

CHAPTER II

STUDENTS

SECTION XIII. REQUIREMENTS FOR DOCTORAL DEGREES

A. General Requirements

1. A program leading to a doctoral degree normally shall be the equivalent of at least three years of graduate study beyond the baccalaureate degree.
2. The applicant should have a master's degree from a regionally accredited institution. However, an exceptional student with a baccalaureate degree may be admitted at the discretion of the institution.
3. Letters of recommendation shall be provided in a number deemed sufficient by the institution.
4. The student shall successfully complete a locally determined screening, qualifying examination, or procedure.
5. The student shall complete all course work with a minimum average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale. No grade lower than "C" shall be applicable to the degree.
6. The student shall complete successfully a general or comprehensive examination which may be oral or written or both. This examination shall cover all areas of study included for the degree.
7. A program leading to a doctoral degree shall require independent research competence as evidenced by a doctoral dissertation that augments or reinterprets the knowledge within the field. For a professional doctoral program, demonstrated competence through a creative project that applies to known principles and research procedures, and provides for professional experience may be required in lieu of the dissertation. The student shall be required to complete successfully a final examination (oral or written or both) defending the dissertation.
8. The minimum resident requirement of two semesters or three quarters of consecutive graduate study may be waived at the discretion of the university.
9. All degree requirements must be completed within six calendar years following admission to candidacy. Prior work applied to the degree (including transfer and locally-earned credits) must have been completed within nine calendar years immediately preceding the date on which the degree is conferred. An extension may be granted if approved by the appropriate administrative unit of the institution.
10. Graduate credit, earned beyond the master's degree and prior to admission to the

doctoral program, may be transferred if applicable to the student's approved degree program. Transfer credit may not be used to reduce the minimum resident requirements.

- B. Admission to Candidacy. Each institution shall provide appropriate and regular means for determining candidacy status, usually after successful completion of the general or comprehensive examination.