Time Limit to Degree - Masters and Doctoral

In general, a student has 5 years from their matriculated admittance to get their master's, 5 years from their master's to get their ABD, and 5 years from their ABD to get their PhD. Special cases involving classes taken while a student is non-matriculated student are reviewed by the Graduate School. More information is below as well as the location of an extension form.

MS

Requirements for a Master's Degree

The Bulletin stipulates the specific requirements for a masters' degree in each program of the University. In addition to any specific program requirements, Graduate School policy requires the following:

1. Continuous registration, including the semester (fall, spring, summer) in which final degree requirements are completed.
2. Completion of at least 24 credit hours of graduate coursework in residence, exclusive of a thesis, plus total number of credit hours required by the degree program. Transfer credits require approval of The Graduate School.
3. Maintenance of at least a B (3.0) average in courses approved by the department or school graduate committee and presented for the degree. All courses for which the university has provided financial support to the student count as "presented for the degree".
4. Fulfillment of all departmental or school course requirements. No credit is granted for graduate courses in which a grade lower than a C- has been received.
5. Demonstration to the examination committee, by means of a master's examination (written and/or oral) and required papers or thesis, of familiarity with basic hypotheses and techniques of the discipline and competence in applying them.
6. Completion of any research skills requirements.
7. Completion of any additional work that may also be required.
8. Fulfillment of any intra- and inter program major and minor requirements.
9. Completion of all requirements, including thesis if required by the program, within five years after admission to The Graduate School.

http://www2.binghamton.edu/grad-school/manual/policies-masters.html#173

PhD

Graduate Manual

Five-Year Limit for Admission to Candidacy

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A student in a doctoral program must be admitted to candidacy within five years of admission to the Graduate School if entering directly into a doctoral program or within five years after award of a master's degree at Binghamton University. The following clarifications to this policy should be noted:

- If a student is granted a leave of absence, the period of the leave is not counted against the time limit to be admitted to candidacy.
- If a student earns a master's degree at Binghamton University and then does not continue immediately for the doctoral degree, the five-year limit begins when the student is readmitted to the University for Doctoral Studies.
- A student may petition for an extension of the time limit by submitting a request to the director of graduate studies in his or her program unit. The director of graduate studies, if he/she endorses the request, then forwards it to the Graduate School for final action by the Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School.

A petition form to extend the 5-year limit for Master’s, Post-Master’s or Doctorate degree is located on the Graduate School’s web site:

http://www2.binghamton.edu/grad-school/manual/index.html#academic-masters

This information is found on the Graduate School’s web site, in the Graduate School Manual under “Academic Policies: Doctoral Degrees”, click “Admission to Candidacy  Five-Year Limit for Admission to Candidacy”.

This information was retrieved 2012.