

# ACADEMIC POLICIES

Office of Records and Registration

Tel: 410.837.4825

Fax: 410.837.4820

Email: [records@ubalt.edu](mailto:records@ubalt.edu)

Web: [ubalt.edu/records](http://ubalt.edu/records)

## PROGRAM ADVISING AND REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION

Students are advised that any deviation from the approved program of study must be certified in writing by the appropriate dean or dean's designee. Readmitted students must have their program of study reviewed by the dean or designee upon re-entering the University. Additionally, F-1 international students who deviate from program requirements may not be eligible for any program extensions (time added to I-20) in the event that they are unable to graduate by the program end date listed on their I-20.

## GRADES

All students whose name appears on a grade roster, regardless of the length of their attendance in the class, will receive for each course attempted one of the grades listed below. If, however, a student withdraws officially from a course during the first week of classes (or a different schedule adjustment period for short terms), the student's name will not appear on the grade roster, nor will the transcript show the course.

All grades for students who have actively participated in classes are given solely on the basis of an instructor's judgment of a student's scholarly attainment.

Only grades earned at UBalt or as part of an approved consortium program will be included as part of a student's official GPA.

*During spring 2020 semester in response to the Covid-19 emergency, students were given the opportunity to select alternate grading for some classes. Alternate grading included grades of CR, CRD (undergraduate only), and NC.*

### Allowable Grades

The following grades are used in computing the grade point average:

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Quality Points (per credit hour)</i>
A	4.00
A-	3.67
B+	3.33
B	3.00
B-	2.67
C+	2.33
C	2.00
C-	1.67
F*	0.00
FA**	0.00
XF***	0.00

**\*F:** Failure—given when the student completes the course, including the examination, but fails to meet the requirements of the course; when the student fails a credit-by-examination challenge course; or when the student fails a course taken at The University of Baltimore as pass/fail.

**\*\*FA:** Failure due to absences—given if the instructor determines the student was verified as enrolled in the course but has insufficient attendance to pass the course. Insufficient attendance means the student stops attending/participating and misses 20 percent or more of a course (unexcused) or fails to meet a more restrictive policy set forth by the instructor in the course syllabus. Students are expected to participate in every class meeting and regularly participate, regardless of delivery method (online, face-to-face, hybrid).

**\*\*\*XF:** Failure due to academic integrity violation—only posted upon request of the University judicial officer.

The following grades are not used in computing the GPA:

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Quality Points</i>	<i>Explanation</i>
I	0	Incomplete
AU	0	Audit
PS	0	Pass
CR	0	Credit
NC	0	No Credit
CS	0	Continuing Studies
TG	0	Temporary Grade
W	0	Withdrawn
WA	0	Withdrawn Administratively
XC	0	Excluded Grade
NR	0	No Grade Recorded
CRD	0	Credit Earned with a Grade of D

**I:** Incomplete—given when a student is temporarily prevented from completing required coursework by unanticipated extenuating circumstances, such as illness or major changes in the demands of a job. For an I to be given, a petition form, signed by the student, the instructor and the appropriate dean, must be filed with the registrar before term grades are due. When the student completes the assignment, the faculty member assesses the work and submits a change of grade form to the registrar. The I grade will be changed to an F if a grade change form is not submitted by the instructor to the Office of Records and Registration according to the following schedule:

- If the grade I was earned in the fall semester, the grade change must be submitted by May 1.
- If the grade I was earned in the spring semester or summer session, the grade change must be submitted by Dec. 1.

A graduating student must have an I grade removed within 60 calendar days after the last day of the student's last semester; otherwise, the student's graduation application will be withdrawn, and another application must be submitted for the following semester.

An incomplete grade will not be considered prior to the official withdrawal deadline of each semester. After this date, an incomplete may be granted at the discretion of the instructor and the appropriate dean's office based on an unanticipated extenuating circumstance.

**AU:** Audit—a registration status allowing students to attend a course without receiving credit. Both graduate and undergraduate students may audit courses. Audit units do not count toward full-time status or the determination of continuous enrollment. Registration for audit is at the course instructor's discretion, and the instructor is not obligated to grade audit coursework or provide additional support to a student taking a course for audit. Students may change registration in a course from credit to audit or vice versa no later than the last day to drop a course without a W grade. Audit does not count as a course repeat under the course repeat policy.

**PS:** Pass—credit for successful completion of a credit-by-examination challenge course and/or courses taken at The University of Baltimore as satisfactory/unsatisfactory or pass/fail; the PS is not computed in the student's grade point average.

**CR/NC:** Credit/no credit—awarded under credit/noncredit grade option for skill-building courses elected at the time of registration; no credit or quality points are awarded. *CR/NC grades were also made available for students during the spring 2020 semester in response to the Covid-19 emergency.*

**CS:** Continuing studies—given when it is known at the outset of the course that requirements for its completion will necessarily extend beyond the end of the semester; this grade is assigned at the discretion of the instructor for specifically designated courses only.

