

## Chapter 6

### E. Maximum Time Limits for Completion of Degree

**1. Master's Degrees.** Most full-time students enrolled in master's degree programs at WSU require 2-3 years for completion of their program. The maximum time allowed for completion of a master's degree is 6 years from the beginning date of the earliest course applied toward the degree. The Graduate School recognizes some programs are designed for the part-time student and can be expected to require a longer completion period. As appropriate, departments may request an extension of this time limit as described below.

**2. Doctoral Degrees.** Most students enrolled in doctoral degree programs at WSU require 4-6 years for completion of their program. The maximum time allowed for completion of a doctoral degree is 10 years from the beginning date of the earliest course applied toward the degree. The Graduate School recognizes that part-time students may require a longer completion period. As appropriate, departments may request an extension of this time limit as described below.

Each program for a doctoral degree is considered individually. In all cases, work for the degree must be completed within three years of the date of the satisfactory completion of the preliminary examination. However, the courses on the program of study remain valid only for 10 years from the earliest date of the course(s) applied toward the degree. It is imperative that students work closely with their programs to develop a timeline for completion that successfully accommodates both of these deadlines. At least four months must elapse between preliminary and final examinations for doctoral degrees.

**3. Certificates.** Full-time students enrolled in certificate programs generally require 2-4 years to complete their certificate program; part-time students may require a longer completion period. The maximum time allowed for completion of a certificate is 6 years from the beginning date of the earliest course applied toward the certificate. Students may request an extension of this time limit as described in Section F of this chapter.