

OIGS Policy Proposal 2011.2

(revised per CoC: 1/31/12)

Background:

Several times in the past year questions have been raised concerning the existing graduate degree time limits policy and how it is enforced (or not enforced as the case may be...). After conducting a quick review of similar policies at other institutions, it was determined that a revision extending time limits in our existing policy to bring our practice more into line with peer institutions would facilitate future enforcement.

For example, graduate degree time limits at the following universities all allow significantly greater latitude:

- Cornell : 4yrs (MS), 7yrs (PhD)
- SUNY Albany: 4yrs (MS), 8yrs (PhD)
- U Minn. 7yrs (MS), 12yrs (PhD)
- U Buffalo 4yrs (MS), 7yrs (PhD)
- UMass 5yrs (MS), 8yrs (PhD)
- NC State 5yrs (MS), 10yrs (PhD)

The Office of Instruction and Graduate Studies requests the revision of existing graduate degree time limits [change to be reflected in new catalog language]

Proposed catalog language revision (to appear under Graduate Academic Policies):

Time Limits

Graduate students must complete all requirements for the master of forestry, master of professional studies, master of landscape architecture and master of science degree within four years of the first date of matriculation, or they may be withdrawn from graduate study. For the doctoral degree, students must complete the candidacy exam within three years of the first date of matriculation. Students must pass the doctoral candidacy examination covering selected fields of study at least one year prior to dissertation defense. Doctoral candidates must successfully defend the dissertation and complete all degree requirements within seven years of matriculation, or they will be required to retake the candidacy examination or be withdrawn from graduate study.