

■ 6.3.4 Expired Courses

- The age of a course used on a POSC is defined as the time between the year the credits were earned and the year that the student graduates. A course is considered expired when its age is greater than the time limit for the master's or doctoral program. As indicated in [section 4.4.5 of the Graduate College Handbook](#), the Graduate College Time-to-Degree Limit is seven years. Graduate programs may establish more restrictive policies for both time-to-degree limits and expired course limits.
- Typically, POSC forms include only age-compliant course credits, no older than seven years. Occasionally, a student and their POSC committee members may believe expired credits should be counted toward degree requirements. Recognizing the wide diversity of graduate programs at Iowa State University, and the fact that students embark on graduate study under many different circumstances and with varying degrees of prior experience and/or education, the Graduate College offers the following procedure for the review of expired courses for possible inclusion on a POSC:
 - Master's degree students may use any number of credits up to seven years old and up to six credits that were taken between eight and ten years prior to the graduating semester at the discretion of the POS committee and the DOGE. Master's students may not use more than six credits of courses on the POSC that are eight to ten years old or any credits that are more than 11 years old without documented extenuating circumstances and petition to the Graduate College
 - MFA students may use any number of credits up to ten years old and up to 24 credits that are more than 11 years at the discretion of their POS committee and the DOGE, so long as no more than 10 of those credits are more than 16 years old. Credits more than 16 years old must have been earned in the completion of a previous graduate degree. Coursework that does not meet these stipulations may not be used without documented extenuating circumstances and petition to the Graduate College.
 - Ph.D. students may use any number of credits up to ten years old and up to 36 credits that are more than 11 years at the discretion of their POS committee and the DOGE, so long as no more than 12 of those credits are more than 16 years old. Credits more than 16 years old must have been earned in the completion of a previous graduate degree. Coursework that does not meet these stipulations may not be used without documented extenuating circumstances and petition to the Graduate College.