



UNITED STATES UNIVERSITY

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ADVANCING EDUCATIONAL DEMOCRACY



Academic Programs

United States University uses a semester system. This publication explains academic requirements, admission, tuition, grading, graduation, and student services. Before enrollment, students receive the course descriptions, course sequence, delivery arrangements, and credential title for their selected program.

Level	Credits	Typical full time duration
Bachelor's	120	Four academic years
Master's	36	Two academic years
Doctoral following a relevant master's degree	60	Approximately four academic years

Completion time varies with course load, accepted transfer credit, course availability, academic progress, and completion of the final project or dissertation. Confirm program availability before applying.

Curriculum distribution

Bachelor's component	Credits
General education	30
Religious foundations	30
Major requirements	36
Electives	18
Capstone	6
Total	120

General education develops written communication, quantitative reasoning, information literacy, and understanding of human society. Religious foundations address texts, traditions, ethics, interpretation, and vocation. Major requirements develop specialized knowledge. The capstone integrates learning through a substantial written or applied project.

Master's component	Credits
Religious and ethical foundations	9
Research methods	6
Specialization	15
Thesis or applied project	6
Total	36



Graduate study develops advanced knowledge, critical analysis, research literacy, and the application of religious scholarship within the selected field.

Doctoral component	Credits
Advanced religious scholarship	12
Research methods	12
Specialization	12
Dissertation research	24
Total	60

Doctoral study requires coursework, a qualifying examination, an accepted research plan, supervised research, a dissertation, and an oral defense. The program's delivery and attendance requirements are provided before enrollment. This publication does not establish a fully online doctoral pathway.

Fields of study

Faith and Theology addresses sacred texts, interpretation, theological traditions, religious ethics, comparative theology, and religious vocation.

Religious Education addresses pedagogy, curriculum development, assessment, safeguarding, digital instruction, and educational leadership.

Religious Counseling addresses pastoral listening, spiritual support, grief, family support, religious ethics, and referral boundaries. It does not itself qualify a graduate for a regulated mental health license.

Religious Leadership addresses religious administration, governance, stewardship, organizational ethics, conflict resolution, and community service.

Religious Studies addresses religious history, texts, traditions, philosophy of religion, comparative inquiry, and research methods. Doctoral specialization is in Religious Studies.

Each course record identifies its code, title, semester credits, description, prerequisites, outcomes, assessment weights, required resources, delivery format, and sequence. A field description does not replace the individual course curriculum.



Admission and Transfer Credit

Bachelor's entry requires secondary school completion or documented equivalent, educational records, and a writing assessment. Master's entry requires a relevant bachelor's degree or verified equivalent, transcript, writing sample, and educational purpose statement. Doctoral entry requires a relevant master's degree or verified equivalent, transcript, research statement, writing sample, and interview.

Admission assesses readiness to complete the selected program. Payment alone does not establish readiness. Applicants receive written notice of conditions. Alternative evidence may be considered where displacement, institutional closure, disaster, or another documented circumstance prevents access to ordinary records.

Level	Maximum transfer credits	Minimum USU credits
Bachelor's	60	60
Master's	9	27
Doctoral	12	48

Transfer review considers academic level, content, documented achievement, and relevance. Doctoral dissertation credits are completed at USU. The same learning cannot satisfy multiple requirements unless expressly permitted. Students receive a written determination of accepted credits and remaining requirements. Transfer grades do not enter the USU GPA. Other institutions independently determine whether to accept USU credit.



Tuition and Fees

Level	Credits	Per credit	Three credit course	Program tuition
Bachelor's	120	\$650	\$1,950	\$78,000
Master's	36	\$1,050	\$3,150	\$37,800
Doctoral	60	\$1,200	\$3,600	\$72,000

Tuition is assessed according to registered credits. Program totals reflect completion at the stated rates. Accepted transfer credits reduce remaining tuition. Repeated courses incur the applicable tuition. The standard program totals exclude optional services, contingent late fees, and personal expenses.

Item	Charge
Application	\$0
Enrollment and registration	\$0
Required learning platform and digital materials	Included in tuition
Transfer credit evaluation	\$0
Routine required assessments	Included in tuition
Initial completion credential	Included in tuition
Official transcript	\$10 per transcript issued
Optional replacement printed credential	\$25
Installment plan administration	\$5 per plan per academic term
Late payment	\$10 per overdue scheduled payment

The standard mandatory institutional cost is the program tuition shown above. The installment charge applies only when a student elects a payment plan. The transcript and replacement credential charges apply when the student requests those services. Replacement credential pricing includes standard domestic delivery. Other delivery arrangements require separately disclosed pricing and agreement.

