Program Policies, Requirements, etc.

Academic Certificate Matriculation and Award Policy
http://catalog.wvu.edu/graduate/advisingcoursesdegrees/index.html#Academic_Certificate_Matriculation_and_Award

All certificate requirements must be completed at WVU following admission to the certificate program, with the following exceptions:

- No more than 6 credits earned as part of a prior WVU degree, earned from a different institution, or earned at WVU prior to admission to the certificate can be applied to certificate requirements. Applicability of credits earned from a different institution to certificate requirements is the decision of the program offering the certificate.
- No more than 6 of the credit hours applied to a certificate program may also be applied to another certificate or degree requirements.

Academic certificates at the graduate and professional levels may be awarded either simultaneously with a graduate or professional degree or independently of any degree program. Completion of an academic certificate will be noted on students’ transcripts.

Master’s Degree Programs
All master’s programs require a minimum of 30 total credits (24 of those must be coursework). The Master's Degree must be completed in 8 years following admission.

Registration
To receive a stipend, you are required to register for a minimum of 9 credits for the fall and spring semesters and 3 credits for the summer semester. Credit hours exceeding 16 require prior approval by the Associate Provost of WVU. Remember, fees must be paid before the start of each semester to avoid a penalty.

Student Committees - Dissertation/Thesis
Dissertation committees have at least five faculty members and thesis committees require at least three members. A committee member from another (outside) institution is considered to have associate graduate faculty status. This is important because the majority of the members of any graduate committee must be regular members of the graduate faculty, including the chair.

All committee members are to be present for a defense or examination. One committee member (but not the chair) may attend by audio or videoconference, but should be available electronically during the entire time of the defense or examination. Another faculty may substitute for a committee member (but not the chair). Request for a substitute must be made in writing to the dean before the defense/exam and signed by committee chair, the student, and both substitute and original faculty member. Substitute must have the same or higher graduate faculty status as the original faculty member. Substitute signs the shuttle sheet, but original committee member is to sign printed copies of the thesis/dissertation if generated.
Evaluation of Student following Dissertation/Thesis Committee Meetings
Students must be evaluated once a year to confirm satisfactory progress in dissertation or thesis research and good academic and professional standing. Within one week of completion of the annual committee meeting, the chair writes a summary of the meeting. Following the approval of the report by committee members, the chair presents the report to the student. When the final report is approved by the chair and the student, the student signs the document verifying the authenticity and knowledge of the evaluation report. The document is then placed in the student's files of the graduate director and of the Office of Research & Graduate Education. An evaluation form can be obtained at: ???

Most of our graduates conduct a postdoctoral fellowship for two-to-five years, sometimes in two different research laboratories. The postdoctoral years equate to a honeymoon period in research. Typically, postdoctoral fellowships are conducted in an academic and/or industry setting. The goals are to expand your horizons in research and to publish and gain the necessary experiences and wisdom to garner your first position. Many first positions in academia, industry, and even small colleges require a postdoctoral experience.