



Kinesiology and Health Studies

SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA UNIVERSITY



University and Departmental Policies

These are answers to common questions, and brief explanations of university/departmental policies and issues that arise.

Taking Graduate Courses as an Undergraduate Student

Seniors with a 3.2 GPA and 21 hours or less left to complete their B.S. degree can apply to take graduate classes (start a master's degree early). Graduate classes cannot count toward the undergraduate degree, and a maximum of 12 graduate hours can be taken.

Transfer Credit

If a student has taken graduate courses at another university, they may appeal to the graduate coordinator to accept those courses for the SLU degree. The student must have earned a grade of B or higher in the course(s), and the course(s) must have been taken within 6 years of the date of graduation for the SLU graduate degree. Approval of the transfer courses cannot be done until the student completes at least 12 hours toward the SLU degree.

Full Time Status

Full time status enrolling in at least 9 hours in Fall and Spring semesters.

Full time status in a summer term is at least 6 hours for non-GA students (3 hours for GAs).

Maximum Loads

For GAs, maximum load allowed is 12 hours during Fall and Spring semesters; 9 hours in summer. For non-GAs, maximum load is 16 hours in Fall/Spring, and 9 in summer.

Graduate Assistants

- To be considered for a graduate assistantship, a student must meet the program's requirements for "regular" admission status.
- A student can be a GA for a maximum of 24 consecutive months. This can be extended one additional semester with approval of the department and dean.
- GAs must enroll in 9 hours in Fall/Spring semesters.

Good Standing/Probation/Suspension/Dismissal

Students accepted into graduate school are expected to perform well academically.

- "Good standing" is defined as achieving a 3.0 semester and cumulative GPA.
- If a student's semester or cumulative GPA is below 3.0, they are placed on probation, and must achieve a 3.0 or higher GPA in the next semester. The student remains on probation as long as his/her cumulative GPA is below 3.0. If a student's semester GPA is below 3.0 for two semesters (including summer), they will be suspended for at least one semester. After an absence of at least one semester, the student may appeal for re-admission.
- Students may earn a maximum of two C grades, and no D or F grades. If a student receives a grade of D or F in any course, or a C grade in more than 2 courses, they will be dismissed from the program.

Graduation Requirements

To complete the degree, a student must have:

- 1) completed all courses in the degree program
- 2) a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher
- 3) earned no more than 6 hours of C grades (2 classes)
- 4) passed a master's comprehensive exam or successfully completed all aspects of a thesis
- 5) applied for graduation

Time to Complete Degree

A student must complete the master's degree within 6 years of admission.

Master's Comprehensive Exam

All students pursuing the M.S. in Health and Kinesiology must complete a thesis or pass a written comprehensive examination. The comprehensive exam requirement applies to students whose degree follows the non-thesis curriculum. The master's comprehensive exam is given during the second half of the Fall and Spring semesters at a scheduled time and location (typically in the morning in a computer lab). The exam contains sections on statistics and research methods, and content areas specific to concentrations of study.

- The maximum number of opportunities to take the written comprehensive exam is two.
- A student who fails the exam twice will not be eligible to complete the degree.
- Students must pass all sections to pass the exam.
 - If a student fails 1 section, they are eligible to be given an oral follow-up exam on the failed section before the end of the semester. If the student passes the oral follow-up exam, they pass and graduate. If the student fails the oral follow-up exam, they do not meet the requirements to graduate that semester, but may retake the written exam on the failed section during the next semester when the exam is given.
 - A student who fails 2 or more exam sections does not graduate that semester, and may retake the failed sections of the written exam during the next semester when the exam is given.

Knowing passing this comprehensive exam is a requirement for degree completion, students should keep course materials to facilitate studying. Early in Fall and Spring semesters, students who will take the masters comprehensive exam are made aware when the exam will be given and of content areas what will be on their exam. Students should contact faculty who taught these courses for preparation tips, and are encouraged to begin preparing early and form study groups.

Thesis

There are many steps to completing a thesis, and the university has deadlines for completing a thesis within a given semester. Students considering the thesis option, should become familiar with the requirements and steps. Students who pursue the thesis option should have a strong understanding of the process, and know the university deadlines. The university's policies for thesis students include provisions that:

- The student must register for the thesis course each semester that the thesis is in progress. This typically involves 2 or more consecutive semesters.
- There must be a presentation open to the public, and a defense to the committee. Students must make all corrections/changes as recommended by the committee for final approval.
- There are hard time deadlines for thesis completion steps.