



ACADEMIC POLICY

Time Limits for Graduate Programs

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1. **What should I do if I need to step away from my program for a short period due to personal reasons?**

Students who must be away from their studies for one or more terms for personal, family, financial or other compelling reasons may apply for a [Leave of Absence policy](#). Time away under an approved leave of absence will extend your program's time limits with the exception of the D.P.M. degree.

2. **I took a Kent State graduate course a year before I started my master's degree program. Does the six-year time limit start with that course or when I started my master's degree?**
The time limit starts with the term of admittance to the master's degree.

3. **I was admitted into a master's degree and plan to apply for the Ph.D. degree after that degree. Do I have six years to complete my masters, then another 10 years to complete my doctorate?**
Yes.

4. **I was admitted as a post-baccalaureate student to a Ph.D. degree. How many years do I have for my time limits?**
If you are admitted to only the Ph.D. degree, you will have 10 years to complete the program.

5. **I deferred my admission. When does my time limits begin?**
Your time limit begins with the most recent (deferred) admittance term. For example, if you were admitted to a Ph.D. degree for fall 2025 and deferred for one year, the clock starts fall 2026 and ends in December 2036.

6. **Can you explain how time limits are calculated?**
See the definitions section below for length of a calendar year. Below are some examples of time limits based on admittance term:

- Admitted to a master's degree for fall 2025: Must complete degree no later than December 2031.
- Admitted a doctoral degree for spring 2026: Must complete degree no later than December 2036.
- Admitted to a graduate certificate for summer 2026: Must complete certificate no later than December 2032.

7. **I completed graduate courses at another university seven years ago that I would like to transfer to my Kent State master's degree. Will they be ineligible because of the time limits?**

This policy pertains only to a student's time in the program. Some programs areas may have additional policies on time limits for specific courses. See the [Transfer of Graduate Credit policy](#) for the conditions to have transfer coursework approved and applied.

8. **Are there time limits for completing an undergraduate program?**

No, Kent State does not have time limits for completing an associate or bachelor's degree or an undergraduate certificate or minor.