




**PRESIDENT'S POLICY MEMORANDUM NO. 267 (Revision to PPM 200)**

**TO: All Faculty and Graduate Students**  
**FROM: Charles W. Steger**   
**DATE: May 3, 2010**  
**SUBJECT: Doctoral Residency**

**Approved by CGSP: April 21, 2010**  
**Approved by University Council: May 3, 2010**  
**Approved by the President May 3, 2010**  
**Effective Date: Upon Approval**

The University Council, on recommendation of the Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies, approved a resolution concerning the residency for doctoral candidates.

Following is the text of the resolution as adopted by University Council.

**Whereas** doctoral residency allows students to concentrate focused time on their degrees, acquire the habits, attitudes, skills, and insights required for contributions to scholarship, and have opportunities to work closely with other scholars including faculty and other graduate students, in a manner that extends beyond acquiring knowledge in classes and beyond attaining experience in professional practice, and

**Whereas** the Graduate School expects all graduate programs to encourage and provide opportunities for immersion of doctoral students in scholarship, and

**Whereas** residency goals are achieved by several means, including but not limited to individual and group research training; providing access to resources such as libraries, research equipment, scholarly materials, and laboratories; providing networking opportunities with Virginia Tech and external scholars and graduate students; participation in scholarly seminars presented by scholars from Virginia Tech or elsewhere; assisting with developing applications for external funding of scholarly endeavors; participation at scholarly conferences; and publications or other forms of scholarly dissemination, and

**Whereas** the Commission is cognizant of existing University policy on doctoral residency as documented in Presidential Policy Memorandum No. 200,[1] of amendments to those policies enacted by the Commission in 2007 (CGSP Minutes of 07 Feb 2007),[2] and of subsequent and

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current practices of the Graduate School as described in the 2009-2010 Graduate Catalog presently available on the Graduate School's web site,[\[3\]](#) and

**Whereas** the Commission now wishes to reaffirm and establish the principles of PPM 200, the amendments of 2007 thereto, and the updated practices of the Graduate School in the context of a coherent baseline policy,

**Therefore be it resolved** that residency shall be required for all doctoral students at Virginia Tech, and be it

**Be it further resolved** that residency for doctoral programs shall be accomplished through one of the following three mechanisms.

**1. Full-time enrollment (9 credits) in each of two consecutive semesters (default plan):** Programs shall provide opportunities during those two semesters to cultivate immersion in scholarship and achieve the goals of residency. (Note: One full summer is considered the equivalent of one academic year semester.) Students completing residency via full-time enrollment should plan not only to complete required courses, but also to sustain scholarly engagement and immersion in research, scholarship, and professional development.

**2. Program-specific alternative residency plans** may be proposed for doctoral degree programs offered outside Blacksburg or on the Blacksburg campus. Plans should describe how the goals of residency will be achieved, including an anticipated schedule of specific activities. Academic units should submit program-specific alternative residency plans to the Graduate Dean for review and approval at least one semester before the desired effective date for implementation.

**3. Individual alternative residency plan:** Individual students may propose alternative residency plans for approval by the Graduate School.

Academic units may use any or all of the preceding three options as they deem appropriate, and be it

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**Be it further resolved**, that alternative residency plans, whether program-specific or individual, must describe how the goals of residency will be achieved, including an anticipated schedule of specific activities. The means of establishing residency for each doctoral student shall be incorporated into the Plan of Study. Therefore, individual alternative residency plans must be approved prior to, or in conjunction with, the establishment of the Plan of Study. Subsequent changes to residency plans shall be proposed and evaluated in a manner consistent with other changes to the Plan of Study.

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