**TG:** Temporary grade—assigned pending resolution of an academic integrity issue; only posted upon request of the University judicial officer.

**W:** Withdrawn—an administrative symbol (not a grade) that is not computed in a student's grade point average; the W is placed on the student's transcript if the student withdraws from a class or classes after the end of the late registration period and prior to midnight on the last date to withdraw with a W.

**WA:** Withdrawn administratively—given when recommended by the instructor and the dean for exceptional circumstances and/or other academic violations; this grade is not initiated by the student.

**XC:** Excluded grade—the grade assigned for previous academic work does not apply to the specific program in which a student is enrolled.

**NR:** No grade recorded—a temporary grade assigned by an administrator when a final grade has not or cannot be posted by the faculty member.

**CRD:** Credit earned with a grade of D (undergraduate only)—set up during the COVID-19 emergency; credit earned with this grade will calculate into the total credit needed for a credential, but it may not satisfy some programs/majors, General Education and graduation requirements.

## **GRADE CHANGES**

All graduate semester and summer grades become final 60 calendar days after the last day of that semester. Students should review the [policy on incomplete \(I\) grades](#) under the preceding section on grades. Grade changes are not accepted after the degree is posted on a student's transcript.

## **ACADEMIC AND ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS**

Students desiring to appeal an academic or administrative decision should consult the [UBalt Student Handbook](#).

## SATISFACTORY AND UNSATISFACTORY PROGRESS

*These policies are used for determining satisfactory academic progress. Review the [Financial Assistance](#) section of this catalog to determine the standards of satisfactory progress for eligibility for receiving or continuing to receive financial assistance.*

To be approved for graduation, a graduate student must have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0. Students are making satisfactory academic progress toward completion of their program as long as a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher is maintained. Requirements for specific grades in certain courses within a program may also exist. Moreover, additional academic policies might exist within specific programs. Students are responsible for understanding these additional policies and discussing them with program advisers.

- A student who attempts 6 or more credits at The University of Baltimore and earns less than a 3.0 will be placed on academic probation. Notification of this action will be from the appropriate dean's office. It is the responsibility of each student to check the transcript when grades are posted at the end of each semester and to keep personal contact information current with UBalt. Probationary status is a warning that satisfactory progress is in jeopardy.
- A student who is placed on probation must obtain advisement from the appropriate academic adviser before attending classes the following semester or summer session, even if the student has already preregistered. At the discretion of the appropriate academic dean, a student on probation may take up to 6 credits. Students on probation may not take more than 3 credits at any given time during the summer.
- A student who has been placed on academic probation because of a deficient grade point average will be allowed up to six semester hours to obtain a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0. If the student does not reach a GPA of 3.0 or higher by the time these additional credit hours are accumulated, the student will be suspended.
- A student who has been conditionally admitted to a program and fails to achieve satisfactory academic progress after the first semester is completed and/or after at least 3 credits are attempted will be suspended, unless the program requires dismissal.
- A suspended student may not register for classes at The University of Baltimore for at least one semester (nor may the student attend summer sessions) until reinstated by the appropriate academic dean (*see bullet immediately below*). In addition, for-credit courses taken elsewhere during this time require permission and may not be applied to the academic program at UBalt.
- Reinstatement at The University of Baltimore is not automatic. The suspended student must request reinstatement in writing from the appropriate graduate program director and appropriate academic dean by Oct. 15 for the spring semester, by April 15 for the fall semester or by March 15 for the summer session. As a condition of reinstatement, a suspended student may be required to successfully complete certain remedial or prerequisite courses at The University of Baltimore or another institution of higher education.
- Suspended students are bound by the University's continuous enrollment policy if the period of suspension exceeds the total number of semesters allowed by that policy and must reapply for admission after being approved for reinstatement by the appropriate academic dean. A suspended student must meet the requirements of the new catalog in effect upon return if he or she is readmitted.
- A student returning from suspension must receive advising and be cleared by the appropriate program director and academic dean's office before registering. The terms for reinstatement or readmission must include a specific plan for academic recovery, be approved by the adviser and the appropriate dean, and be filed in the student's official record in the Office of Records and Registration.

- A student suspended for a deficient GPA, when reinstated and/or readmitted, must achieve a grade of B (3.0) or higher in each course taken in the semester after re-entering and must fulfill the plan for academic recovery as determined by the academic program. Failure to do so will result in immediate dismissal.
- If a student is suspended for a second time for a deficient GPA, the student is academically dismissed. Academic dismissal is from the program. (The student may not reapply for admission.)
- Individual programs, divisions, schools or colleges may have more restrictive policies regarding probation, suspension and dismissal. It is the students' responsibility to be aware of the policies of the program in which they are enrolled.
- A dean may elect to grant clemency one time to a student who has been academically dismissed. Clemency is granted only when a student demonstrates that extraordinary circumstances interfered with the student's ability to achieve satisfactory academic programs. If a student is granted clemency, the dean may request that the Office of Records not include the grades of up to 9 credits in the student's GPA. If the student has already used the repeat/replace the one time that it is allowed, then only a maximum of 6 credits may be removed from the GPA and become eligible for repeating. Relevant readmission and reinstatement policies apply.
- F-1 international students who have been suspended from a degree program should make an appointment with Diversity and International Services to discuss how suspension affects their visa status in the U.S.

