

General Policies

Admission Status

Full Graduate Standing

These students have met all admission criteria and are fully admitted to a graduate program. Full graduate standing is a prerequisite for the conferral of 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.

- Each program defines specific conditions for students to transition from conditional to full graduate standing.
- Students with an undergraduate CGPA below 3.0 are automatically placed in conditional standing by the Graduate College.
 - **Condition:** Earn a 3.0 or higher CGPA in the first nine didactic graduate credits.
 - **Additional Conditions:** Programs may impose further conditions.
- 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/past-bulletin-archive/2025-2026/graduate/graduate-school-policies/#academicstandardstext>)).

Credit Limitations:

- Conditional students are limited to earning 12 graduate credits before fulfilling admission conditions.
- Accelerated degree programs may allow students to earn up to half of their required graduate credits while in conditional status.
 - Credits earned beyond 15 while in conditional status may not be eligible for undergraduate financial aid and will be charged at the graduate tuition rate.

Non-Degree Admission

This category is for individuals seeking personal and professional growth through graduate-level coursework without pursuing an advanced degree.

Important Considerations:

- Non-degree students are not eligible for:
 - Graduate assistantships
 - Tuition waivers
 - Federal Title IV student financial aid
- Non-degree students are affiliated with the Graduate College, not a specific academic program.
- Some courses may have prerequisites or require instructor permission.
 - Degree-seeking students have enrollment priority in courses with limited space.

Transitioning to Degree-Seeking Status:

- **Admission Process:** Students wishing to pursue a degree must complete the Graduate College application process (including a new application and fee).
- **Credit Transfer:**
 - A maximum of 10 credits earned as a non-degree student may be applied towards a graduate degree.