

Plans I (Thesis) and II (Non-Thesis) Options

Master's degree programs at the University of New Mexico are completed under one of two plans, as described below. These are referred to as Plans I and II. Some programs offer students the option of following either of these two plans, while others offer only one. In addition to the general requirements listed above, the following specific requirements apply:

Plan I Requirements

- 1 A minimum of 24 credit hours of course work, with a minimum of 15 credit hours in the major field.
- 2 A minimum of 6 credit hours of 500-level course work.
- 3 A maximum of 6 credit hours in "problems" courses and a maximum of 5 credit hours of workshop credit.
- 4 Six credit hours of Thesis (599) credit.
- 5 Completion of a master's thesis.

Plan II Requirements

- 1 A minimum of 32 credit hours of course work, with a minimum of 18 credit hours in the major field.
- 2 A minimum of 12 credit hours of 500-level courses.
- 3 A maximum of 12 credit hours in "problems" courses and a maximum of 8 credit hours of workshop credit.

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Plan I Requirements

- 6 A minimum of 24 credit hours of course work, with a minimum of 15 credit hours in the major field.
- 7 A minimum of 6 credit hours of 500-level course work.
- 8 A maximum of 6 credit hours in "problems" courses and a maximum of 5 credit hours of workshop credit.
- 9 Six credit hours of Thesis (599) credit.
- 10 Completion of a master's thesis.

Plan II Requirements

- 4 A minimum of 30 credit hours of course work, with a minimum of 18 credit hours in the major field.
- 5 A minimum of 12 credit hours of 500-level courses.
- 6 A maximum of 12 credit hours in "problems" courses and a maximum of 8 credit hours of workshop credit.

Revision of Masters Plan II Requirements

It is proposed that the minimum course work requirement for the Plan II Masters be reduced from 32 credit hours to 30 credit hours. There are two compelling reasons for this change. First, the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) of the North Central Association, which is our accrediting body, requires a minimum of 30 semester credits beyond the Bachelor's degree for the degree (Assumed Practices Number: CRRT.B.10.020 in the HLC Policies). Second, a survey of a number of universities revealed that all of them required 30 credit hours or less for their Master's degrees with the exception of a few programs such as medicine. These universities included: U.T.-Austin, Arizona State University, C.U.-Boulder, U.C. Berkeley, Univ. of Virginia, Texas Tech, and U.S.C.

There appears to be no reason beyond tradition for there to be a 32 hour requirement for the Plan II Master's degree at UNM. This will reduce the number of credits needed to complete the Plan II Master's degree, which will help our students graduate sooner. This change will bring us into alignment with other universities in our region and across the country. Most importantly, it will bring us into alignment with the HLC requirement for the Master's Degree.