

Graduate Student Enrollment Requirements

Tuition and Fee Charges

[This web page in Student Account Services](#) lists all fees and charges. Educational costs include:

1. Basic tuition (sometimes referred to as "California resident tuition" or "in-state tuition")
2. Nonresident *tuition* (for those who are not California residents), charged at a per-unit rate
3. Out-of-State and International *Fee* (for those who are not California residents), charged as a flat fee per semester. This fee is in addition to nonresident tuition. Please see the "Out of State and International Student Fee" section of the [University Bursar's Office Tuition and Fees webpage](#).
4. [Mandatory student fees](#)
5. Professional program fees (in some graduate programs)
6. Other miscellaneous and optional fees.

Please note that

- Some graduate programs have special tuition schedules: Teacher credential, EdD and DPT.
- Some College of Business degree programs have special [professional program fees](#).
- Basic tuition is charged at part time for 6.0 or fewer units, vs. full time for 6.1 or more units.
- For main campus registration, [799B and other 0-unit courses are charged as 1 unit for fee purposes](#). Global Campus registration for 799B and 799C has a [special cost structure](#).

Remaining active (matriculated)

To remain active, graduate students must take one of these actions every fall and spring term:

- a. enroll in at least one course through SDSU main campus, IVC or Global Campus; or
- b. successfully file [Leave of Absence](#) in the student information system; or
- c. (for joint doctoral programs) enroll in at least one course at the partner campus; or
- d. enroll in an approved Study Abroad semester.

Students who do not have one of these "Forms of Study" in a fall or spring term will lose matriculation and no longer be considered active. In these cases, reapplication to the university is necessary to complete the degree. [Per university policy](#), a maximum of four Leave of Absence terms are permitted.

Enrollment status: Typical full- vs. part-time definitions

Full-time vs. part-time *enrollment* is based on a different threshold than part time vs. full time basic *tuition*.

Enrollment policies are often set by the state or federal government, while the tuition schedule is set by the CSU Chancellor's Office for all campuses.

- Full time *enrollment* for graduate students is most often defined as 9.0 units or more per semester (see [University Policies: Graduate Program Unit Limits and Guidelines in the Catalog](#)).
- Part-time *enrollment* for graduate students is most often defined as 6.0 - 8.9 units per semester.

But many university processes have different enrollment requirements.

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Special enrollment consideration for 799, 897, 899 and Psychology 894

As described in the [Catalog](#) (University Policies: Graduate Program Unit Limits and Guidelines):

- Enrollment in Thesis (799A) is considered full time enrollment for master's degree candidates, even though 799A is awarded 3 units of academic credit.
- Enrollment in Thesis Extension (799B) or Comprehensive Examination Extension (799C) is considered half time enrollment for master's degree candidates, even though these courses correspond to 0 units of academic credit.
- Enrollment in Doctoral Research (897), Doctoral Dissertation (899), or Clinical Internship (Psychology 894) is considered full time enrollment for students admitted to a doctoral program.

International student enrollment requirements

- J-1 and F-1 degree-seeking international students have full-time enrollment requirements that are described on [the Enrollment Requirements web page](#) from the International Student Center.
- Enrollment exceptions are possible for international graduate students in some very specific scenarios. Visit the [Reduced Course Load web page](#), expand all of the sections, and review carefully.

Employment requirements

- Unit 11 graduate student employees (TA, GA, ISA) must be registered in at least one course at SDSU main campus, IVC or Global Campus during the term they are employed.
Summer employment exception: A small number of graduate students are hired in Unit 11 (TA, GA, ISA) during the summer term. Summer course registration is not required for these students if they meet enrollment criteria from the previous semester.
- Students hired in any research-associated classification through main campus, IVC or Global Campus during a fall or spring term must be registered in 1 or more units at SDSU, or (for JD students) registered in 1 or more units at a partner campus. Students on Leave of Absence may not be hired in a research-associated classification through main campus, IVC or Global Campus.
- There is no minimum registration requirement for Research Assistants hired through SDSU Research Foundation. The SDSURF RA classification is open to both students and non-students. However, only individuals enrolled in courses at SDSU will qualify for the student exemption for FICA withholdings as defined by the IRS. An individual must be classified by SDSURF HR as a temporary casual employee (*not a student*) during a Fall or Spring term if they are 1) not enrolled in at least 1 SDSU unit, 2) on Leave of Absence, or 3) a Joint Doctoral student enrolled only at a partner campus.
But see "Remaining active (matriculated)" above. Leave of Absence or enrolling at a JD partner campus *does* keep a student Active, even though they don't qualify for FICA withholdings student exemption.

Scholarships, fellowships, grants and waivers

- Students with [UGF, MRS or CORE fellowships/scholarships](#) must be registered in one or more courses at SDSU main campus, IVC or Global Campus during each of the funded terms.
- The [Graduate Student Travel Scholarship](#) is an Associated Students fund. Because this is funded through student fees, Graduate Student Travel grant recipients must be enrolled in at least one main campus, Global Campus or IVC course during the relevant term.
- [When basic tuition waivers are available for Unit 11 employees](#), the tuition waiver can only be applied to SDSU main campus or IVC registration, not to Global Campus registration.
- For all other scholarships, fellowships and grants, contact the unit that administers funding (often through the [Student Financial Center](#)) to learn about minimum registration requirements.

Final reminder: Remaining matriculated

Please remind students that if they register in no classes during a Fall or Spring term, they will lose matriculation (= lose their status as an active graduate student) [unless they file a Leave of Absence](#). [Per university policy](#), inactive students will need to formally reapply to the university to resume studies.