Registration and Tuition Classification

General Registration Requirements

The normal full-time credit load for graduate students is 9 credit hours per term.

Full-time graduate students may register for an overload of up to 6 credit hours (up to 15 credit hours total) per term at no increase in tuition. Subject to written approval by their advisor and department head, or program director, students may register for more than 15 credit hours per term by paying additional tuition at the regular part-time rate for all hours over 15. The maximum number of credits for which a student can register during the summer is 12.

Students in any of the following categories must register as full-time students.

- International on-campus students subject to immigration requirements. This applies to international students holding J-1 and F-1 visas.
- Students receiving financial assistance in the form of graduate teaching assistantships, research assistantships, fellowships or hourly contracts.
- Students enrolled in academic programs that require full-time registration. Refer to the degree program sections of this catalog to see if this applies to a particular program.

Special cases to the full-time registration requirement for students listed above are under Full Time Status-Required Course load and include first-year international students who must receive special instruction to improve their language skills, and thesis-based students who have completed their credit-hour requirements, have completed all required paperwork, are eligible for reduced registration and are working full time on their thesis (see section on reduced registration). To remain active in their degree program, all graduate students must register continuously each fall and spring semester. If not required to register full-time, students may register as a part-time student for any number of credit hours (1.0 credit hour minimum). Students who need to take a semester off must submit paperwork for a Leave of Absence by the appropriate deadline as described below, or the degree will be terminated.

Summer registration is not required to maintain active status in a graduate program. However, students must register if they are working on their degree requirements and utilizing Mines facilities during the summer. Students registered during the summer are assessed regular tuition and fees.

New graduate students are expected to register for and pay for credits in the term in which they are admitted, including summer admittance.

Graduate students who register for credits in any term are responsible for payment for those credits. Payment information can be found here: https://www.mines.edu/bursar/tuition/ .

Research Registration

In addition to completing the required course work and defending a thesis, students in thesis-based degree programs must complete a research experience under the direct supervision of their faculty advisor or co-advisor. Master's students must complete a minimum of 6* hours of research credit, and doctoral students must complete a minimum of 24* hours of research credit at Mines. While completing their research, students register for research credit under course numbers 707. Faculty advisors assign grades indicating satisfactory or unsatisfactory progress based on their evaluation of the student's work.

For students registered for research during the summer semester and working on campus, regular tuition and fees are due for summer semester research credits. Students may not transfer research credits from other institutions, so students working on research abroad must either register for research credits at Mines or submit the Leave of Absence paperwork. Those who take Leave of Absence may not use any Mines campus resources, including, but not limited to consultations with advisors, committee members and other Mines students during the term of leave.

Departmental requirements may require students to complete more than the institutional minimum number of research credits.

Eligibility for Reduced Registration

Students enrolled in thesis-based degree programs who have completed a minimum number of courses and research credit hours in their degree programs are eligible to continue to pursue their graduate program as full-time students at a reduced registration level. In order to be considered for this reduced, full-time registration category, students must satisfy the following requirements:

1. For M.S. students,
   a. Completion of 30 credits of eligible course, research, and transfer credits combined (36, if Master's degree requires 36 credits), and
   b. Paid for 24 credits (27, if Master's degree requires 36 credits).
      i. 1-9 credits per semester count as paid credits; 10-15 credits do not count as paid credits.

2. For PhD students,
   a. Completion of 72 credits of eligible course, research, and transfer credits combined, and
   b. Paid for 54 credits.
      i. 1-9 credits per semester count as paid credits; 10-15 credits do not count as paid credits.

3. For all students, an approved Thesis Committee form and Degree Completion of leave paperwork must be submitted the semester prior to the one for which a student wishes to be in reduced registration status*.

*Departmental requirements may require students to complete more than the institutional minimum number of research credits.
4. PhD students must submit an approved Admission to Candidacy form by the first day of classes in the semester for which the student wishes to be in reduced registration status*

* See OGS Graduation Deadlines website for specific deadlines (https://www.mines.edu/graduate-studies/graduation-deadlines/). Students who are eligible for reduced registration are considered full time if they register for 4 credit hours of research under course number 707.

