



Advanced standing may only be awarded to doctoral students, and it results in credits being applied toward the doctoral degree (usually based on an earned master's degree). Advanced standing credits may not be applied to a master's degree from UMass Dartmouth (UMD). Advanced standing may be accompanied by waivers of required courses as well; but this should be treated as a separate issue since the waiver(s) could be given without awarding advanced standing credits and vice-versa.

To distinguish "advanced standing" from "transfer credits" and "course waivers," the following may be helpful:

Transfer credits may be awarded to master's or doctoral students. They represent credits earned at an institution other than UMD (or possibly at UMD but while in non-degree status or pursuant to a different degree), and which UMD has agreed will count towards a UMD degree. A maximum of six (6) transfer credits are permitted as long as the grades are B minus or better and as long as the credits were not used in the attainment of another degree from any institution, including UMD.

Waiving a course may be done for either master's or doctoral students. Waiving a course simply means that a particular course(s) does (do) not have to be taken. But no credits are awarded towards the degree through such waiver(s); nor is the overall number of credits required for the degree reduced. Graduate programs have considerable latitude in waiving courses; but the Graduate Studies Office may request clear documentation about any such waivers when it comes time to certify the student for the degree.