## **DROP FOR NONATTENDANCE BY DROP/ADD DATE**

Students are expected to participate in a class by the drop/add deadline. If they do not, the faculty member has the ability to indicate in the electronic class roster that the student never attended. Participation is defined by the faculty member for the class delivery mode. If there is an emergency that prevents a student from participating in an online or face-to-face class during the first week of class, the student should contact the professor and the Office of Records and Registration before the schedule adjustment period ends to discuss whether the student may be retained in the course or added after the class has started.

Being dropped below full-time for nonattendance will significantly affect an F-1 international student's visa status and ability to remain in the U.S. In addition to contacting the professor of the course and the Office of Records and Registration, an F-1 international student who has been dropped due to nonattendance should contact Diversity and International Services to discuss next steps for visa status.

Being dropped for nonattendance may also impact financial aid eligibility.

## **WITHDRAWAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

A student wishing to withdraw from a course must do so online using MyUB. Students should always confirm the completion of their withdrawal by reviewing their schedule after submitting the withdrawal or by contacting the Office of Records and Registration. The responsibility for official withdrawal rests with the student. If a withdrawal is done prior to the end of the late registration and drop/add period, the course will not show on the student's transcript. After that period, all withdrawals are indicated on the transcript by a W, and the student is considered to have been enrolled for that semester. No credit or tuition refund will be made unless such an official notice is submitted. The computation of any credit or refund is made from the date the formal notice of withdrawal is submitted to the Office of Records and Registration, not from the date the student stopped attending any class(es).

Students receiving any form of financial aid should check with the Office of Financial Aid prior to withdrawing from any class. Withdrawal may affect the level of aid or eligibility for aid in **current and future** semesters.

Except students studying in either an F-1 or J-1 visa category, any student may withdraw from a course through the withdrawal deadline published in the academic calendar for that session. After the deadline for withdrawal, a student who believes that unanticipated extenuating circumstances—such as health problems or change of employment—make a withdrawal necessary should submit a written appeal with supporting documentation to the appropriate academic dean. Approval of such requests is not automatic, and some requests may not be granted. No student will be permitted to withdraw for any reason from a class during the last week of school prior to the beginning of the scheduled examination period.

In cases where a student seeks withdrawal from one or more courses due to extenuating circumstances, academic deans are strongly encouraged to connect the student with the Clinical Case Manager in the Office of Student Support. The Clinical Case Manager will collaborate with the student to identify resources, make referrals to other university services, and develop an appropriate plan for future success. If a student has circumstances that prompt the student to withdraw from all courses in a given term, the student should not only communicate with the Office of Financial Aid, but also meet with an academic advisor and the Office of Student Support to develop a plan for future reentry and success. Tuition Appeals are for students who are requesting a refund, credit, or balance waiver of their tuition charges due to extenuating circumstances that occurred during a given term. All grades received and recorded on the student's transcript will not be affected by this process and will remain as part of the student's academic record. For more information about tuition appeals, students should contact the Office of the Bursar.

The University does not cancel a student's registration for nonpayment. If a student decides not to attend, the student must withdraw online using the MyUB portal. Students should be sure to check their schedule after withdrawing to determine if the withdrawal was processed as requested. If a student does not make payment in full or make payment arrangements with the Office of the Bursar by the established payment due dates, that student's account will be charged a late payment fine.

## **MAKEUP POLICY FOR FINAL EXAMS**

Makeup examinations for missed final examinations are, in general, left to the discretion of the individual faculty member.

However, University policy dictates that makeup examinations will be given for instances of final examinations missed because of documented illness or documented conflict with religious observance and in instances of examinations missed because of University-sanctioned trips.

If a student misses a final examination for any reason not covered by the above, the question of whether a makeup examination is given is up to the discretion of the individual faculty member.

## **ATTENDANCE**

Students are expected to attend classes regularly and to participate regularly, regardless of delivery method (online, face-to-face, hybrid). When, in the instructor's judgment, a student has been absent or late so often that the student has lost a significant part of the instruction that will prevent the issuance of a valid grade, the instructor may submit a failing grade.

Instructors set their own class attendance policies and will communicate these in the course syllabus at the beginning of the term. The above policy does not remove the responsibility from the student to withdraw officially from any class that he or she ceases to attend. Failure to do so will subject the student's records to a grade of FA. A student who stops attending/participating and misses 20 percent or more of a course (unexcused) or who fails to meet more a restrictive policy set forth by the instructor in the course syllabus will receive an FA.

## **BEREAVEMENT POLICY**

The University of Baltimore recognizes that students may experience the death of a loved one during the course of an academic term. To promote the general mental health of UBalt students, this policy provides a formal process to allow grieving students the opportunity to be available for their families during times of death and grief.

