POLICY STATEMENT

Credit Requirements
Programs leading to a doctoral degree require at least 75 semester graduate credit hours beyond the bachelor's degree and a minimum of 15 credit hours of dissertation. These shall include a minimum of 30 credit hours earned in academic courses that are part of the doctoral program. Doctoral programs normally make use of courses at the 6000 level and above.

Candidacy Examination
Every doctoral degree program (excluding professional doctorates) must require each student to pass a written and/or oral candidacy examination before he or she may be admitted to candidacy for the doctoral degree.

Dissertation
A dissertation is required of all candidates for a doctoral degree (excluding professional doctoral degrees). All of the University policies and procedures governing dissertations shall apply including the requirement that the dissertation must be defended publicly at the announced time and place.

SCOPE
Faculty, graduate students and University Graduate School administration.

REASON FOR POLICY
This policy sets forth the University Doctoral programs requirements for credit hours, candidacy examination, and dissertation defense.

DEFINITIONS

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### ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

N/A

### RELATED RESOURCES

N/A

### CONTACTS

University Graduate School  
Modesto A. Maidique Campus  
11200 SW Eighth Street – Marc 430  
Miami, Florida 33199  
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### HISTORY

**Initial Effective Date:** Originally 3.3.1 REQUIRED CREDIT HOURS: DOCTORAL DEGREE (effective 3/28/89); 3.3.4 COURSE LEVELS (effective 3/28/89); 3.4.1 CANDIDACY EXAMINATION: DOCTORAL DEGREE (effective 3/28/89); 3.5.1 DISSERTATION AND THESIS REQUIREMENTS: DOCTORAL DEGREE (effective 3/28/89); 7.1 DEFINITION (effective 2/28/89) from Graduate Policies and Procedures Manual.  
**Review Dates** *(review performed, no updates)*: N/A  
**Revision Dates** *(updates made to document)*: March 9, 2023