training in the methods of research/creative output. The programs are designed to encourage students to make contributions that advance their field of expertise.

The student is expected to demonstrate an ability to conduct independent research, and the ability to express thoughts clearly in both verbal and written and/or creative formats. In addition, to earn a terminal degree, candidates must successfully complete all requirements, demonstrate a high level of professional skill and performance in their academic work and their internship experience (if required), and submit a dissertation/creative product acceptable to the committee. Specific program requirements can be found in the appropriate sections of the catalog.

Residency
Terminal degree students will be required to continuously register in courses for a minimum period of one academic year, or longer if specified by the requirements of the program. The purpose of the residency is to permit professional interaction with program faculty and students. The residency provides an opportunity for sustained intellectual effort/creative output by enhancing exposure to new concepts in the discipline, to research methodologies and to development of research competency with the outcome resulting in a dissertation containing original research or a solo MFA final thesis and exhibition.

Time Limit to Degree
The requirements for a terminal degree at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi must be completed within seven years subsequent to admission to the terminal degree program. Graduate courses listed on the degree plan that are more than seven years old are reviewed to determine whether they apply toward degree completion.

Revalidation of Courses Beyond the Seven Year Limit (for Doctoral and Other Terminal Degrees)
Degree plan courses completed while the student is enrolled in a doctoral or other terminal degree program are normally considered dated if the courses were completed more than 7 years prior to graduation. In some cases, the advisor or terminal degree committee may recommend revalidation of dated courses. Revalidation will verify that the student’s knowledge in a specific subject area is current. Written examinations normally are required. Successfully revalidated courses may be included in the student’s plan of study. Graduate students will not be permitted to submit more than 12 semester hours of their programs’ required courses for revalidation. Courses must have been completed at this university to be eligible for revalidation. All revalidation plans must be approved by the student’s advisor, the department chair, and the Graduate Dean.

Credit Hour Requirement
Normally a doctoral degree will consist of a minimum of 90 hours beyond the bachelor’s degree for students admitted to a doctoral program directly after completion of the undergraduate degree. For students who have completed a master’s degree, a minimum of 60 hours is required for the doctoral degree. The majority of the doctoral degree plan course work must be doctoral-level courses.

An MFA degree consists of 60 hours beyond the bachelor’s degree.

Transfer of Graduate Credits
In addition to the general Transfer of Credit Policy, specific requirements must be met for courses that may transfer for terminal degree credit. The following rule applies to these courses, with the exception of degrees offered jointly. (See Educational Leadership.)

- The student must have been enrolled as a terminal degree student when the course work was completed.
- The maximum amount of transfer credit from another doctoral degree program accepted toward the Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi degree is one-fourth of the credit hours required for the A&M-Corpus Christi degree. The MFA program maximum amount is 9 credit hours.