

COLLEGE OF EXTENDED LEARNING FOR CERTAIN ZERO-UNIT GRADUATE COURSES FAM 841.4

Continuous Enrollment: Graduate students who have completed all other coursework will be allowed to enroll, with department consent, for zero-unit continuous enrollment courses through the College of Extended Learning (CEL). Graduate students enrolled in continuous enrollment courses in this way shall retain the privileges of regularly matriculated students: access to email, library, learning management systems, and faculty.

Comprehensive Examination: Graduate students who have completed all other coursework will be allowed to enroll, with department consent, for the comprehensive examination through the College of Extended Learning (CEL). Graduate students enrolled in the comprehensive exam in this way shall retain the privileges of regularly matriculated students: access to email, library, learning management systems, and faculty.

Graduate Portfolio: Graduate students will be allowed to enroll, with department consent, for the graduate portfolio through the College of Extended Learning (CEL) if the credit amount for this course is zero-unit. Graduate students enrolled in the graduate portfolio in this way shall retain the privileges of regularly matriculated students: access to email, library, learning management systems, and faculty.

Rationale:

In 2013-14, the Graduate Council proposed that graduate students who have completed all of their program requirements except for the culminating project and are taking the zero-unit courses, Continuous Enrollment and Comprehensive Examination, be permitted to enroll, with department consent, for those courses through the College of Extended Learning, which would allow them to pay very much less for those courses than stateside fees for 0-6 units.

At that time, students were required to enroll in Continuous Enrollment in order to retain privileges (email, library, learning management systems, faculty, catalog rights), but

were being required to pay regular 0-6 unit tuition. Many students, rather than paying this amount of money, chose to take a leave of absence instead. Leaves of absence, however, can cause the following problems: (1) during a leave of absence, students lose access and thus have a harder time working on their projects; (2) students often do not return after a leave of absence and fail to finish the degree; (3) students must go through a plethora of paperwork to leave the university and then re-enroll.

Similarly, students who were going to take the Comprehensive Exam would often, in order to speed their time to graduation and to avoid paying regular tuition for the zero-unit comprehensive exam, enroll in comprehensive exam courses while they were still taking coursework, even though they are strongly encouraged not to do so. Allowing students to enroll in very much less expensive CEL courses would make it practical for programs to require students to complete all coursework before taking the exam.

The Graduate Council's proposals were approved by the Faculty Senate and by the President in Spring 2014 and thus became University policy.

Since then, the Graduate Council has become aware that, in some programs, graduate students are required to enroll in a zero-unit graduate portfolio course while they are still taking courses, creating additional pressure, or after having completed their coursework and before being able to address the graduate exit writing requirement. This policy change would make it practical for programs to require students to complete all coursework before developing their portfolio.