Students may inspect their records through the records access process without purchasing an official transcript. Students supply a suitable computer and internet connection. Any additional required external expense must be disclosed before enrollment in the affected offering.



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Payment Administration

An itemized statement identifies courses, tuition, charges, payments, and assistance credits. Installment terms identify amounts and due dates. The \$5 administration charge is assessed once when a plan is established for the term, not for every installment. No institutional interest is charged under this schedule.

A \$10 late fee applies once to an overdue scheduled payment after written notice and a five calendar day grace period. Late fees do not compound. Institutional processing errors are corrected. Students may request hardship review. An unresolved, documented billing dispute is reviewed before a late fee is imposed on the disputed amount.

Scholarships and sponsorships follow written terms identifying amount, covered expenses, eligibility, duration, and continuing conditions. Anticipated awards are credited when confirmed. Any remaining student obligation is disclosed. These provisions do not establish federal student aid or veterans benefit eligibility.



Withdrawal and Refunds

Withdrawal ends enrollment in a course or program. A tuition adjustment determines charges retained. A refund returns amounts paid beyond the adjusted account balance. Academic and financial determinations are recorded separately.

Circumstance	Academic result	Financial result
Cancellation before instruction	No earned credit or final grade	Full refund of tuition and institutional fees for canceled enrollment
Withdrawal after instruction starts	W for unfinished course	Prorated tuition calculation
Incomplete	I while specified work remains	No automatic refund or additional tuition
Failing grade	F included in GPA	No automatic refund
Institutional cancellation	No penalty for unavailable instruction	Refund for undelivered instruction and services
Account overpayment	No academic change	Excess payment returned after reconciliation

Clear written notice to policies@usu.education is sufficient. A particular form or explanation is not required. The University records the effective date and communicates both academic and financial consequences.

Cancellation within three working days after signing the enrollment agreement releases the student from the obligation except for a permitted assessment for used materials that cannot be returned. Cancellation before instruction begins results in a full refund of tuition and institutional fees for that enrollment.

After instruction begins, earned tuition equals tuition charged for the financial commitment period multiplied by elapsed instructional days through the effective withdrawal date divided by total instructional days in that period. Scheduled breaks and days when contracted instruction was unavailable are excluded from both counts. Future periods that have not begun are refunded in full.

The written calculation identifies charges, payments, assistance credits, permitted retained charges, and the refund or balance. Refunds due are issued within 30 calendar days after withdrawal is determined. A transcript service already delivered is separate from tuition. Retention of any other fee remains subject to cancellation rights and applicable law. External funding returns are reconciled separately when applicable.



Incomplete Grades and Withdrawal

An Incomplete, recorded as I, provides time to finish a limited portion of a course when significant circumstances prevent timely completion. Eligibility requires completion of at least 75 percent of assessed coursework, satisfactory performance, a documented circumstance, and a written agreement identifying remaining work, deadline, and grading consequences.

The ordinary completion period is 90 calendar days after the course ends. Continuing circumstances may support an extension. An I earns no credit and is excluded from GPA while the completion period remains open. The earned final grade replaces the I after evaluation.

If work remains unfinished at the deadline, the instructor calculates the grade using the published assessment weights and treatment of missing work stated in the agreement. An Incomplete does not require a second tuition payment for that completion opportunity. A subsequent repeat enrollment carries applicable tuition. Required courses with unresolved Incompletes must be resolved before degree conferral.

A W records withdrawal from an unfinished course. It earns no credit and is excluded from GPA. Notice before the course ends ordinarily results in W. Later requests receive individual review of documented circumstances. A completed grade remains unless changed through the academic review process. Withdrawal can affect completion pace and external funding.



Grading and Academic Standing

Grade	Points per credit
A	4.00
A minus	3.70
B plus	3.30
B	3.00
B minus	2.70
C plus	2.30
C	2.00
C minus	1.70
D plus	1.30
D	1.00
F	0.00

Each course syllabus states the grading scale and assessment weights before instruction begins. GPA is calculated by dividing total quality points by total GPA credits attempted. Quality points equal the grade point value multiplied by the course credits. For example, an A in a three credit course earns 12 quality points. A B in another three credit course earns 9. The combined GPA is 21 divided by 6, or 3.500.

