from the student requesting the exception, with written approval from the major department chairperson, the dean of the college from which the degree is offered, and the Graduate Dean. The preferable process is revalidation, as discussed below.

Revalidation of Courses Beyond the Seven Year Limit

Courses listed on the plan of study completed more than seven years prior to graduation are considered dated. The advisor or graduate committee may recommend a revalidation plan. 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 students’ advisor, the department chair, the college dean, and the Graduate Dean.

Degree Plans

A copy of a degree plan, developed by the time a student has completed half of the course work in the program, should be forwarded to the Office of Graduate Studies and Research.

Exit Requirements:

Comprehensive Examination/Capstone Experience/Creative Project/Thesis

All programs have a culminating experience. In addition to successful completion of all courses required for graduation, students are required to pass a comprehensive written examination taken during their final semester of enrollment or, if specified by the program, successfully complete a capstone experience or creative project or defend a thesis.

The thesis must be electronically checked for plagiarism and approved by the thesis committee chairman prior to the defense.

Second Master’s Degree

A student who holds a master’s degree may take a second MA or MS degree only if the second degree is in a distinctly different field of study. The MA in Interdisciplinary Study, MBA, MPA, MAcc, and MSN degree may be earned only once.

Students who already hold a master’s degree and who wish to receive a master’s degree of a different type must complete all college and University requirements for the degree, including a minimum of 24 additional semester hours at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. Upon the recommendation of the program coordinator and/or advisor, students may apply up to a maximum of 9 semester hours of related graduate credit from an earlier degree earned at this university to a second master’s degree at this university. Such credit may be applied to a second master’s degree only if it falls within the recency of credit policy and is approved by the program coordinator and/or advisor as appropriate course work for the degree sought. Some degree programs do not permit any credit from an earlier degree to be applied to a second master’s degree. Please consult the specific program for details. Credit from a degree earned at another institution will not be applied to a second master’s degree at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

Requirements for Terminal Degree Programs

There are five doctoral programs and one Master of Fine Arts (MFA) Program at TAMU-CC. The College of Education offers three doctoral degrees: a Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction, an Ed.D in Educational Leadership, and a Ph.D. in Counselor Education. The College of Science and Technology offers two degrees: a Ph.D. in Coastal and Marine System Science, an interdisciplinary program drawing from the natural, social, and computational sciences, and a Ph.D. in Marine Biology, an interdisciplinary degree program in collaboration with Texas A&M University-College Station and Texas A&M University-Galveston. The College of Liberal Arts offers the Masters of Fine Arts.

The goal of terminal degree programs at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi is to provide students with a comprehensive discipline-specific knowledge base and extensive
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.