University Degree Requirements for Non-Thesis Master’s Degrees

Students also may pursue a non-thesis degree in certain departments. This degree would be based on alternative departmental requirements and would include, but not be limited to, the following:

- At least 30 graduate credit hours of study
- At least 24 credit hours must be at Rice University
- Minimum residency enrollment is one fall or spring semester of full-time graduate study, with the exceptions of non-thesis master’s programs in the schools of engineering, natural sciences, and social sciences, as well as the Master’s of Liberal Studies. For these programs, minimum residency is one fall or spring semester in full-time or part-time graduate study.
- At least 30 hours of course work must be at or above the 500-level.
- All courses must be in the relevant field

Time to Degree

All master’s students are required to complete their program within five years of initial enrollment. This time boundaries includes any period in which the student was not enrolled or enrolled part time, for whatever reason. Failure to meet any university time to degree deadline may result in the student not being able to continue in their degree program.