F850 is our dissertation or thesis credit. Essentially, this is not a ‘real’ class in the sense that you do not sit in a class room and get a grade at the end of the semester. You will eventually get grades for these courses when you complete your thesis or dissertation. This is the way the university can give you some course credit for working on your thesis or dissertation. Technically every year you’re working on it or towards the completion of it so this is how you get credit for all that work.

If you are an MA student, only 6 hours of F850 will count towards your 30 hours for your degree if you are doing an MA project or MA thesis. (If you are doing the exam, none of it will count.) However, you may still take more than 6 hours of F850 as an MA student as it will count towards your PhD hours if you are continuing to the PhD program. 30 hours of thesis credit can be counted toward your 90 hours required for your PhD degree.

Once you reach that magical land of ABD status when you pass your PhD qualifying exams, you must be continuously enrolled every semester, except summer, until you submit your dissertation. **Submit, not defend.** Once you reach ABD and have 90 hours towards your degree you qualify to take G901. You receive 6 semester of G901 which is a discounted tuition credit, hurray! You pay only $150 per semester for 6 hours of G901. G901 is always 6 hours and it’s currently $150 for all of it. Once you run out of G901s, you must register for 1 credit for F850, either an in-town version if you reside in Bloomington or an out of town version if you reside outside of Monroe Co. The out of town version does not include the mandatory fees that are associated with courses here in Bloomington, because they know if you aren’t in town you won’t be using transportation, the health center, etc.

But Michelle, I already have all my 90 hours so what happens when I get a message that says, “You’ve taken F850 too many times to count towards your degree.”? Ignore it. You can take F850 as many times as you need. It’s true only 30 hours will count towards the 90 hours for PhDs, but you MUST be enrolled so F850 is the course to take.

An exception to this 1 credit rule:

If you are an ABD student who has an Student Academic Appointment you must be enrolled in 6 hours according to university policy. Usually your SAA will come with a fee remit, so enrolling in 6 hours of F850 is not much more expensive than enrolling in G901.

**When should I take F850?**
-If you are a student academic appointment and have received a 12 credit hour fee remit. You want to use all 12 hours with a fee remit because if you don’t use it, you lose it! Nothing is worse than passing your quals but not having that 90 hours and having to take F850 at full price! However, if you are a student who has already reached the 90 hours but haven’t taken their quals yet, only sign up for the required 6, not the full 12. You are charged more fees the more credit hours you take. No need to leave this place with more hours than you need. Try to hit as close to 90 as possible!
-If you are an ABD who has used up all their G901s

**When should I take G901?**
-After you pass your qualifying exams and have 90 hours towards your PhD. For 6 glorious semesters.

Is there ever a situation where I wouldn’t need any F850 at all?
-If you are the rare student who only wants an MA and will be taking the MA exam, you will not need any F850 credits.

I realize this is a lot of information, it’s slightly confusing, and some of it won’t apply to you for awhile. Essentially, just remember to check your situation every semester before you register. Do I have a fee remit? How many hours towards my degree do I have? Do I need to be enrolled in a required amount of courses? Save your money if you can!