There are multiple routes for completion of a Professional Doctoral (PD) program:

**Route 1. Enroll in PD program at initial enrollment.**

This route applies to institutions offering students a dual degree (see ACAOM *Glossary*) completion option for simultaneously completing a master’s and a PD program. Students electing this option must meet the admission requirements for both the master’s and PD programs and execute enrollment agreements for both the master’s and the PD programs before attending the first day of classes. (refer to criterion 5.02)

If an institution offers only a PD degree (no master’s awarded prior to or together therewith), then a student must only execute a single enrollment agreement for the PD program.

**Route 2. Enroll in PD program after completing a portion of a master’s program at the same institution.**

This route applies when a student executes an enrollment agreement for and begins a master’s program in an institution that offers a dual master’s-PD degree (see ACAOM *Glossary*) option where the master’s and PD programs share a significant number of courses. After beginning the master’s program, should a student subsequently decide to also enroll in the PD program, the student must: (A) meet the programmatic admissions requirements for the PD program, and (B) execute an enrollment agreement for the PD program. Provided conditions A and B are met, then all master’s classes completed by the student that are also curricular components of the PD program may be considered toward PD program completion requirements.

**Route 3. Transfer into PD program from master’s program and/or PD program at another institution.**

This route applies to students who start a master’s or PD program at *Institution A* and later decide to transfer to *Institution B*. Once admitted to Institution B, Routes 1 and 2 above may apply subject to transfer credit limits outlined in ACAOM criterion 5.03

*Note:* To avoid repetition of curricular content and additional tuition expense, decisions to transfer are best made within the first 1-2 academic years of study. Beyond the 2nd academic year students should consider
completing their master’s degree and subsequently enrolling in a PD program’s doctoral completion track as outlined in Route 4 below.

**Route 4. Complete a master’s program and then enroll in a PD program’s doctoral completion track (See, criterion 5.08: Doctoral Degree Completion Students).**

All students must meet the PD programmatic admissions requirements in effect at the time of their matriculation. For example, PD program admissions criteria include satisfactory completion of at least three (3) years of undergraduate-level education (defined as 90 semester credits or 135 quarter credits) and doctoral program English language proficiency requirements. (See ACAOM criteria 5.02 and 5.08).