Full-time Status - Required Course Load
To be deemed full-time during the Fall and Spring semesters, students must register for at least 9 credit hours.

Alternatively, as described above, if a thesis-based student has completed his or her required course work and research credits, has completed all required forms, and has received confirmation from the Registrar's Office that (s)he is eligible for reduced registration, the student will be deemed full-time if he or she is registered for at least 4 credit hours of research credit.

Student enrollment is not required during the summer semester for continuing Mines students or students who hold valid F-1 visa status. An international student who is not in valid F1 visa status and is beginning their degree program in the US for the first time, must be enrolled as a full time student during their first summer semester. To be considered full-time during their first summer semester, an international student must register for a minimum of 9 credit hours.

Late Registration Fee
Students must complete their registration by the date specified in the Academic Calendar. Students who fail to complete their registration during this time will be assessed a $100 late registration fee and will not receive any tuition fellowships for which they might otherwise be eligible.

Transfer Credits
With prior approval, graduate students may use transfer coursework credits towards a Master's or PhD level degree. All transfer credits must be listed on the Degree Audit form and have the appropriate signatures of approval.

- Master's non-thesis and professional Master's students must receive approval from the advisor, co-advisor (if applicable), minor representative (if applicable) and department head/program director.
- Master's thesis and PhD students must receive approval from the advisor, co-advisor (if applicable), all committee members, minor representative (if applicable) and the department head/program director.

Transfer credit limitations apply to all major and minor degrees. Transfer credits may be from a Mines undergraduate transcript or from a graduate transcript from another university, subject to the limitations described below:

- Transfer credits from a Mines undergraduate transcript must be 400 level or higher (graduate students are limited to no more than 9 credits of 400 level coursework), may not have been used towards an undergraduate degree, cannot be for prerequisites or deficiency credits and must have a grade of C or better*.
- Transfer credits from other universities must be for course work (research credits cannot be transferred except in cases when a full thesis Master's program is applied toward a PhD), must be graduate level with a grade of "C " or better, cannot have been used towards an undergraduate degree and cannot be for prerequisite or deficiency credits. Credits without a letter grade (Pass/Fail, Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory, etc.) will not be accepted as transfer credit.
- Some degree programs require grades higher than a C to use as transfer credit. Please refer to the individual degree programs for specifics.

Grades for transfer credits, either from a Mines undergraduate transcript or from another university, will not be transferred and therefore will not impact students’ graduate G.P.A.

The Admissions Office must have official transcripts on file prior to transferring credit from another university.

Due to time constraints of receiving transcripts and grades, students taking or wishing to apply transfer credits in their last semester may not be able to graduate in that semester. Students studying abroad are encouraged to not do so during their last semester.

Major degree transfer credit limitations:

- 30 credit Master’s non-thesis degree programs are limited to no more than 9 transfer credits.
- 36 credit Master’s non-thesis degree programs are limited to no more than 15 transfer credits.
- 30-38 credit Master’s thesis degree programs are limited to no more than 9 transfer credits.
- PhD students transferring a thesis based Master’s degree from another university may transfer no more than 36 credits.
- PhD students transferring individual coursework, or any graduate level degree other than a thesis based Master’s degree from another university, may transfer no more than 24 credits.
- *Any credits taken at Mines and listed on a Mines graduate level transcript are not transfer credits.
- *PhD students may, with committee and department head approval, use all credits from a Mines Master’s degree towards a PhD, as long as the credits were not used towards two (2) Mines Master’s degrees.

Minor degree transfer credit limitations:

- Less than half of the minor credit requirement may be transfer credits.
- Master’s students may transfer no more than 4.0 credits towards a minor
- PhD students may transfer no more than 5.5 credits towards a minor.

