SECTION X. GRADUATE STUDENT CLASSIFICATION

A graduate student is a student who has been duly admitted to a graduate school of a college or university.

1. Full-time Student. A full-time graduate student is one who is taking at least nine semester hours, or the equivalent, of scheduled work during a regular semester. (For those institutions under the quarter calendar, a full-time graduate student is one who is taking at least six semester hours, or the equivalent of scheduled work, during a quarter.)

2. Part-time Student. A part-time graduate student is one who is taking less than nine semester hours, or the equivalent of scheduled work, during a regular semester. (For those institutions under the quarter calendar, a part-time graduate student is one who is taking less than six semester hours during a quarter.)

SECTION XI. REQUIREMENTS FOR MASTER’S DEGREES

A. General Requirements

1. A program leading to a master’s degree normally shall be the equivalent of at least one year of full-time graduate study.

2. The minimum credit requirement for the master’s degree shall be 30 semester hours of graduate work, not more than six of which may be allowed for the thesis and its completion. In optional programs not requiring a thesis, the standard course requirement shall not be less than 30 semester hours.

3. The student shall complete a minimum of 18 semester hours of graduate credit in a major discipline, including credit for the thesis (where required) and its completion.

4. Grades must average 3.0 or better on a 4.0 scale and may not include any grade lower than “C,” nor more than six semester hours of credit with a grade of “C.”

5. A minimum of one-half of the course credits for the degree must be in courses open only to graduate students.

B. Second Master’s Degree. A student seeking a second master’s degree may be allowed to apply from a previous graduate degree a maximum of one-half the credits required for the second degree.

C. Course Load. The recommended maximum course load for a graduate student is 16 graduate hours for a semester (12 for a quarter) and nine for a seven- to nine-week summer session. For shorter sessions, the maximum shall be one hour of graduate credit for each week of the session.
D. **Resident Requirements.** To satisfy resident requirements, a graduate student must earn while in residence at least two-thirds of the credit hours required for the degree.

E. **Admission to Candidacy.** Each institution shall provide appropriate and regular means for determining candidacy status.

F. **Comprehensive Examination.** A comprehensive examination covering all areas of study for the degree may be required for each candidate.

G. **Thesis.** A program leading to a master’s degree shall require an understanding of research and the manner in which research is conducted, as evidenced by a thesis. For a non-research oriented program, additional course work resulting in an understanding of acceptable practices in the field may be required in lieu of the thesis.

H. **Time Limit for Degree.** The time limit for completion of all requirements for the master’s degree shall be six consecutive calendar years from the time of initial enrollment for degree credit. An extension may be granted if approved by the appropriate administrative unit.

I. **Transfer of Credit.** A student may be allowed to transfer from a regionally-accredited college or university a maximum of one-third of the credit hours required for the degree. Both resident and extension credits may be accepted.

### SECTION XII. REQUIREMENTS FOR SPECIALIST IN EDUCATION DEGREE (Ed.S.)

A. **General Requirements**

1. The applicant should have a master’s degree from a regionally accredited institution. However, an exceptional student with a baccalaureate degree may be admitted at the discretion of the institution.

2. A minimum of three years’ successful, full-time teaching experience and a valid teaching certificate may be required by established institutional policy.

3. Letters of recommendation from appropriate school and/or college officials in a number deemed sufficient by the institution, may be required.

4. The applicant shall have a GPA of 3.0 on all graduate work pursued.

5. The student shall be required to complete a field study or thesis, supported by adequate research in an area of study pertaining to the degree.

6. All work beyond the master’s degree that is to be applied to the Ed.S. degree must be completed within six calendar years from the initial enrollment. An extension may be granted if approved by the appropriate administrative unit.
SECTION XIII. REQUIREMENTS FOR DOCTORAL DEGREES

A. General Requirements

1. A program leading to a doctoral degree normally shall be the equivalent of at least three years of graduate study beyond the baccalaureate degree.

2. The applicant should have a master’s degree from a regionally accredited institution. However, an exceptional student with a baccalaureate degree may be admitted at the discretion of the institution.

3. Letters of recommendation shall be provided in a number deemed sufficient by the institution.

4. The student shall successfully complete a locally determined screening, qualifying examination, or procedure.

5. The student shall complete all course work with a minimum average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale. No grade lower than “C” shall be applicable to the degree.

6. The student shall complete successfully a general or comprehensive examination which may be oral or written or both. This examination shall cover all areas of study included for the degree.

7. A program leading to a doctoral degree shall require independent research competence as evidenced by a doctoral dissertation that augments or reinterprets the knowledge within the field. For a professional doctoral program, demonstrated competence through a creative project that applies to known principles and research procedures, and provides for professional experience may be required in lieu of the dissertation. The student shall be required to complete successfully a final examination (oral or written or both) defending the dissertation.

8. The minimum resident requirement of two semesters or three quarters of consecutive graduate study may be waived at the discretion of the university.

9. All degree requirements must be completed within six calendar years following admission to candidacy. Prior work applied to the degree (including transfer and locally-earned credits) must have been completed within nine calendar years immediately preceding the date on which the degree is conferred. An extension may be granted if approved by the appropriate administrative unit of the institution.

10. Graduate credit, earned beyond the master’s degree and prior to admission to the doctoral program, may be transferred if applicable to the student’s approved degree program. Transfer credit may not be used to reduce the minimum resident requirements.
B. Admission to Candidacy. Each institution shall provide appropriate and regular means for determining candidacy status, usually after successful completion of the general or comprehensive examination.

SECTION XIV. ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS

A. Board of Supervisors Academic Scholarships.

1. Number Per Institution and Selection Criteria. Each institution may grant annually to first-time freshmen, selected on the basis of academic ability, 25 (Revised 3/26/04) scholarships of institutionally determined value that, when combined with other state, institutional, or federal aid, may not exceed the students’ cost of attendance. Selection shall be made using a formula devised at the institution that shall include high school GPA, scores on the American College Test (ACT) or other comparable nationally normed examinations, recommendations from high school principals and teachers, and interviews. The selection shall be made from Louisiana residents without regard to a student’s proposed major. The scholarship shall be awarded to full-time students for a maximum of four calendar years (eight semesters) or until a bachelor’s degree is obtained, whichever is the shortest period. (Revised 8/25/00)

2. Other-Race Initiative. An additional five scholarships may be granted annually at each institution to increase other-race enrollment. There may be a separate formula, using the same factors, for awarding the five other-race scholarships.

3. Awarding of Scholarships. Each institution may award all of the basic 25 scholarships each year, so that up to 100 scholarship students may be enrolled during the academic years. Full use of the five other-race scholarships increases the maximum to 120. If a scholarship is vacated, another recipient (not necessarily a first-time freshman) may be selected on the basis of GPA computed on college credits earned to complete the life of the award. (Revised 3/26/99)

4. Maintaining Eligibility. To remain eligible, the recipient must maintain full-time enrollment (except that part-time is allowed for summer sessions) and a 3.0 cumulative GPA.

B. Presidential Scholarships. Each System institution may award such scholarships to first-time freshmen who have excelled academically in high school. The award is based on the following minimal criteria: 3.0 grade-point average from high school and a minimum 30 ACT score or 3.0 grade-point average from high school and in top 3% of ACT scores at the awarding institution. (Revised 8/25/00)

SECTION XV. GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIPS

Research/Teaching Assistantships. Each institution should provide a number of laboratory, research and/or teaching assistantships for degree-seeking graduate students. Student fees may be