This policy is not seen as a substitute for good communication between students and their faculty members around missed classes or assignments, but rather as a complement to that communication to assist students when they are grieving.

### **Definitions**

- A. Bereavement leave here refers to those days a student may miss classes or assignments because the student is using the Bereavement Policy.
- B. Calendar days include all days of the week, including weekends.
- C. Group work is a formal assignment in a course that involves the grieving student and at least one other student in the completion of the assignment.
- D. Missed academic work includes any assignments or tests in a course that a student would ordinarily be submitting or participating in were the student not using the Bereavement Policy.
- E. Significant relationships can include but are not limited to the following:
  - uncle(s) or aunt(s)
  - cousin(s)
  - niece(s) or nephew(s)
  - legal in-law(s)
  - grandparent(s)
  - step-relation individual(s)
  - child(ren) or individual(s) for whom the mourner had legal guardianship
  - parent(s) or legal guardian(s)
  - sibling(s)
  - spouse or domestic partner.
- F. Travel days will be calendar days.

With appropriate notification as described in this policy, students who opt to use the Bereavement Policy will be permitted up to five calendar days of absence from classes and/or examinations to mourn the loss of an individual with whom they had a significant relationship.

With appropriate notification and permission as described in this policy, a student who has opted to use the Bereavement Policy may have up to two more calendar days excused from class or examination for travel related to the bereavement process. Travel days may be allowed for such trips as going to the home of the deceased, the family home of the student grieving and/or the location of the funeral/services. Students opting to use the Bereavement Policy can appeal to their professor(s) and/or the Office of Student Support if more travel days are needed. These requests will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

Unexcused absences already prescribed in a course syllabus should not be used in congruence with the Bereavement Policy.

The student who is mourning should be given a reasonable number of days to make up any missed academic work. The assignments a student missed while on bereavement leave should not be subject to deduction in scoring, as long as they are completed in a reasonable extended period of allotted time. Students are responsible for working with their professor(s) to make up these assignments.

Students who opt to use this policy must be in communication with their professor(s) about their missed assignments by the time they return to campus from bereavement leave.

### **Notification**

A student opting to use the Bereavement Policy must immediately notify, via email, the dean of students and his or her current course instructors. Notification must be made at the beginning of the mourning period (that is, within the first 24 hours, which counts as the first calendar day of the bereavement period). If the student is engaged in group work or is on any class team, she/he must also notify at least one member of her/his team as soon as the student knows she/he will be taking bereavement leave.

Students using the Bereavement Policy must provide proof of death for the individual(s) who is/are being mourned. Proof of the individual(s) death(s) should be submitted to the dean of students within 14 calendar days from start of the bereavement leave. Failure to provide documentation will result in the absences being considered unexcused.

Documentation of the death or funeral service attended should suffice as evidence of the death.

Documentation can include but is not limited to:

- an obituary
- a copy of a death certificate
- a program from funeral/services
- a signed letter of funeral service from the funeral home.

If there are any disputes between faculty members and students when using this policy, the dean of students will be responsible for providing adjudication on the matter.

The University of Baltimore is working with an external partner to provide a complete SAP to assist students and provide counseling services if so desired by the student. For more information about SAP counseling and mental health services, please visit [ubalt.edu/studentassistance](http://ubalt.edu/studentassistance).

## **SECOND MASTER'S DEGREE**

A student may pursue a second master's degree at the University after having earned the first. Students who are [continuously enrolled](#) may transfer up to 12 credit hours from the first degree to the second degree under the following conditions:

- Courses transferred must have been successfully completed with a grade of B (3.0) or better.
- Students may not transfer credits that have previously been applied to an accelerated bachelor's-master's degree program or that have been applied to both a postbaccalaureate certificate and a master's degree.
- Two versions of the same degree may not be earned (for example, two MBAs with different concentrations or an M.A. and M.F.A. in integrated design).



- The dean's office of the college/school offering the second master's must approve which, if any, credits may be used for the second master's.

Continuous enrollment is defined here by the University policy in the graduate catalog. In addition, the dean of the college/school offering the second master's degree may choose to allow a student who has been on military deployment or on a formal leave of absence (for medical reasons or other reasons) to transfer up to 12 credits.

In all cases, students should consult the catalog for program-specific requirements and constraints. Students who are not continuously enrolled may transfer up to 9 credits into a second master's under the same constraints, and these credits must all be approved by the program director/chair and dean. Provisions of this policy do not apply to the transfer of credits to doctoral programs.

## **CHANGE OF GRADUATE PROGRAM**

Students in one UBalt graduate program may apply, through the Office of Admission, to enter another UBalt graduate program. The admission fee will be waived. If the student is unconditionally accepted, the program director and dean (or dean's designee) may accept into the new program a maximum of 12 credits in which the student has earned a B (3.0) or better grade. For the M.F.A. in Integrated Design program, the program director or adviser may accept a maximum of 24 credits only if transferred from The University of Baltimore's M.A. in Integrated Design program. For graduate programs in the Merrick School of Business, the chair or dean may accept a maximum of 24 credits only if transferred from another graduate program within the Merrick School of Business.

