

Continuous Enrollment

Once all coursework is completed, it is expected that students will maintain continuous enrollment in 7005 Continuing Thesis or Project until all degree requirements have been met. Students must maintain their Graduate Standing: Classified status and be enrolled in graduate coursework in order to apply for graduation. If the program is interrupted, reapplication to the Graduate School and program is necessary.

Seven-Year Limit

Consistent with Title 5, of the California Code of Regulations, CSU Stanislaus policy specifies that no more than seven consecutive years may be used to complete the requirements for a graduate degree. An extension of time beyond the limit may be granted by appropriate campus authority if warranted by individual circumstances and if the outdated work is validated by examination or such other demonstration of competence as may be prescribed.

At CSU Stanislaus, courses expire at the end of the designated academic term. A table is provided to illustrate course expiration dates.

Sample Course Expiration Dates

Course Taken	Expires End of Term
Fall 1999	Summer 2006
Winter 2000	Fall 2006
Spring 2000	Winter 2007
Summer 2000	Spring 2007
Fall 2000	Summer 2007
Winter 2001	Fall 2007
Spring 2001	Winter 2008
Summer 2001	Spring 2008
Fall 2001	Summer 2008
Winter 2002	Fall 2008
Spring 2002	Winter 2009
Summer 2002	Spring 2009

Limitations to Validation of Expired Courses or Units

Expired coursework may be validated only upon the recommendation of the graduate program director and approval of the College Dean. Certain restrictions apply:

- A maximum of one third of all courses used to satisfy program degree requirements are eligible for validation.

- Only courses completed at CSU Stanislaus are eligible for validation. Courses transferred from other universities are never validated.
- Courses completed more than ten years prior to the completion of the requirements for the degree are not eligible for validation.

Requirements for Validating Expired Courses or Units

Credits earned at CSU Stanislaus more than seven years before completion of the degree may be used to meet degree requirements only under the following conditions: (a) the student must demonstrate a current proficiency in the subject matter of the course in an examination administered by the original instructor of record or, if unavailable, a qualified substitute appointed by the departmental Graduate Committee or Program Director; (b) validation is available only upon the approval of the department chair and final inclusion of validated coursework in a degree program requires departmental recommendation, including appropriate documentation used to determine currency, and approval of the College Dean. A Validation of Outdated Coursework form is available from the Graduate School Office or on its Web site.

Culminating Experience

A culminating experience is required for each master's degree. Individual departments permit one or more culminating experiences described in this section. Students who have enrolled in thesis or project units will not be permitted to change to another culminating experience after the initial semester of such enrollment.

1. A thesis is the written product of the systematic study of a significant problem. It clearly identifies the problem, states the major assumptions, explains the significance of the undertaking, sets forth the sources for and methods of gathering information, analyzes the data, and offers a conclusion or recommendation. The finished product must evidence originality, critical and independent thinking, appropriate organization and format, clarity of purpose, and accurate and thorough documentation. Normally, an oral defense of the thesis will be required.
2. A project is a significant undertaking of a pursuit appropriate to the fine and applied arts or to professional fields. It must evidence originality and independent thinking, appropriate form and organization, and a rationale. It must be described and summarized in a written abstract that includes the project's significance, objectives, methodology, and a conclusion or recommendation. An oral defense of the project may be required.