



## **Placeholder and Full-time Status Policies**

Department of Linguistics

The following dissertation/theses policies detail how graduate students should register as they approach the end of their program. LING 897 and LING 899 are for master's students only. LING 997 and LING 999 are for PhD students only.

### **For master's students:**

#### **LING 895 Continuation of Master's Enrollment**

Students who are not actively working on their degree requirements (such as during a period when relevant courses are not offered) and are enrolled solely to satisfy the continuous enrollment requirement should be registered for LING 895 Continuation of Master's Enrollment.

This registration category is considered less than half-time enrollment for all reporting purposes. It does not satisfy the government requirement for F1 and J1 students to maintain full-time status and will require students to obtain advance permission for a Reduced Course Load, if eligible.

LING 895 has a fee attached to it that must be paid by the student regardless of where they are in their program or what their funding is. This registration category does not qualify students for federal student loans or university sponsored health insurance.

Though less than half time, this status does fulfill the program requirement of continuous enrollment.

#### **LING 897 Master's Dissertation**

Students who are completing their master's program and are short of the required number of credits to maintain full-time status may register for LING 897 Master's Dissertation.

Students should NOT be registering for graduate proseminar, master's research, an independent study, supervised teaching, or any other course simply for the purpose of maintaining full-time status. Any course other than LING 897 or LING 899, should have a legitimate academic purpose.

This registration category serves to maintain full-time status for the student but does not carry an associated fee. (LING 897 doesn't bear any credits, but it "automatically" gives a student full-time status.) It doesn't count towards their required credits.

*Students may only register ONCE for LING 897.* It's possible students may register for it a second time, but it requires permission of the Dean of GEPA through a petition form which can be provided upon request. A second registration is only for extenuating circumstances. Because of this, it's not recommended for any student to use LING 897 before their final semester.

Under this registration category, students remain eligible for federal student loans.

### **LING 899 Master's Dissertation**

If for any reason, a student has already used LING 897, but still hasn't completed their degree requirements, then they must register for LING 899 Master's Dissertation, which does the same thing as LING 897 ("automatically" gives them full-time status), but LING 899 has a fee attached. The fee as of AY23-24 is \$1,070. If a student registers for LING 899 in their second year, the 50% master's tuition scholarship applies; however, if a student registers for LING 899 after their second year, the dissertation fee is not covered because the tuition scholarship expires.

Under this registration category, students remain eligible for federal student loans.

### **Edge cases:**

- If a student is completing their master's degree during the August conferral period, LING 897 may be used again during the summer semester to prevent lending agencies from starting their 6-month grace period in May, subject to approval by GEPA.
- In rare circumstances where necessary, LING 897 may be used more than the one time, but this is unlikely and should not be counted on. This requires approval from GEPA.
- If a student uses LING 897 once, their petition to take it again was not approved, and they still haven't completed their requirements, then they must register for LING 899 to maintain full-time status and pay the associated fee.

### **For PhD students:**

#### **LING 995 Continuation of Doctoral Enrollment**

Students who are not actively working on their degree requirements (such as during a period when relevant courses are not offered) and are enrolled solely to satisfy the continuous enrollment requirement should be registered for LING 995 Continuation of Doctoral Enrollment.

This registration category is considered less than half-time enrollment for all reporting purposes. It does not satisfy the government requirement for F1 and J1 students to maintain full-time status and will require students to obtain advance permission for a Reduced Course Load, if eligible.

LING 995 has a fee attached to it that must be paid by the student regardless of where they are in their program or what their funding is. This registration category does not qualify students for federal student loans or university sponsored health insurance.

Though less than half time, this status does fulfill the program requirement of continuous enrollment.

#### **LING 997 Doctoral Dissertation**

Students who have completed their required 90 credits and are in their fourth year of their program, or students who will reach their 90 credits in their fourth year with less than 9 credits left may, with the approval of the Dean of GEPA, register for LING 997 Doctoral Dissertation.

This registration category serves to maintain full-time in-residency status for the student but does not carry an associated fee. (LING 997 doesn't bear any credits, but it “automatically” gives them full-time status.) It doesn't count towards their required credits.

*LING 997 can only be used one time. No exceptions!*

Under this registration category, students remain eligible for federal student loans and university sponsored health insurance.

### **LING 999 Doctoral Dissertation**

From the fifth year onwards, students who have completed their 90 credits must register for LING 999 Doctoral Dissertation, which does the same thing as LING 997 (“automatically” gives them full-time status), but LING 999 has a fee attached. The fee as of AY23-24 is \$1,070. If a student registers for LING 999 in their fifth year, the dissertation fee is covered by GEPA; however, if a student registers for LING 999 after their fifth year, the dissertation fee is not covered by GEPA. Some departments cover this fee, and others don't. As of now (AY23-24), the Department of Linguistics does not cover students' dissertation fees.

Under this registration category, students remain eligible for federal student loans and university sponsored health insurance.

**LING 895, 897, 899, 995, 997, and 999 do not carry any credits and therefore cannot be used to satisfy minimum credit requirements; they're simply used as placeholder courses to maintain either a student's full-time status or their continuous enrollment requirement.**