What is Detached Study status? Detached Study status affirms affiliation with the stated master’s or Doctor of Musical Arts (D.M.A.) program and that the student’s place as an active graduate student will be held until the conclusion of the detached study period without registration. Select student privileges such as computing and library access are preserved.

As of Fall 2014, the Graduate Coordinator (not the student) must enter the detached study in the online system.

I. To be eligible for detached study, a student must:

A. Be an active student in a master’s degree or D.M.A. program who has completed at least one term in Rackham.

B. Not be registered for the period of requested detached study.

C. Have been registered sometime in the last 12 months or be a candidate in the D.M.A. program. If not, a student would have to be readmitted and complete at least one term before they could have detached study approved.

D. Have a 3.0 or higher cumulative GPA or be doing something to improve academic standing. If below a 3.0 the department must send an e-mail or memo that states what the student is doing to improve.

E. Be within the time limit for degree, 5 years for master’s, 7 for D.M.A. If not within the allowed time, the student must also petition for a time to degree extension.

F. Must have bachelor's degree (or equivalent) posted to student's U-M transcript.

G. Address when they will finish incomplete (I) courses they have elected (if they have more than one incomplete).

II. Detached Study Time Limits

A student is allowed a total of 3 years (9 full terms) on detached study (but only 1 year can be approved at a time).

If the student has already had 3 years, a letter from the committee chair or department chair stating that the student has been making satisfactory progress towards degree must be submitted along with the detached study form.

If the student is a D.M.A. candidate, he/she must have an approved dissertation committee on file with Rackham to have any additional terms (above the 9 terms allowed) of detached study approved.

A detached study period can be no longer than 12 months (Fall - Fall is not acceptable, but Fall - Summer is).

III. Plans for the period of detached study

Research is a valid plan, as is writing or other activities related to finishing the degree. Loan deferment or medical leave is not acceptable as a plan. If students state that they are working in a lab or in any other capacity for the University, the detached study will NOT be approved.

IV. Percentage of student's activity to be devoted to the program (based on the normal work week)

International students must have 100% to satisfy immigration regulations. To have loans deferred, domestic students must have 100%. Different sources of financial aid and fellowships have different rules on detached study (and percentages). Please contact whomever administers the aid to verify if they accept detached study status.

V. Miscellaneous

Detached Study is NOT retroactive for any reason.

It is not usually necessary for students to use detached study for Spring, Summer or Spring/Summer terms. Those terms are considered “vacation” for most purposes including immigration.

Approved Detached Study can be viewed on the unofficial transcript (near the bottom). It is listed by term dates.