# Graduate Education

## Student-Centric Policy Guide

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- Plans must have at minimum 12 semester course credits
- All courses must by 4000 level or above
- GPA requirement: 2.800
- Students may transfer up to 40% of the credits on the Graduate Degree Plan
- Transfer coursework must be taken post-baccalaureate, graduate level, and taken for graduate credit
- Master’s Plan A: complete ten thesis credits (8777) and a minimum of 20 graduate-level course credits
- Master’s level minor: requires a minimum of six credits
- Plan A thesis credits can be registered for at any time during a master’s student’s degree program
- Doctoral students must complete 24 dissertation credits (8888)
- Doctoral-level minor: requires a minimum of 12 credits
- At least 50% of the certificate course credits on the Graduate Degree Plan must be 5000 level or above
- Maximum of three credits in common between two University post-baccalaureate certificates
- Students must complete and have the post-baccalaureate certificate within five calendar years of the initial enrollment
- Master’s level maximum credits allowed:
  - Plan A: 36 (combo course and ten thesis)
  - Plan B: 36
  - Plan C: 48
- Doctoral-level maximum credits allowed: 72 (combo 24 courses and 24 thesis)
- Doctoral dissertation credits (8888) can be taken at any time after admission ot the doctoral program - eligibility determined at the program level

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## Example PhD Timeline

**First Semester**
- LAAS 5050, Integrated topics in Land & Atmospheric Science (3 cr, Fall), Nater/Twine
  - team taught by faculty
  - covers key bridging topics in an intellectually rigorous way, allowing for different student backgrounds
- LAAS 8128, Soil, Water & Climate Seminar (1.5 cr, Fall), Toner

**Second Semester**
- LAAS 5051, Thesis Proposal Writing for Land & Atmospheric Science (2 cr, Spring), Twine
  - Proposal-based class (required for PhD only)
  - Write and review proposals
  - Present prospective research.
  - Discuss effective presentation skills as small groups
  - Learn communication skills needed for orals and PhD defense
  - Preparation for proposal part of preliminary exam
- PhD students will be required to take GRAD 8101 Teaching in Higher Ed (3 credits). This course is offered spring/fall.

**Other Course Offerings**

**LAAS/SOIL courses (MS and PhD)**
- LAAS 8311 Soil Chemistry and Mineralogy (3 cr)
- LAAS 8425: Atmospheric Processes I (3cr)
  - Atmospheric physics, dynamics
- LAAS 8426: Atmospheric Processes II (3 cr)
  - Atmospheric radiation, chemistry
  - Climate variability and climate change
- LAAS 5515 Soil Formation: Earth Surface Processes and Biogeochemistry (3cr)