Although Thomas Jefferson’s original plan for the University contemplated graduate instruction, the first such department in the modern sense was not instituted until 1859-60 by Professor Basil Gildersleeve in the School of Greek. Shortly after the Civil War, a similar department was announced for the School of Latin. The degree of Doctor of Philosophy was offered initially by the University as early as 1880 and was first awarded in 1885. No formal departmental organization for graduate study existed, however, until 1904. In that year, the Graduate School was established under regulations corresponding to the requirements of the Association of American Universities, in which the University of Virginia was the first southern university to hold membership. The administrative offices of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences are as follows: Admissions Office, 437 Cabell Hall (434-924-7184); Enrolled Student Office, 438 Cabell Hall (434-924-7183); and Dean’s Office, 419 Cabell Hall (434-924-3389). The mailing address is University of Virginia, P.O. Box 400775, Charlottesville, VA 22904-4775.
Arts and Sciences is not automatic; after absence of a semester or longer, a former student must apply for readmission to the Graduate School. This statement does not apply to graduate students pursuing graduate work in summer only.

**Enforced Withdrawal** The student may be required to withdraw from the University if the academic advisor, the responsible departmental members and the Dean of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences determine that the student is making unsatisfactory progress toward a degree (See Grades, Voluntary Withdrawal, and University General Regulations).

**Posthumous Degrees** Eligibility for posthumous degrees extends only to students enrolled in B.A. and B.S. programs.

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**Degree Requirements**

**Master’s Degree**

The master’s degree will be conferred upon the holder of an approved baccalaureate degree who has fulfilled within the designated time limit all requirements as set forth below. Language requirements are included in the section on Ph.D. requirements. Successful candidates in those departments (science and mathematics) which offer both the M.A. and M.S. may upon recommendation of their departmental faculty elect the M.S. degree.

**Program of Studies** No fewer than 24 credits of graduate courses must be successfully completed while regularly enrolled as a graduate student in the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. The program should be arranged in consultation with the professors concerned, approved by a faculty advisor of the major subject or department, and then be approved by the dean in a formal degree application submitted not later than October 1 if the degree is to be conferred in January, February 1 if the degree is to be conferred in May, or July 1 if the degree is to be conferred in August. The courses may all be in one subject or department, but the candidate may, with the approval of his or her advisor, elect a limited number of appropriate courses offered in other departments. Only graduate courses (courses taught by members of one of the graduate faculties of the University) may be counted toward a graduate degree, and no extension, correspondence, home-study, or transfer courses will be counted toward the degrees of Master of Arts and Master of Science. Courses applied for a Master’s degree from one department may not be used to fulfill requirements for a Master’s degree in a second department of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences.

Following the course descriptions for each department will be found statements of any special requirements in that department for the M.A. or M.S. degree.

**Thesis** Departments may include a master’s thesis as one of the degree requirements. Detailed instructions on the subject and method of the thesis are available in departments. The physical standards for the thesis and the deadlines for submission are the same as those for the Ph.D. dissertation.

**Final Examination** A candidate must receive a satisfactory standing in a final examination, oral or written or both, conducted by two or more faculty members designated by the department in which the candidate is working. The result of the examination, with the names of the examiners, must be reported by the chair of the examining committee to the Graduate School no later than two weeks before final exercises.