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 division 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 wish to take a semester off must submit the Leave of Absence paperwork, or the degree will be terminated.

Summer registration is not required to maintain an active program. Students who continue to work on their degree program and utilize Mines facilities during the summer, however, must register. Students registered during the summer are assessed regular tuition and fees.

New graduate students are expected to register for and pay for credits for the admittance term, 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/controllers-office/accounts-receivable-and-cashiering/.

Graduate students who wish to be dropped from all credits in a term must either submit the Leave of Absence paperwork or the Withdrawal from Graduate School paperwork by Census Day of that term. Students who submit either form after census may be withdrawn from credits, but will still owe the portion of tuition and fees due at the time of withdrawal.

It is the student's responsibility to submit either the Leave of Absence form or the Withdrawal from Graduate School form. Students who wish to be dropped or withdraw from all credits, but do not submit either the Leave of Absence form or the Withdrawal form will be responsible for paying all the tuition and fees.

Research Registration

In addition to completing prescribed 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 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 this experience, students register for research credit under course numbers 707. Faculty assign grades indicating satisfactory or unsatisfactory progress based on their evaluation of the student’s work. Students registered for research during the summer semester and working on campus must pay regular tuition and thesis research fees for summer semester. 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 the 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 course 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 36 hours of eligible course, research, and transfer credits combined, and
   b. Paid for 27 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 hours 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 Committee form and Degree Audit form must be on file in the Graduate Office the semester prior to one for which you are applying for reduced registration*.

4. PhD students must submit an approved Admission to Candidacy form by the first day of class in which the student would like reduced registration*.
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), 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 the students graduate G.P.A.

The Office of Graduate Studies must have official transcripts on file prior to transferring credit from another university. The exception is transfer credits taken under the Reciprocal Agreement, in which case the Registrar’s Office must receive the grade from the transfer institution prior to transferring the credit.

Due to time constraints of receiving transcripts and grades, students taking transfer credits in their last semester may not be able to graduate in that semester. Students studying abroad are encouraged to not study abroad 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.
- PhDs transferring a thesis based master’s degree from another university* may transfer no more than 36 credits.
- PhDs 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.

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 ½ 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 with a grade of “W” 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. For extenuating circumstances contact the Graduate Dean.

Any student on leave must submit a Return from Leave form (https://www.mines.edu/graduate-studies/forms/return-leave-absence/) that includes documentation that the problems which caused the withdrawal have been corrected. The student will be reinstated to active status upon approval by their advisor and their department head or division director.

Students who have already used 2 semesters of leave will need to submit the Withdrawal from Graduate School form. 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 in the Registrar’s Office. NC designation is awarded only if all conditions stipulated by course instructors are met.

Mines requires that all U.S. students who are being supported by the institution register full time, and federal financial aid regulations prohibit us from counting NC registration in determining financial aid eligibility. In addition, the INS requires that international students register full time, and we are discouraged from counting NC registration toward that requirement. Furthermore, there are no consistent standards for expectations of students who register for NC in a course. Therefore, in order to treat all Mines students consistently, NC registration will not count toward the minimum number of hours for which students are required to register. This includes the minimum continuous registration requirement of part-time students and the 9 credit-hour requirement for students who must register full time.

The reduced registration policy is based on the principle that the minimum degree requirement (36 or 72 hours) would include only the credits applied toward that degree. Deficiency and extra courses are above and beyond that minimum. NC courses fall into the latter category and may not be applied toward the degree. Therefore, NC registration will not count toward the number of hours required to be eligible for reduced thesis registration.

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 foreign, 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, and emergency contact forms, transfer credit pre-approvals, and FERPA release, and provide adequate proof of current health insurance prior to departure. For additional information concerning study abroad requirements, contact the Office of International Programs at (303) 384-2121; 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 on study 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 foreign transcripts often take longer to arrive than US transcripts, students on study abroad during their last semester, may not be able to graduate in that same semester.

Please note if you are an online student 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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Over 700 Graduate Research or Thesis Level