Admission Status

A student may be admitted to graduate study in one of the following classifications:

- regular degree student
- provisional admission
- certificate student
- special status student
- English Conditional Admission (ECA)
- lifelong learner
- visiting scholar

Regular Degree Student

Students unconditionally approved for graduate study in a master’s, doctoral, or academic certificate program have regular status.

Regular status is required for advancement to degree candidacy and graduation. Qualified students may be recommended for admission to regular degree status provided they meet the minimum admission standards and the requirements set forth by the individual graduate degree program.

Provisional Admission

Students admitted with some deficiency in undergraduate training, incomplete credentials, or low GPA are admitted with provisions. Students may be accepted with provisions on a case-by-case basis. Students admitted with provisions must be changed to regular status as soon as the conditions governing this type of admission have been met, and provisions must be satisfied in the time frame set by the admitting unit. The incomplete admission credentials provision must be satisfied no later than the sixth week of the first quarter of enrollment or a hold will be placed prohibiting registration.

The deficiency in academic training provision must be satisfied no later than the first 15 credit hours of enrollment or one calendar year, whichever comes first. Any provision for a specific course(s) must be earned with a grade of B or better in each course. Students must be informed of the provisional admittance policies and the provisions to be satisfied in the acceptance letter.

Graduate and professional programs may require that students with three-year baccalaureate degrees be admitted provisionally and complete specific graduate-level courses in their first 15 credit hours of enrollment, earning a grade of B or better in each course.

Note: Some academic units may have more restrictive timelines for satisfying provisions. Contact the unit for details.

Certificate Student

A certificate student is one who is engaged in a program of study leading to a certificate. Only academic certificates will appear on the student’s transcript. Students must be admitted to a certificate program to be awarded the certificate.

Special Status Student

Students who do not intend to pursue a degree program may be admitted under special status. Proof of bachelor’s degree is required to enroll in graduate courses under special status. International applicants must demonstrate proof of English language proficiency and submit the International Special Status Supplement form. Special status students must secure the appropriate departmental administrator’s signature on the special status form prior to submitting it for registration. Admission as a special status student does not guarantee admission to any University of Denver graduate degree program. In the event that the student subsequently wishes to undertake a degree program at the University of Denver, the regular application procedures must be followed, including the submission of the required application fee. No more than 15-credit hours earned in special status may be applied to the degree.

Special status students must apply each term in the appropriate graduate unit. Special status students may not register during priority registration, but may register immediately prior to the beginning of each term. Some academic units do not allow special status enrollment.

Note: Special status students interested in taking Iliff School of Theology courses must register at Iliff. The classes will be counted as special status hours, not transfer courses, towards the DU-Iliff Joint PhD program with advisor approval upon acceptance into the Joint PhD program.

English Conditional Admission (ECA)

In cases where minimum TOEFL/IELTS scores were not achieved or no English proficiency test was taken, graduate units, at their discretion, may offer English Conditional Admission (ECA) to academically qualified non-native English speakers. Such applicants must take training through the University of
Denver's English Language Center to meet the English language requirement. English language training at centers outside of the University of Denver will not be counted toward meeting English language proficiency requirements.

**Lifelong Learners**

University College offers courses to non-degree seeking students and non-certificate seeking students. These students are designated as Lifelong Learners.

Neither entrance examinations nor a baccalaureate degree are required in order to register for courses as a Lifelong Learner. Students must declare their status as Lifelong Learners during their first quarter they are enrolled.

Lifelong Learners may take University College courses for academic credit and a permanent record is maintained by the University of Denver. Lifelong Learners may also take University College courses for non-credit (unless the course is offered for credit only). The courses cannot be counted toward a degree.

Lifelong Learners must maintain a GPA of 3.0 to be eligible to continue taking classes. If the cumulative GPA is below 3.0, University College will send a letter notifying the student that no further University College courses may be taken.

**Visiting Scholar**

Faculty members of other institutions may pursue postdoctoral study for no credit as guests of the University, without paying tuition. Visiting faculty members should apply to the department in which they plan to study. If graduate credit is desired, they must register as special status students and pay the regular tuition rates.