

**Graduate Students in the Master of Science Degree: Special Education**  
**Policy for Graduate Students Seeking**  
**Extensions of Degree**  
**October, 2003**

Any student accepted into the Masters Degree Program in Special Education after August 27, 2001 must complete the current 36-credit program described in the Graduate Catalog. This includes:

- ❑ 21 credits in the Special Education Core
- ❑ 3-9 credits in the Professional Development Core
- ❑ 6-12 credits in the Specialization Core.

Students also have the option to include Certificate Programs in Transition or Autism as credits in the Specialization Core.

Students accepted into the Masters Degree Program in Special Education before August 27, 2001 were required to complete a 30 credit program with the option of comprehensive exams or a thesis. However, these students were given the option to design an alternative program and substitute the following 9 credits for comprehensive exams or a thesis:

SPECED 702 Reflective Practice and Action Research

SPECFLD 704 Applied Action Research

SPECED 705 Professional Portfolio Development

Graduate students were informed of this alternative and directed to complete a new graduate program plan with the Graduate Program Coordinator or an advisor during the 2001-2002 academic year. Those students admitted during Summer 2001 were offered a choice of the old or new graduate program requirements. Your choice was designated at this time on a new program plan. This plan serves as the official degree program agreement to be honored by the Department of Special Education and UW-Whitewater Graduate School.

In the event, that a student is unable to complete the graduate degree within the 7-year timeline, the Department will automatically grant a 2-year extension of degree. Students must submit a letter to the Graduate Program Coordinator requesting this extension.

- ❑ Original program requirements for a 1<sup>st</sup> extension requested prior to the degree deadline will be honored.

Students requesting extensions of degree, after their degree deadline has expired or requesting any additional extensions, must submit a letter of request and rationale for the extension to the Graduate Program Coordinator. The Department must approve these requests.

- ❑ Original program requirements for an additional extension will be honored only if the student's comprehensive exams or thesis are in process and partially completed (i.e., a student in the LD Emphasis has submitted or completed one or more pre-comp papers and needs to complete the oral presentation).

- Students still needing to complete coursework and/or comprehensive exams/thesis will be required to meet the Graduate Program requirements initiated in Fall 2001.

If you have any questions regarding this policy, please contact your advisor or the Graduate Program Coordinator: Dr. Robin Warden ([wardenr@uww.edu](mailto:wardenr@uww.edu)) 262-472-5811.