Appendix A: Full-Time Course of Study for Graduate Students
Taken from http://www.grad.uiuc.edu/policies/fulltime.htm

FULL-TIME COURSE OF STUDY FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS

Adopted by the Graduate College Executive Committee
March 20, 2003

Graduate students may be required to maintain full-time enrollment for several reasons. Many academic programs require registered students to maintain a full-time load. Full-time status may also be required for certification related to student loans, fellowship and traineeship appointments, and certain types of non-University medical insurance policies. International students may be required to maintain full-time status for purposes of Student Exchange and Visitor Information System (SEVIS) reporting.

The Graduate College Executive Committee has approved a change in policy, which will be implemented in two phases. The first phase, effective Summer 1 2003, affects only international graduate students for whom reporting is being done via the SEVIS system. The second phase, which will affect all graduate students, will be effective Fall 2004, when the Banner system will be introduced for student records and registration.

Graduate students with 25%-67% assistantships, except Fellows (see below)

- Fall and spring terms: 2 or more units (8 or more hours, or an equivalent combination); individual programs may set higher requirements.
- Summer 1 term: 0.75 or more units (3 or more hours, or an equivalent combination)
- Summer 2 term: 1.50 or more units (6 or more hours, or an equivalent combination)

Graduate students with fellowships (regardless of whether the student holds a concurrent assistantship) and graduate students with "stand-alone" tuition waivers

- Fall and spring terms: 3 or more units (12 or more hours, or an equivalent combination)
- Summer 1 term: 0.75 or more units (3 or more hours, or an equivalent combination)
- Summer 2 term: 1.0 or more units (4 or more hours, or an equivalent combination)

Graduate students with 1%-24% assistantships and graduate students without assistantships

- Fall and spring terms: 3 or more units (12 or more hours, or an equivalent combination)
- Summer 1 term: 0.75 or more units (3 or more hours, or an equivalent combination)
- Summer 2 term: 1.5 or more units (6 or more hours, or an equivalent combination)

Important Notes

Fellows are required to maintain a full course load each term of registration unless a reduced course load has been approved by the Graduate College Fellowship Office. Fellows who are international students must also have a reduced course load approved by the Office of International Student Affairs.
For purposes of load, each required or recommended ESL course taken as a result of the English as a Second Language Placement Test (EPT) will count as the equivalent of 1 unit or 4 hours, even if the course credit is recorded as zero units or hours.

International students whose first term of study is Summer Term 1 or Summer Term 2 must carry a full course of study. In some cases, the U.S. Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement considers a student to be full time at a reduced enrollment. International students should check with the Office of International Student Affairs for details.

Continuing international students are not required by the campus to enroll for the summer terms, although their departments may require enrollment. Those who do enroll do not need to carry a full course load for SEVIS purposes.

International graduate students who have completed all credit requirements (course work and thesis research) for their degree programs may register for zero units of 599 until completion of study. This registration will be considered full-time for purposes of SEVIS reporting. International students seeking any exception to the full-time credit requirements should contact the Office of International Student Affairs before registering for the reduced credit load.

For purposes of loan deferral only, zero credit registration in GC 599 will count as full time registration.

Graduate students not registered for at least a half-time load in a particular term will be subject to Social Security and Medicare deductions for that term.

**Implementation**

As indicated above, this policy change is being implemented in two phases.

The first phase, effective Summer 1 2003, affects only international students for whom reporting is being done via the SEVIS system. The second phase, which will affect all students, will be effective Fall 2004, when the Banner system will be introduced for student records and registration.

Until Fall 2004, the Office of Admissions and Records (OAR) will continue to certify full-time status based on the current requirements for full-time registration (in fall and spring, 3 units or 12 hours or an equivalent combination). Such certification is required, for example, to defer loan repayment, to hold fellowships or traineeships, and to be covered by certain types of non-University medical insurance policies.

Students with specific loan repayment questions should consult their lenders (school, bank, or loan agency). Students with questions about their fellowships or traineeships should consult the Graduate College Fellowship Office or the funding agency. Students with questions about certification of full-time status should contact OAR. Questions about the requirements of specific academic programs should be directed to the graduate office for that program.