Letter grades, including F, enter GPA. W, an open I, P in designated pass courses, transfer credits, and audits do not. All graded repeat attempts remain on the transcript and enter cumulative GPA. Degree credit is earned once unless the course expressly permits additional credit for repetition.

Bachelor's students maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.000. Master's and doctoral students maintain 3.000. Students below the threshold receive written notice and an improvement plan stating requirements, support, and review period. Continued enrollment is determined through individual review. An adverse academic decision includes reasons and access to appeal.



Graduation and Honors

Requirement	Bachelor's	Master's	Doctoral
Total credits	120	36	60
Minimum USU credits	60	27	48
Minimum GPA	2.000	3.000	3.000
Minimum required course grade	C in major	B	B
Final requirement	Capstone	Thesis or applied project	Dissertation and oral defense
Qualifying examination	None	None	Required

Degree review verifies courses, transfer credits, required grades, final academic work, and resolution of Incompletes affecting the degree. A grade below a course minimum does not satisfy the requirement even if cumulative GPA is sufficient. Commencement participation does not confer a degree. The transcript records the conferral date. Financial matters are administered separately from academic achievement, subject to lawful and disclosed document release procedures.

Undergraduate honor	Final cumulative USU GPA
Cum laude	At least 3.500 and below 3.700
Magna cum laude	At least 3.700 and below 3.850
Summa cum laude	At least 3.850

Latin honors require completion of the bachelor's requirements, at least 60 USU credits with letter grades, resolution of outstanding grades, and final record review. The unrounded GPA determines eligibility. Transfer grades are excluded. All USU attempts counted in cumulative GPA also count for honors.

Final honors appear on the transcript and degree document. Ceremonial recognition before final grades remains subject to the completed record. Latin honors do not apply to master's or doctoral degrees under this policy. Honorary awards, service recognition, and participation certificates have separate criteria and do not substitute for an earned credential.



Academic Calendar and Online Study

The academic year consists of Fall and Spring semesters. Summer sessions are optional. Each primary semester includes 15 instructional weeks and a final assessment period. Breaks are excluded from instructional week counts.

Period	Recurring calendar window
Fall semester	Late august through december
Winter break	End of fall assessments through start of spring
Spring semester	January through may
Spring break	One week during march
Summer sessions	May through august

The annual calendar publishes specific dates for registration, tuition payments, holidays, course changes, assessments, and degree conferral before enrollment. The table above describes the recurring semester schedule. Students should use the dated calendar for enrollment and planning.

Winter Break has no required instruction or routine assignment deadlines. Students retain access to available digital resources. Administrative closures and support hours are published before the break. Incomplete agreements identify permitted break submissions. A deadline on an institutional closure moves to the next business day, with written confirmation.

Level	Full time minimum	Standard load	Ordinary maximum
Undergraduate	12 credits	15 credits	18 credits
Graduate coursework	9 credits	9 credits	12 credits
Doctoral coursework	9 credits	9 credits	12 credits

External funding and other organizations may apply separate enrollment definitions. Dissertation research follows the program's stated registration requirements. Overloads require individual review of academic performance, workload, concurrent responsibilities, and outstanding Incompletes before registration.



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Online Course Delivery

Online credits count toward the same semester limits. Overlapping shorter sessions are assessed together. Shorter courses maintain equivalent outcomes and total academic work, with a greater weekly workload. An individual student may receive a lower concurrent limit when necessary.

Programs designated for online delivery identify the extent of online completion permitted by their applicable requirements. Any physical attendance, supervised practice, examination, or residency is disclosed before enrollment. Each course states technology requirements, live sessions, independent activities, deadlines, instructor interaction, feedback, assessment, identity verification, accessibility, and technical support.

Online delivery is distinct from transfer status. USU online instruction counts as USU coursework. Instruction at another institution is reviewed under the transfer policy. Administrative locations and instructional facilities are identified separately in the program disclosure.

Student Services and Policy Information

Contact policies@usu.edu for assistance with student records, accessibility, fees, complaints, and academic decisions. The Student Forms and Accessibility Policy publication provides request forms and accommodation procedures. The student policy handbook contains the broader privacy, conduct, disciplinary, complaint, and appeal policies.

General institutional inquiries may be directed to connect@usu.edu. The institutional website is usu.edu. Material policy changes are communicated with an effective date. Earlier editions are retained and existing enrollment terms and student rights are respected.