

2024-2025 Academic Catalog and Student Handbook Addendum



This document, effective February 12, 2025, is an addendum to the Academic Catalog and Student Handbook. It is the record of change(s) following the original document published May 24, 2024.

For inquiries or questions please contact registrar@stjude.org

Credit Hour

The original text:

1.3 Degree conferral is an institutional action that represents a student's completion of the requirements necessary for a degree. All students must file the Degree Completion Form to be considered for degree conferral. Degrees from the Graduate School are conferred in either June or December of each year. A single Commencement Exercise will typically be scheduled once each year. A student who has had their terminal degree conferred - doctoral or master's - will be assigned "graduate" status, which will prohibit their registration in a subsequent semester.

PROCEDURE

2.1 Degrees and Degree Completion

2.1.1 Doctoral Degree in Biomedical Sciences (minimum of 90 credit hours)

- The Graduate School will award the doctoral degree upon the successful completion of the following requirements:
 - Complete all courses and maintain an overall GPA of 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) or better;
 - Participate in non-credit bearing workshops and seminars;
 - Complete three six-week laboratory rotations during the first two semesters. Make a final presentation at the end of each rotation;
 - Select a dissertation advisor and laboratory to begin dissertation research ideally by the end of the second semester (*note: this is a key required milestone*);
 - Conduct original research in their assigned laboratory;
 - Analyze and compile the research conducted in their assigned laboratory;
 - Finalize the Dissertation Committee during the early part of the third semester;
 - Pass the Candidacy Qualifying Exam ideally by the end of June of the fourth semester. The examination includes preparation and oral defense of a grant application based on the proposed dissertation research;
 - Schedule annual meetings with the Dissertation Committee;
 - Publish (may be in press) a minimum of at least one first author or co-first author primary research manuscript based on the student's original research in a peer-reviewed journal prior to completion of the Ph.D. A student will not be permitted to schedule a dissertation defense until they have demonstrated that this requirement has been fulfilled (in rare circumstances unpublished but submitted manuscripts may be reviewed and approved by the Dissertation Committee and the Dean to fulfill this requirement)
 - Obtain approval of revised and final dissertation document from Dissertation Committee
 - Complete an approved dissertation that reports the results and significance of the original research;
 - Ideally before the end of the fifth year, conduct an oral defense of the dissertation.
- A student who fails the Candidacy Examination or the oral defense of the thesis will be allowed to repeat each once.

2.1.2 Master of Science Degree in Biomedical Sciences - Terminal (56 credit hours)

2.1.2.1 A student who decides to leave the program prior to obtaining their PhD degree or does not successfully pass their Candidacy Exam and is unable to complete their PhD studies may apply to the Associate Dean and Dean for a terminal Master of Science degree in Biomedical Sciences. To be considered for a terminal master's degree, the student must:

- Successfully complete the first-year core curriculum;
- Ideally complete at least 6-12 months of full-time research

2.1.2.2 Once the Associate Dean and Dean approve the request for a terminal master's degree, the student will write and submit their candidacy exam and defend it during an oral examination administered by their Dissertation Committee. If the student's Dissertation Committee, Associate Dean and Dean approve the amount and quality of the student's work and agree that it rises to a master's level of research and academic accomplishment, a terminal master's degree is awarded to the student.

2.1.3 Master of Science Degree in Global Child Health – Terminal (30 credit hours)

- To be awarded a master's degree in Global Child Health, a student must:
 - Complete all courses and maintain an overall GPA of 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) or better;
 - Participate and satisfactorily complete all assignments and examinations;
 - Participate in non-credit bearing workshops and seminars during experiential learning intersessions;
 - Select a thesis advisor, topic, and committee by the program's stated deadline;
 - Attend scheduled meetings with the Thesis Committee;
 - Draft a written thesis and conduct an oral defense of the thesis and make all necessary revisions to the thesis ideally by the end of the fourth semester.
- The thesis defense will ideally be completed by the end of the fourth semester. A student who fails the defense of their thesis will be allowed to repeat the defense once before the program's stated deadline in the student's fourth semester. A second failing grade will result in termination from the program.

2.1.4 Master of Science Degree in Clinical Investigations – Terminal (33 credit hours)

- To be awarded a master's degree in Clinical Investigations, a student must:
 - Complete all courses and maintain an overall GPA of 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) or better;
 - Participate and satisfactorily complete all assignments and examinations;
 - Participate in mandatory workshops and seminars;
 - Select a thesis advisor, topic, and committee by the program's stated deadline;
 - Attend scheduled meetings with the Thesis Committee;
 - Draft a written thesis and conduct an oral defense of the thesis and make all necessary revisions to the thesis ideally by the end of the fourth semester.
- The thesis defense will ideally be completed by the end of the fourth semester. A student who fails the defense of their thesis will be allowed to repeat the defense once before the program's stated deadline in the student's fourth semester. A second failing grade will result in termination from the program.

Updated Text:

1.3 Degree conferral is an institutional action that represents a student's completion of the requirements necessary for a degree. Degrees from the Graduate School are conferred in either June or December of each year. A single Commencement Exercise will typically be scheduled once each year. A student who has had their terminal degree conferred - doctoral or master's - will be assigned "graduate" status, which will prohibit their registration in a subsequent semester.

Curriculum Committee – Approved on February-12-25

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