

**Academic Policy Changes for 2018/19**

Note: All academic policy changes described here have been approved by Grad Council and will take effect as of the 2018/19 version of the *Graduate Catalog*. Current, continuing students are not impacted by these changes unless they formally request to follow the 2018/19 *Catalog*, which may (or may not) benefit the student. The Graduate School strongly recommends that all program directors discuss any ramifications of updating to the 2018/19 *Catalog* with students prior to submission of an academic petition.

1. **Course Time Limits and Revalidation**

Time limits on graduate-level coursework will be extended by one year. No courses older than five (5) years may be applied towards a graduate certificate. No courses older than seven (7) years may be applied towards a master’s degree or DNP degree. No courses older than nine (9) years may be applied towards a research doctoral degree (PhD, Ed.D, DBA).

The course revalidation option has been eliminated. Any courses which exceed the time limit must be retaken. The Graduate School *may* consider requests for a single extension of the time limits for one (1) year in cases with rare, extenuating circumstances and with supporting documentation. In such cases, the student and graduate program must provide a signed timeline for program completion that does not exceed one year. Failure to adhere to the approved timeline for completion will result in automatic termination of the student’s enrollment for a lack of satisfactory academic progress. Multiple extensions will not be approved.

1. **Transfer of Credit**
2. The maximum number of transfer credits a master’s program may accept from another institution will move from a fixed amount (6 credit hours) to a percentage (20%) of a program’s required hours. Students pursuing a 30-hour master’s program will still be limited to 6 hours of transfer credit. Students pursuing a 45-hour master’s program will be limited to 9 hours of transfer credit, and so forth. *Note: the University does not accept or award partial credits.*
3. For PhD programs, transfer credits will now be subject to the same time limits as courses taken in-residence at UNC Charlotte.
4. Course taken in-residence at UNC Charlotte for which the student has earned a grade of “C” will now be permitted to transfer between programs, with approval of the program director. As these courses are taken in-residence, they count towards the program GPA and must be offset with an equal number of credit hours graded as “A”.
5. **“C” grades and graduation**

Elimination of the policy capping the number of “C” grades applied towards any master’s degree at 6 hours. Programs are now permitted to establish their own policies on the number of “C” grades which may be applied towards the degree. Students must still maintain a 3.0 GPA on all courses applied towards the degree (DegreeWorks shows this as the ‘Program GPA’). *Note: the academic policy on suspensions and terminations is unchanged; students will still be suspended by the Graduate School for a third grade of “C”.*

1. **‘Advanced Standing’ tracks for PhD programs**

PhD programs that admit students both with and without master’s degrees are now able to seek formal approval to offer an ‘Advanced Standing’ track for students who enter with a relevant master’s degree. This accelerated track must consist of a minimum of 42 credit hours (including GRAD 8002, GRAD 8990, and 18 hours of research). Programs may elect to establish a slightly longer Advanced Standing track. Students pursuing the PhD with advanced standing must complete at least 36 credit hours at UNC Charlotte. *Note: courses taken as part of the student’s master’s program will not be accepted for transfer credit in such cases.*

This change acknowledges that some students begin a PhD program at an advanced level, and thus reflects a shorter path to graduation and eliminates the need to transfer 30 credit hours from the master’s degree, which may consist of courses already exceeding the time limits. The decision to offer advanced standing to a student must be made at the time of admission; students will not be permitted to ‘switch’ over to an advanced standing track.