

## Graduate Cohort Definitions for Fall Semester

All students assigned to a cohort must meet these criteria:

- Must be an official student\*
- Be in a degree-seeking masters/doctorate program
- Student's first semester of attendance at Northern Arizona University is
  - the fall semester (or immediately preceding summer semester) for which the fall cohort is being created, or
  - the spring semester (or immediately preceding winter semester) for which the spring cohort is being created

The three types of graduate cohorts are:

### 1. New Masters Students

- First-time, degree-seeking masters student
- Note: If a masters student changes his/her major or completes a degree and enrolls in a different masters program, s/he will only be counted one time – the first time they sought a master's degree at NAU.

### 2. New Doctoral Students

- First-time, degree-seeking doctoral student
- Note: If a doctoral student changes his/her major or completes a degree and enrolls in a different doctoral program, s/he will only be counted one time – the first time they sought a doctoral degree at NAU.

A student who obtains a masters degree and then subsequently enrolls in a doctoral program would be counted in both the new masters cohort (when first enrolled in that program) and the new doctoral cohort (when first enrolled in that program).

### 3. Major Cohort

Unlike the new masters and doctoral cohort which classify students, the major cohort classifies students by the graduate majors being sought. This cohort counts the number of students who first enrolled in a major. For example, a new master's student who changes his/her major from Psychology to Sociology will appear in two separate cohorts – a Psychology cohort and then a Sociology cohort.

\*An *Official Student* must

- Be enrolled in classes at NAU as of the 21st day of the semester
- Not be enrolled in an outgoing Student Exchange Program (National or International)
- Not be enrolled exclusively in remedial classes
- Not be an active participant in the World Wide University (WWU) program
- Not be enrolled exclusively in Arizona Regents University (ARU) courses through Arizona State University or University of Arizona
- Not be an active participant in the Western Governor's University (WGU)
- Meet payment criteria

### Retention of the Graduate Cohorts

**Masters Cohort Retention:** Retention for the master's cohort is based upon whether the student returned to NAU after initial placement in the Master's cohort. For example, a student who first began at NAU as a master's student in the fall 2004 would be placed in the fall 2004 master's cohort. Retention is based upon the student's return to NAU as a master's student in the fall

**Doctorate Cohort Retention:** Retention for the Doctorate cohort is based upon whether the student returned to NAU after initial placement in the Doctorate cohort. For example, a student who first began at NAU as a doctorate student in the fall 2004 would be placed in the fall 2004

Doctorate cohort. Retention is based upon the student's return to NAU as a doctorate student in the fall 2005

**Major Cohort Retention:** From 1992 – 2003, retention for the major cohort is based upon a student's primary academic plan (major). For example, a student who began a Master's program in Sociology in 2001 will be placed in a Sociology Major Cohort for 2001 and retention will be tracked for subsequent years. Beginning in 2004, retention is based upon all active Academic Plans. For example, a student who began a Master's program in Sociology and Political Science in 2004 is now placed in two major cohorts and retention is tracked for both.

### **Graduation of the Graduate Cohorts**

**Masters Cohort Graduation:** Graduation for the master's cohort is based upon whether the student graduated from NAU with a master's degree. For example, a student who first began at NAU as a master's student in the fall 2004 would be placed in the fall 2004 master's cohort. Graduation would be based upon whether they graduated from NAU as a master's student.

**Doctorate Cohort Graduation:** Graduation for the doctorate cohort is based upon whether the student graduated from NAU with a doctorate. For example, a student who first began at NAU as a doctorate student in the fall 2004 would be placed in the fall 2004 Doctorate cohort. Graduation is based upon whether they graduated from NAU as a doctoral student.

**Major Cohort Graduation:** Graduation for the major cohort is based upon the cohort students were initially placed in and whether they graduated with that major. For example, a student who began in 2004 in Sociology is placed in a Sociology major cohort and graduation is based upon successful completion of the degree requirements for this major.