow a student to complete two academic degree programs with fewer credit hours than would be required if completing the degrees separately. The amount of course sharing across the two degrees is consistent with the above policies for transfer credit and concurrent enrollment.

Academic programs done in collaboration with other universities must meet academic credit policies as appropriate for the degree program. All programs developed in collaboration with other institutions, including dual degree, articulated transfer of credit, conditional admission and other arrangements, must be articulated in an agreement or Memorandum of Understanding. When such agreements are domestic, they must be reviewed and approved through the process described in policy [ACAF 2.05 Domestic Consortial Academic Contracts and Agreements](#). When such agreements are international, they must be reviewed and approved through the process described in policy [ACAF 2.06 International Academic Agreements](#).

Professional Degrees

The School of Law offers the Juris Doctorate which requires the successful completion of 90 semester hours. As noted in the [School of Law bulletin](#) (Degree Requirements/Satisfaction of the Residency Requirement), in order to satisfy the residency requirement, 60 semester hours must be completed as a matriculated student at the University of South Carolina School of Law. This information is also posted on the [Law School's website](#): "Students may transfer from another ABA accredited law school to the University of South Carolina School of Law. Most first year courses will transfer if a grade of "C" or better is earned. An official determination is made after the law school transcript is reviewed by the law registrar. No more than 30 credit hours will be accepted for credit toward the 90 hours required for graduation." The Law School is accredited by the American Bar Association and was last reviewed and accredited in 2016. The Law School makes available required [ABA consumer information](#) on its website including [degree requirements](#).

The [Columbia School of Medicine](#) (SOM-C) offers the Doctor of Medicine (MD) which requires that the entire first three years of medical school and at least 60% of the final year must be taken at the home institution. In the [Policies for Curricular Administration](#) (bottom of page 3) only four year IV rotations may be taken as extramural electives (rotations) away from the University of South Carolina School of Medicine-Columbia or the Florence regional campus locations. The SOM-C is accredited by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) and was last reviewed and accredited in 2017.

The Greenville School of Medicine (SOM-G) also offers the Doctor of Medicine. The SOM-G became affiliated with the University of South Carolina Columbia in 2011 and is also accredited by the LCME. Their LCME review is scheduled for Fall 2021. SOM-G awards all credit for the MD degree. The curriculum and [degree requirements](#) are outlined in the [student handbook](#), beginning on page 81 which is also published on the [school's website](#). All curricular decisions and actions are managed by a [curriculum committee](#).

The [College of Pharmacy](#) offers a Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) program that requires 149 credit hours. The lock-step [curriculum](#) is published as part of the [College of Pharmacy Academic Bulletin & Student Handbook](#). All credits required for the Pharm.D. degree are typically earned through instruction offered by the University of South Carolina College of Pharmacy, though students do have the option to take a portion of their elective hours from a select set of courses, predetermined by the College of Pharmacy Curriculum Committee, which are offered by other departments across the university. Only eight of the 149 credits required for the Pharm.D. degree are elective hours, so more than 94% of the credit hours earned toward the Pharm.D. degree are earned through coursework taken within the College of Pharmacy.

Sources

 ABA Published Requirements

-  ACAF 2.05 Consortial Academic Contracts and Agreements
-  ACAF 2.06 International Academic Agreements
-  College of Pharmacy
-  College of Pharmacy 19-20 Bulletin
-  College of Pharmacy Doctor of Pharmacy Curriculum
-  Grad Transfer Credit Form
-  Graduate Academic Regulations
-  Graduate Bulletin - Programs by College/School
-  Graduate Council
-  Graduate Degree Requirements
-  Graduate School - Degree Programs
-  Graduate Studies Bulletin
-  JD_Bulletin
-  Law School Bulletin
-  Law School website
-  SOM-C website
-  SOMG Credit Hours
-  SOMG Degree Requirements
-  SOMG studenthandbook
-  SOMG website
-  School of Law degree_requirements
-  Transfer Work.Grad
-  policies_for_curriculum_administration_2019_2020 SOM-C