Designation of Graduate Students as Full Time

In order to be designated as a full time student, graduate students must be registered for 5 graduate credit hours in the fall and spring semesters, or 3 graduate credit hours in the summer semester. A masters student in their final semester may register for one credit of candidacy (CAND 6940 or NURS 6940 at the Anschutz Medical Campus, or CAND 5940 at the Denver Campus) and be designated as full time. A doctoral student who is enrolled in one thesis credit hour (8990) in any semester is also considered full time.

Background for Engineering Specific Exception:

In some specific instances, students are accepted into a graduate program however their continuation in the program requires their successful completion of pre-requisite undergraduate courses. If the student has not met the pre-requisites they may be unable to enroll in particular graduate level credit courses and may need to undertake both undergraduate and graduate courses concurrently.

Some of the students accepted into Master’s programs, such as the MS in Computer Science and Engineering program, in the College of Engineering and Applied Science have not completed all the undergraduate pre-requisites. These students can therefore only enroll in a limited number of graduate level courses until they complete the required undergraduate courses. As these students are unable to enroll in 5 credit hours at the graduate level they currently do not qualify for designation as a full-time graduate student. In the case of domestic students this may affect their eligibility for financial aid, whereas for international students it compromises their visa status.

Statement:

The Graduate School recognizes that in such situations, students who undertake 3 credit hours at the graduate level together with 6 credit hours of undergraduate coursework in the fall and spring semesters should be considered full-time students.

Thus, international students in the College of Engineering and Applied Science who are enrolled in a Master’s degree program will be considered full-time if they are enrolled in either: 5 credit hours at the graduate level, or 3 credit hours at the graduate level and 6 hours at the undergraduate level.