

Resolution to modify the minimum requirements for a Masters degree within the CWRU School of Graduate Studies.

Currently, the CWRU School of Graduate Studies has a minimum requirement of 27 credit hours and a minimum grade point average of 2.75 for conferral of a Masters degree. The majority of our graduate programs use this minimum standard.

During the past several years, the Ohio Board of Education has worked to establish minimum requirements for Masters and Doctoral degrees within the State of Ohio. Currently the Ohio Department of Higher Education's Guidelines and Procedures for Academic Program Review contains the following statement regarding minimum credit hour requirements for a Masters degree in the State of Ohio:

Master's Degree: An award that requires the successful completion of at least 30 semester credit hours (or 45 quarter credit hours) of work beyond the bachelor's degree. Master's degrees such as the Master of Arts and the Master of Science are typically considered research graduate degrees, and involve preparation to carry out research and to discover new knowledge—whether the field is pure or applied. Master's degrees may also recognize preparation for professional practice. Examples of professional practice master's degrees include the Master of Business Administration (MBA), Master of Science in Nursing (MSN), Master of Public Health (MPH) and the Master of Social Work (MSW).

A survey of graduate programs among the membership of the Ohio Chancellor's Council for Graduate Studies reveals that all member institutions (except CWRU) in the State of Ohio have a minimum requirement of 30 credit hours as well as a minimum grade point average of 3.0 for conferral of a Masters degree.

A survey of a sampling of institutions within the Association of American Universities that CWRU identifies as peer or aspirant institutions reveal that those institutions require 30 or more credit hours as well as a minimum grade point average of 3.0 for the conferral of a Masters degree.

In order to comply with expectations within the State of Ohio, the CWRU School of Graduate Studies proposes to raise the minimum requirements for a Masters degree to 30 credit hours and that the minimum grade point average for graduation be raised to 3.0. This new requirement would begin with the matriculating class in Fall 2018.