

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)
3. [Mandatory student fees](#)
4. Professional program fees (in some graduate programs)
5. Other miscellaneous and optional fees.

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.

Typical enrollment definitions

Full-time vs. part-time *enrollment* is based on a different threshold than part time vs. full time basic *tuition*. Basic tuition schedules are set by the CSU Chancellor's Office for all campuses, while minimum enrollment policies are often set by state or federal policies.

- 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, as listed below.

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

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

- a. Enrollment in Thesis (799A) is considered full time enrollment for master's degree candidates.
- b. Enrollment in Thesis Extension (799B) or Comprehensive Examination Extension (799C) is considered half time enrollment for master's degree candidates.
- c. 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.

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 usually necessary to complete the degree.

[Per university policy](#), students may take a maximum of four Leave of Absence terms during their time as a graduate student.

International student enrollment requirements

- a. 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.
- b. Exceptions are possible for graduate students in some very specific scenarios. Visit the [Reduced Course Load web page](#), open the “How To Apply For a Reduced Course Load” section, download the ARCL form, and review it carefully.

Employment requirements

- a. 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.
- b. 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.
- c. There is no minimum registration requirement for Research Assistants hired through SDSU Research Foundation. The SDSURF Research Assistant classification is open to students and non-students alike. 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 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 also see the “Remaining active (matriculated)” section above. Leave of Absence or enrolling at a JD partner campus *does* keep a student Active for student record purposes, even though they don’t qualify for FICA withholdings student exemption.)

Scholarships, fellowships, grants and waivers

- a. 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.
- b. The Graduate Student Travel Fund is an Associated Students fund. Because Associated Students is funded through student fees, students who receive a Graduate Student Travel grant must be enrolled in at least one main campus, Global Campus or IVC course during the relevant term.
- c. 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.
- d. 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 their status as an active graduate student [unless they file a Leave of Absence](#). Inactive students will need to formally reapply to the university to resume studies.