GRADUATE CREDIT

Graduate Studies

Course Levels
Courses by number level:

- 800s and 900s: These are graduate courses. 800-level courses
  without counterpart 400-level or lower numbers, as well as 900-
  level courses, are open exclusively to graduate students except by
  permission of the Dean for Graduate Studies.
- 500s, 600s, and 700s: These are professional courses in law,
  dentistry, and architecture. Law courses carry graduate credit only if
  the letter "G" follows the course number.
- 400 or lower: These are undergraduate courses and cannot be applied
  toward a graduate degree.

A student who enrolls in a course must have completed the general
prerequisite, including any specific prerequisite indicated for the course.
In graduate-level courses there is a required differentiation of faculty
expectation regarding student performance and grading criteria.

Credit by Examination
Credit by examination cannot be earned in graduate level courses or
applied to graduate degree programs.

Transfer Credit
For any graduate degree, at least 50 percent of the minimum number
of graduate credits required for the degree must be completed at the
University of Nebraska.

To be accepted as transfer credits, graduate credits must be:

- Earned at an institution fully accredited to offer graduate work in the
  field of the student’s major.
- For graduate coursework, not professional coursework.
- To be accepted toward a master’s degree: Not older than 10 years or
  applied toward any previous graduate degree.
- To be accepted toward a doctoral degree: Not applied toward any
  previously completed doctoral degree.
- Approved by the graduate committee for quality, suitability, and being
  equal to or superior to offerings available at UNL.
- Approved by Graduate Studies.

It is the responsibility of the student to ensure that official transcripts
of graduate work taken elsewhere are received by Graduate Studies well
before the student plans to complete all other requirements for the UNL
degree.

Graduate Credit for Undergraduates
Seniors at UNL may be permitted up to 12 hours of credit for
graduate courses taken in addition to the courses necessary for their
undergraduate degree, provided that these credits are earned the
calendar year prior to receipt of the baccalaureate. Holding graduate
credit keeps a senior in an undergraduate college; the student should
consult Scholarships and Financial Aid (http://financialaid.unl.edu)
regarding continuation of any undergraduate scholarships or financial
aid.

- Before registering for graduate courses, seniors must obtain approval
  from Graduate Studies using the Grad Credit for Undergraduate
  Students form (http://research.unl.edu/gradstudies/credit).
- Courses taken prior to completion of a bachelor’s degree do not
  always transfer as graduate credit to other institutions, nor can there
  be a guarantee from Graduate Studies that these courses will apply
  toward a particular graduate program.
- The general prerequisite for taking 800-level courses as an
  undergraduate is at least 12 hours of work in the same department
  or area of study. The general prerequisite for 900-level courses is at
  least 18 hours in the same department or area of study.
- Intercampus enrollment allows undergraduates at other University
  of Nebraska campuses to take graduate-level coursework at UNL.
  Any arrangement to hold for graduate credit must be made at the
  student’s bachelor’s-degree campus; UNL can certify graduate credit
  only for those students graduating from UNL. Students from outside
  the University of Nebraska must wait until they qualify as graduate
  students to receive graduate credit.

Double-Counting
"Double-counting" refers to the use of a limited number of credit hours
toward the requirements of two separate degrees or programs. This
allows the student to earn two degrees for fewer total credit hours than
would normally be required if both programs were taken independently.

At the departmental level, graduate committees may stipulate that
credits for core-requirement courses cannot be double-counted in their
programs.

Two Master’s Degrees: In general, no more than nine credits may be
double-counted. Both degrees must be completed within the time allowed
and awarded at the same commencement. If awarded at separate
commencements, double-counting is not allowed.

Master’s and Doctorate (Distinct Disciplines): In general, no more than
nine credits may be double-counted. Both degrees are completed within
the time allowed. The master’s degree must be awarded before the
doctoral degree.

Master’s En Route to Doctorate (Same Discipline): Upon
recommendation by the graduate program, a doctoral candidate may earn
a master’s degree in the same discipline, upon completion of the master’s
degree requirements or upon successful passing of the comprehensive
exam. The degree may not be awarded retroactively.

Established Dual Degrees: Generally, there can be no more than a 30%
credit overlap between degrees based on the lower credit requirements.
Policy is specific to the dual degree programs at UNL

Graduate and Professional (e.g., PhD-JD, MCRP-MArch): Generally, there
can be no more than a 30% credit overlap between degrees based on the
lower credit requirements. Both degrees must be completed within the
time allowed.

Graduate Degree and Graduate Certificate: Certificate courses may
be used toward the completion of a degree as determined by the
departmental or interdepartmental Graduate Committee administering
the certificate program. Contact the program’s Graduate Chair for more
information.

Two Graduate Certificates: Double-counting is not allowed.
Accelerated Master’s: In general, no more than 12 credits may be double-counted between the bachelor’s and master’s programs.