In all cases of students moving from one graduate program to another, for those credits earned at The University of Baltimore and approved for credit in the new program, the program director or adviser must decide to either accept **all** such credits with grades or to accept **all** such credits without grades on a case-by-case basis.

Students in good academic standing (see the [Satisfactory and Unsatisfactory Progress](#) section of this catalog) may seek an administrative change from one Merrick School of Business master's program to another Merrick School of Business master's program without having to apply for readmission. Students seeking an administrative change from one Merrick School of Business program to another Merrick School of Business program must complete a change of program/specialization form, available in the Office of Records and Registration. The student presents that form to the graduate program adviser in the Merrick School of Business, who will review the student's qualifications and, when appropriate, approve the change and sign that form. To make a decision, the director or adviser of the new program may also require submission of any materials that are currently required for admission to that program and that are not already in the student's official file.

**Note:** If the student changes from one program and/or major to another, his/her graduation requirements are those that are in effect at the time he or she becomes a degree candidate in the new program or major.

## **ENROLLMENT IN COURSES OUTSIDE THE DEGREE**

Students who wish to take courses not designated as part of the degree to which they have been admitted must have the written permission of the adviser, program director or dean's designee to enroll in such courses for degree credit. (Email may be used.) Financial aid may not be applied to courses outside the degree program in which a student is enrolled.

## **REPEATED COURSES**

While a student may repeat any course in which he or she has received a grade of C+, C, C- or F (not B- or higher), the student may replace only one grade. If a second attempt is made to replace a grade, the replacement grade will be calculated into the student's GPA regardless of whether it is higher or lower than the original grade. The grade for the replacement attempt will appear on the transcript within the semester in which the course is repeated.

Students who repeat courses to replace grades do so at their own risk. For example, a student repeating a C-graded course who receives an F for the second attempt will lose the points earned for the C, and the F grade will be the grade that will be computed into the GPA. Further, if the student receives a W (withdrawn) for the second attempt, the W will not replace the original grade.

If a second attempt is meant to replace a grade, a student must file a repeat course form at the time he or she registers for the second attempt. Failure to obtain the dean's approval and file the repeat course form will result in both the original and repeated grades being computed into the GPA.

If a student repeats a course and fails to complete a repeat course form, the grade achieved in the original course and the grade(s) earned in the retaking of the course will be calculated in the student's GPA. Students should be aware that earning C+, C, C- or F grades that are computed into the GPA may result in their placement on probation, suspension or academic dismissal. (See [Satisfactory or Unsatisfactory Progress](#) under the [Academic Policies](#) section.) Students should consult with financial aid to determine if repeating a course that was already passed satisfactorily is eligible for aid.

Grades of C+, C, C- and F earned at The University of Baltimore dictate that the class must be repeated at The University of Baltimore. Grades will not be changed on the basis of work taken elsewhere. The repeated course must be the original course; a substitute course will not be acceptable for a grade change.

The credit value of any repeated course processed as a second attempt will be counted one time only at The University of Baltimore to satisfy UBalt graduation requirements.

## **CONTINUOUS ENROLLMENT/LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

### **Doctoral Students**

An advanced doctoral candidate may make an administrative leave of absence request when one 3-credit course needed for continuation in the program is not available in the semester in which the student may need to enroll in the course to continue progress toward the degree. The advanced doctoral student will be covered under the continuous enrollment policy during the period of the administrative leave, as is the case with personal leave. The advanced doctoral student initiates the request, after consultation with the program director, as early as the preregistration period and no later than 30 days prior to the start of classes in the fall or spring semester. The dean may approve the administrative leave of absence request when no alternative course or independent study project may be determined. The advanced doctoral student may be granted the administrative leave only once within the seven years to earn the doctoral degree, and the administrative leave of absence does not interrupt or stop the seven years allowed between initial registration and graduation. A document granting permission will be forwarded from the dean to the Office of Records and Registration with a copy on file in the program office.

### **Master's Students**

A master's student has seven years to complete any preparatory/foundation requirements and all degree requirements (including internships, comprehensive examinations, and/or a final project or thesis) at The University of Baltimore. Degree-seeking students are expected to register for courses each semester (excluding summer and winter) on a continuous basis to maintain the degree requirements in effect at the time of their initial enrollment. The University recognizes, however, that a student may encounter extenuating circumstances that require a temporary interruption of studies. Under such circumstances, a student may be absent for a period of time without jeopardizing continuous enrollment status. If the student has not enrolled in four major semesters (fall-spring-fall-spring or spring-fall-spring-fall) and then fails to register for at least one course in the next full semester, then the student is no longer continuously enrolled. After the schedule adjustment period for the last session of the semester, the student's enrollment will be discontinued.