Transfer credit conversion
Colorado School of Mines uses semester credits. Any transfer credits taken at a university that does not use semester credits will have the credits converted. U.S. Quarter credit hours are equivalent to 2/3 semester credit hours. European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) credits are equivalent to ¼ semester credit hours. Other credits will be assessed on an individual basis.

Dropping and Adding Courses
Students may add or drop some, but not all credits, through web registration without paying a fee during the add/drop period listed on the Academic Calendar. Graduate students who wish to drop all credits
during the fall or spring term must submit either the Leave of Absence or Withdrawal from Graduate School paperwork by Census Day.

Withdrawing from Courses

After the add/drop date students may withdraw through web registration from some credits, but not all, for any reason. In this situation students receive a grade of "W" for the withdrawn credits through the last day to withdraw noted on the Academic Calendar. Students who wish to withdraw from all credits must submit a Leave of Absence form or a Withdrawal from Graduate School form.

After the last day to withdraw on the Academic Calendar, no withdrawals are permitted, except in case of withdrawal from school. If extenuating circumstances apply, contact the Office of Graduate Studies.

Any student on leave must submit a Return from Leave form (https://www.mines.edu/graduate-studies/forms/return-leave-absence/). The student will be reinstated to active status upon approval by their advisor and their department head, division director, or program director.

Students who have already used 2 semesters of Leave of Absence will need to submit the Withdrawal from Graduate School form if they are not able to return after the second semester of leave. Students who withdraw from graduate school will need to re-apply for admission online and be re-accepted before returning to school.

The financial impact of a withdrawal is covered in the section on “Payments and Refunds.”

Auditing Courses

As part of the maximum of 15 semester hours of graduate work, students may enroll for no credit (NC) in a course with the permission of the instructor. Tuition charges are the same for no credit as for credit enrollment.

Students must enroll for no credit before Census Day, the last day of registration. The form to enroll for a course for no credit is available from the Registrar’s Office. NC designation is awarded only if all conditions stipulated by the course instructors are met by the student by the end of the semester.

Mines requires that all U.S. students who are being supported by the institution register full time, and federal financial aid regulations prohibit Mines from counting NC registration in determining financial aid eligibility. In addition, the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) requires that Mines from counting NC registration in determining financial aid eligibility. Therefore, Mines is discouraged from NC registration toward the minimum number of hours required for a student to be eligible for reduced registration status.

NC registration may involve additional effort on the part of faculty to give and/or grade assignments or exams, so it is the institution’s policy to charge tuition for NC courses. Therefore, NC registration will count toward the maximum number of credits for which a graduate student may be allowed to register. This includes a tuition surcharge for credits taken over 15.

Off-Campus Study

A student must enroll in an official Mines course for any period of off-campus, course-related study, whether U.S. or abroad, including faculty-led short courses, study abroad, or any off-campus trip sponsored by Mines or led by a Mines faculty member. The registration must occur in the same term that the off-campus study takes place. In addition, the student must complete the necessary release, waiver, emergency contact forms, transfer credit pre-approvals, and FERPA release, as well as providing adequate proof of current health insurance prior to departure. For additional information concerning study abroad requirements, contact the Office of Global Education at https://www.mines.edu/global/study-abroad-student-exchange/; for other information, contact the Registrar’s Office.

Students conducting research off campus must either register for research credits at Mines or submit the Leave of Absence paperwork. Students on leave may not use any campus resources, including work with advisor, committee members and any Mines students.

Students conducting research abroad must comply with the research off-campus rules above and need to register with the Study Abroad Office. Students may not transfer research credits from another university. All graduate students must register for credits at the Colorado School of Mines for at least one semester. A semester of study abroad does not count towards this requirement.

Students studying abroad who are using study abroad transfer credits towards a degree program must have official transcripts on file with the Registrar’s Office prior to graduation. Since overseas transcripts often take longer to arrive than US transcripts, students who are studying abroad during their last semester may not be able to graduate in that same semester.

Online students please visit Mines Online (https://online.mines.edu/) for additional information on services and support.

Numbering of Courses

Course numbering is based on the content of material presented in courses:

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