

Registration (P/F or for credit) as a regular degree-seeking CU-Boulder student is required for all graduate students during the doctoral comprehensive exam, master's comprehensive-final exam and thesis or dissertation defense.

Master's Degree Examinations

Each candidate for a master's degree is required to complete a comprehensive-final examination/thesis defense after the other requirements for the degree have been substantially completed or to present an approved degree plan which meets the requirements of the field and represents an intellectually coherent graduate education as determined by the major department. The examination/defense may be given near the end of the student's last semester while the candidate is still taking required courses for the degree, provided satisfactory progress is being made in those courses. The approved degree plan must be endorsed by the department chair, graduate director and major advisor on the Degree Plan Approval Form.

The following rules apply to the comprehensive-final examination/thesis defense:

1. A student must be registered on the Boulder campus as a regular degree-seeking student during the semester the examination is passed.
2. Notice of the examination/defense must be filed by the major department in the Graduate School at least two weeks prior to the examination. The examination/defense must be scheduled not later than the posted deadline for the semester in which the degree is to be conferred.
3. The examination/defense is given by a committee composed of three Graduate Faculty members appointed by the department with approval of the Dean of the Graduate School. The chair of the committee must have a regular or tenured Graduate Faculty appointment.
4. The examination/defense, which may be oral, written, or both, must cover the thesis, which should be essentially complete, other work completed in courses and seminars in the major field, and all work presented for the degree.
5. A student must have an affirmative vote from the majority of the committee members to pass. A student who fails the comprehensive-final examination/thesis defense may attempt it once more after a period of time determined by the examining committee.

Doctoral Degree Examinations

Preliminary Examination: Each department determines for itself (by examination or other means) that students who wish to study for the doctoral degree are qualified. The means by which each department makes this evaluation are specified in departmental requirements. Students who are thus evaluated are notified immediately of the results.

Comprehensive Examination: Before admission to candidacy for the doctoral degree, students must pass a comprehensive examination in the field of concentration and related fields.

The following rules apply to the doctoral comprehensive examination:

1. Students must be registered (P/F or for credit) on the Boulder campus as regular degree-seeking students when they pass the comprehensive examination.
2. Notice of the examination must be filed by the major department with the Graduate School at least two weeks prior to the examination.
3. The examination is conducted by an examining board appointed by the chair of the major department and approved by the Dean of the Graduate School. The board shall consist of the major advisor and additional members as necessary to a minimum of five. The chair must have a regular or tenured Graduate Faculty appointment. Successful candidates must receive affirmative votes from a majority of the members of their examination board. A candidate who fails the examination may attempt it once more after a period of time determined by the examination board.
4. The examination, which may be oral, written, or both, tests mastery of a broad field of knowledge, not merely formal course work.

Dissertation Defense: After the dissertation has been accepted for defense by the student's committee, a final examination on the dissertation and related topics is conducted.

The following rules apply to the dissertation defense:

1. Ph.D. students must be registered as full time, regular degree-seeking students at CU-Boulder, for a minimum of 5 dissertation hours during the semester in which they pass the final examination. D.M.A. students must be registered, full-time for DMA dissertation credits (course # 8200-8399) or TMUS 8029 during the semester in which they pass the final examination.
2. Students must notify the Graduate School of their final oral examination at least two weeks before their scheduled examination date. The examination must be scheduled not later than the posted deadline for the semester in which the degree is to be conferred.
3. This examination is wholly or partly oral, the oral part being open to anyone.
4. The examination is conducted by a committee appointed by the chair of the major department and approved by the Dean of the Graduate School, which consists of at least five persons, one of whom must be from outside the student's major department. Three of the members must be CU-Boulder Graduate Faculty. The chair and outside member of the committee must have regular or tenured Graduate Faculty appointments. The other

committee members must have either regular or special Graduate Faculty appointments. More than one dissenting vote disqualifies the candidate in the final examination. The committee chair and a majority of the committee must be present on the Boulder campus for the examination.

5. A student who fails the examination may attempt it once more after a period of time determined by the examining committee.

Section 7: Foreign Language Requirement

There is no campus-wide foreign language requirement. The decision regarding the foreign language requirement for each graduate degree is the responsibility of the Graduate Faculty of each graduate degree program.

Section 8: Full-time status and Minimum Registration Requirements

For purposes of deciding full-time registration status, a student must meet one of the following criteria:

Master's students

- one who is carrying a minimum of 5 credits of graduate level course work
- 8 credits of combined undergraduate and graduate course work
- at least 1 master's thesis hour
- at least 1 hour of "Master's Candidate for Degree"

Doctoral students

- one who is carrying a minimum of 5 credits of graduate level course work prior to passing the comprehensive exam
- 8 credits of combined undergraduate and graduate course work prior to passing the comprehensive exam
- at least one doctoral dissertation credit prior to passing the comprehensive exam
- a minimum of 5 dissertation hours after passing the comprehensive exam

One semester of credit toward the minimum registration requirements may be earned for full-time registration during the fall and spring semesters or two summer semesters.

Master's Degree Minimum Registration Requirements: Master's degree minimum registration requirements can be met only by registering full-time at CU-Boulder for at least two semesters or at least three summer sessions/part-time semesters or a combination of at least one full-time semester and two summer sessions/part-time semesters.

Doctoral Degree Minimum Registration Requirements: The minimum registration requirement for doctoral students is full-time registration for six semesters of graduate degree credit beyond the attainment of an acceptable bachelor's degree. Two semesters