If a student feels that it is necessary to be absent for more than this allowed amount of time, the student must receive an approved leave of absence to maintain continuous enrollment under the degree requirements in effect at the time of initial enrollment. To be considered for a leave of absence, a student must make a request to the program director and the appropriate dean in advance of the third semester's absence. Upon reviewing the reasons for the request, the dean may grant an approved leave of absence. If a student's enrollment has been discontinued for failure to maintain continuous enrollment, the student will be required to apply for readmission and pay a reapplication fee before being permitted to re-enroll. A student who applies for readmission must fulfill the admission and degree requirements in effect at the time the student returns to the University.

There is no limit to the number of times a student may be absent from the University and still maintain continuous enrollment status. However, the semesters in which a student fails to enroll will be counted toward the seven-year limit for completing degree requirements.

If a student is absent from the University and has not maintained continuous enrollment status, the seven-year time period for completion of new degree requirements will begin when the student is readmitted to the University. A student should read closely the [Catalog Under Which Students Graduate](#) for information concerning whether credit hours more than seven years old will be applied toward graduation requirements.

If the seven-year time frame allotted for the degree has been exhausted but the student has not completed the degree requirements, the student must either seek readmission or make an appeal for an extension. Any request for extension of the seven-year time must be made in writing to the program director and the dean at least 30 days prior to the expiration of the seven-year time period. Such requests must include a plan for completion of the degree requirements within a reasonable time frame that must be agreed to by both the program director and the student. Each request will be evaluated and may either be granted or denied by the dean.

### **International Students**

Students studying on an F-1 or J-1 visa should consult with the Diversity and International Services before taking a leave of absence. Visa requirements stipulate that a student engage in continuous study while in the U.S unless eligible for a reduced course load, which must be authorized by a designated school official and printed on the student's I-20 document before withdrawing from courses.

## **GRADUATE INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH COURSE ENROLLMENT PROCEDURES**

The student must meet with an instructor to have a topic and course plan approved for sponsorship. The proposed topic of study, study procedures and time schedule should be clearly delineated. Once endorsed by the instructor, the proposal is submitted to the appropriate department or division chair for approval before the beginning of the academic term. The deadline for proposal approval is the second day of classes in the term.

To successfully complete an individual research undertaking, the student must submit a “finished product” (e.g., paper, report or portfolio) to the sponsoring instructor. A copy will be forwarded to the department chair to be kept on file.

## **CATALOG UNDER WHICH STUDENTS GRADUATE**

The requirements for graduation for a graduate student at The University of Baltimore are those that are in effect at the time the student first becomes a candidate for a graduate degree at the University, with the following conditions:

- The student must be in continuous enrollment in the same degree or certificate program during the academic years (every fall and spring semester) from the time of first enrollment until graduation.
- The student must not take longer than seven calendar years to complete degree requirements after enrolling as a degree candidate. Credits that are older than seven years shall normally not be applied toward the graduation requirements, except upon approval of the major department chair and academic dean.
- If, for whatever reason, including academic suspension or other deficiencies, a student is not enrolled for more than two consecutive semesters (excluding summer and winter sessions) or longer, the student must reapply for admission and meet the requirements of the catalog in effect upon returning and being admitted as a degree candidate.
- If the student changes from one program and/or major to another, the graduation requirements are those that are in effect at the time the student becomes a degree candidate in the new program or major.
- If the student wishes to attend another institution or must stop attending the University temporarily because of an extraordinary life event, he or she may request in writing a leave of absence and permission to re-enter under original course and degree requirements; however, the student will be governed upon return according to the academic and administrative policies and procedures listed in effect at the time of re-entry.
- If a leave of absence is granted, a letter of written permission must be signed by the dean.
- If a student’s program of study is suspended by the University (beginning a review of up to three years before it is discontinued), currently enrolled students must be given the opportunity to satisfy degree requirements of the original, unexpired catalog as mandated by Code of Maryland Regulations [13B.02.03.03](#).

## **APPLYING FOR GRADUATION**

The student is responsible for applying for graduation and must file an application and pay the required fee at the beginning of the semester in which the student expects to complete the degree requirements. Deadlines are established in the academic calendar and usually fall on the last date of late registration for a semester.

Students are advised to meet with their program director or adviser no later than the beginning of their last semester to make sure their course selections are correct. Each student should resolve any outstanding problems prior to midsemester, at which time copies of his or her records are submitted to the

academic dean for graduation clearance. It is the student's responsibility to make sure that all transcripts are in and that any pending grade changes or incompletes are resolved and in the Office of Records and Registration prior to midsemester. Failure to do so could delay graduation for an additional semester.

Any student who does not complete degree requirements by the end of the semester for which graduation is anticipated or who is not approved for graduation must file another graduation application and pay another fee in the future semester in which graduation will occur.

