

Graduate Admission Policies

Admission Status

Full Graduate Standing

These students have met all requirements for admission and have been accepted by a program leading to a graduate degree. A student must have full graduate standing to receive a graduate degree.

Conditional Standing

Students in conditional standing do not meet all requirements for admission or have deficiencies in prerequisite course work; however, they show potential for successful graduate study. Upon admission in conditional standing, the student's program must specify conditions to be satisfied for a change in status to full graduate standing.

Admitted students with an undergraduate cumulative grade point average (CGPA) below 3.0 at the time of admission will be placed in conditional standing by the Graduate College. The condition placed by the Graduate College requires the student to earn a CGPA of 3.0 or higher in their first nine graduate didactic credits; additional conditions may be placed by the student's academic program.

Students admitted under conditional status are automatically placed on academic warning until the conditions of admission are met (see Academic Standing (<https://catalog.ndsu.edu/graduate/graduate-school-policies/#academicstandardstext>)).

Students admitted conditionally to a graduate program cannot earn more than 12 graduate credits. However, an exception to this policy allows students admitted to an accelerated degree program to earn up to 15 graduate credits while in conditional standing.

Non-Degree Enrollment

This category is for individuals who desire to pursue study beyond the baccalaureate degree for personal growth and improvement of skills but not in order to work toward an advanced degree objective. Some courses may have prerequisites or other requirements, which may require consultation and permission to enroll from course instructors. In courses with limited enrollment, preference is given to degree-seeking students.

Students enrolled with non-degree status are not eligible for graduate assistantships, tuition waivers, or federal title IV student financial assistance. Students in this category are affiliated with the Graduate College and not an academic program. Professional development graduate courses (numbered 600 or 2000), offered by NDSU Distance and Continuing Education (<https://www.ndsu.edu/dce/>), are not eligible to use toward a graduate degree.

Non-degree students who wish to become degree-seeking students must complete the admission process through the Graduate College (including a new application and fee). No more than 10 credits earned as a non-degree student may be used toward a graduate degree, and must be approved by the student's adviser, supervisory committee (if applicable) and the graduate program coordinator.