## **REUSE OF CREDITS**

Up to 12 semester credit hours earned by a student at UBalt may be applied for up to three distinct UBalt credentials. Permission of a program director and/or a dean may be required, and continuous enrollment may also be required. For example, a student takes three graduate courses as part of an accelerated bachelor's to master's program and then also seeks to earn a postbaccalaureate certificate that consists of courses contained within the master's degree being pursued. That student, with approvals, may be able to use those 9 credit hours for a B.S., M.S. and a postbaccalaureate certificate.

## **COURSE LOAD**

### **Full-Time Status**

A full-time student is a master's or certificate candidate who is carrying a minimum of 9 credit hours per semester. A student wishing to carry a credit load of more than 9 credit hours may do so with the written permission of the dean. Full-time doctoral students must carry a minimum of 6 credit hours per semester.

### **Half-Time Status**

A half-time student is a master's or certificate candidate who is carrying between 6 and 8 credit hours per semester. Half-time doctoral students must carry a minimum of 3 credit hours per semester.

### **Less Than Half-Time Status**

A less than half-time student is a master's or certificate candidate who is carrying fewer than 6 credit hours per semester. Doctoral students are classified as less than half-time if they carry fewer than three credit hours per semester.

## **TIME LIMITATION**

The student must not take longer than seven calendar years to complete a graduate program at The University of Baltimore after enrolling as a degree candidate. Credit hours accumulated in 600-/700-level courses (or their equivalent) that are older than seven years shall normally not be applied toward the graduation requirements, except upon approval of the program director and academic dean.

## **DISSERTATIONS**

### **Doctoral Students**

Some Doctoral programs require a dissertation—a significant work that contributes to the body of knowledge in a theoretical or applied sense. Specific regulations concerning necessary requirements for a dissertation should be obtained from the program's director.

Dissertation courses and the related continuous enrollment courses are graded P/F. Students are cautioned that a CS (continuing studies) grade will be given at the end of each semester for courses that are dissertation (numbered 899) or continuous enrollment (numbered 898) and for which the work is not yet complete. Students who have not completed the dissertation but who have exhausted the number of

credits required for the degree are required to register for the 1-credit continuous enrollment course each semester until all work is complete. This registration entitles students to faculty assistance while completing the dissertation; use of University facilities, such as the libraries and computer labs; purchase of a parking permit; and, if applicable, maintenance of their legal student visa status in the United States.

Failure to maintain continuous enrollment has serious consequences for completion of the degree because readmission is not guaranteed if a student stops attending without having been granted a leave of absence. Students should refer to the [Continuous Enrollment/Leave of Absence](#) and [Catalog Under Which Students Graduate](#) sections of this catalog for policies regarding interrupted graduate study. Each dissertation submitted as a partial requirement for a degree must be preserved in a prescribed manner in the Robert L. Bogomolny (RLB) Library. A final grade cannot be given for the credits earned, nor is the work considered complete until the dissertation has been finally approved by the faculty committee and the required materials have been submitted to library. The library requires one bound copy of the text of any dissertation and pays for binding this volume; the student is required to pay for binding one copy for the academic program and may purchase additional copies for personal use. In addition to submitting a print copy to RLB Library, electronic copies in an appropriate format must also be submitted to the library and the program. Details of these required submissions may be obtained from the appropriate program director, and also on the [library's webpage for thesis/dissertation submissions](#).

In addition to the submission to the library as outlined above, each doctoral dissertation submitted as a partial requirement for a degree must be submitted to ProQuest/UMI Dissertation Publishing for inclusion in its electronic database. ProQuest/UMI publishes and archives dissertations and theses, sells copies on demand, and maintains the definitive bibliographic record for more than 2 million doctoral dissertations and master's theses. The library has an account with ProQuest/UMI that allows students to submit their dissertation or thesis for free. Further instructions for submission may be found at [proquest.com/products-services/dissertations/submitting-dissertation-proquest.html](http://proquest.com/products-services/dissertations/submitting-dissertation-proquest.html) or <http://library.ubalt.edu/services/thesis-submission.cfm>. Students may also opt to copyright their work—in which case, they will pay a fee to ProQuest/UMI directly.

The submissions to RLB Library and ProQuest/UMI are not optional; the grades for the 899 dissertation course and, hence, graduation are contingent upon these submissions.

## **THESES AND FINAL PROJECTS**

### **Master's Students**

Some master's programs may require theses or final projects; others may require comprehensive examinations. Specific regulations concerning necessary qualifications for these degree options should be obtained from the program's director.

Thesis/final project courses and the related continuous enrollment courses are graded P/F. Students are cautioned that a CS grade will be given at the end of each semester for courses that are thesis (numbered 799) or continuous enrollment (numbered 798) and for which the work is not yet complete.

Students who have not completed the thesis or final project but who have exhausted the number of credits required for the degree are required to register for a 1-credit continuous enrollment course each semester until all work is complete. Failure to do so can have serious consequences for completion of the degree. This registration entitles students to faculty assistance in completing the thesis; use of University facilities, such as the library and computer labs; and, if applicable, maintenance of their legal student visa status in the United States. Students should refer to the [Continuous Enrollment/Leave of Absence](#) and

[Catalog Under Which Students Graduate](#) sections of this catalog for policies regarding interrupted graduate study.

Each thesis or final project submitted as a partial requirement for a degree must be preserved in a prescribed manner in the RLB Library. A final grade cannot be given for the credits earned and the work is not considered complete until the thesis or project has been finally approved by the faculty committee and the required materials have been submitted to the RLB Library. The library requires two bound copies of the text of any thesis or final project and pays for binding those volumes; the student is required to pay for one copy of any text document for the academic program and may purchase additional copies for his or her own use. For some theses or final projects, CDs containing electronic records or actual creative products must also be submitted to the library and the program. Details of these required submissions may be obtained from the appropriate program director. The library requires one bound copy of the text of any thesis or final project and pays for binding this volume; the student is required to pay for binding one copy for the academic program and may purchase additional copies for personal use. In addition to submitting a print copy to the RLB Library, electronic copies in an appropriate format must be submitted to the library and the program. For some theses or final projects, external storage media (such as DVDs, USB flash drives, etc.) containing electronic records or actual creative products can also be submitted to the library and the program. Details of these required submissions may be obtained from the appropriate program director, and also on the [library's webpage for thesis/dissertation submissions](#).

Master's students may opt to submit an electronic copy of their thesis to ProQuest/UMI Dissertation Publishing. ProQuest/UMI publishes and archives dissertations and theses, sells copies on demand, and maintains the definitive bibliographic record for more than 2 million doctoral dissertations and master's theses. For more information, visit <http://library.ubalt.edu/services/thesis-submission.cfm>. The library has an account with ProQuest/UMI that allows students to submit their thesis for free. Students may also opt to copyright their work—in which case, they will pay a fee to ProQuest/UMI directly.

## **ACCELERATED BACHELOR'S-MASTER'S PROGRAMS**

Some graduate programs at the University provide accelerated pathways for exceptional undergraduate students of recognized academic ability and educational maturity. To qualify for an accelerated pathway at UBalt, students must have an undergraduate grade point average of at least 3.5, with at least 15 credits earned at UBalt, and be admissible to the graduate program to which they are applying for the accelerated option. The undergraduate GPA is calculated using all graded collegiate credits attempted at UBalt and other institutions over the past five years. At least 15 credits must be upper-division credits (300-level or above). Individual programs may require a certain number of credits to be upper-division credits in the major and for those credits to achieve a certain grade point average. Students should apply for the accelerated option prior to beginning the last 30 credits of their bachelor's degree so that if accepted, they may attempt the graduate credits during the last 30 credits of that degree. Students may not apply before they have successfully completed at least 75 credits, and the grade point average for acceptance will not be calculated until at least 87 credits have been completed. Students interested in an accelerated option should consult with an adviser as soon as possible.

Students admitted to the accelerated option may earn up to 9 graduate credits within the last 30 credits of the bachelor's degree that may be applied to both the student's bachelor's and master's degrees if the student remains continuously enrolled. The program generally requires or advises that specific courses be taken for the 9 credits. The student must maintain a 3.5 grade point average in undergraduate courses and earn at least a 3.0 in the graduate courses to remain in the pathway. Programs may opt not to accept course credits toward the graduate degree if the student did not earn at least a 3.0 in the course.

University of Baltimore students in an accelerated pathway pay undergraduate tuition rates for the graduate courses that are completed prior to completion of the bachelor's degree. (Students from other institutions who participate in an articulated bachelor's/master's accelerated program will pay the tuition rate identified in the articulation agreement.) Permission of the undergraduate and graduate program directors and of the assistant dean of the college where the program is located will be required as part of admission to the accelerated pathway.

Students should be aware that graduate courses applied to both undergraduate and graduate degrees at the University may not transfer as graduate credits to another institution.

Unless otherwise indicated, students in accelerated tracks still apply to the graduate program prior to graduation; programs might waive some requirements (e.g., GMAT).

## **ELECTIVE GRADUATE CREDITS**

In certain programs, and only on a case-by-case basis, the undergraduate and graduate program directors may allow students with at least a 3.2 grade point average to take up to 6 graduate credits as elective undergraduate credits. These special permissions are not part of accelerated programs, and the credits may count only for undergraduate credit. Undergraduate tuition is charged.

## **HOLIDAY CLASSES**

Graduate and undergraduate classes generally meet on federal and state holidays, with the exception of Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's Day, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day and Labor Day. Students should consult the academic calendar for an exact holiday schedule.

## **INTERINSTITUTIONAL REGISTRATION**

### **The University System of Maryland Program**

It is the policy of the University System of Maryland to allow graduate students at The University of Baltimore to register for graduate courses at any other system school. Likewise, students at other system institutions may register for classes at The University of Baltimore. Prior approval by the student's academic adviser and by the registrar at the student's home and host institution is required. Courses taken at another system institution through this program are counted as part of the student's regular program at The University of Baltimore, and the student pays University of Baltimore tuition.

For full details of this policy, contact the Office of Records and Registration.