

Definitions and Requirements for Certificate Programs March 21, 2016

Undergraduate Certificates

These programs are for bachelor's degree seeking undergraduate students and provide a significant interdisciplinary academic experience intended complement the major, broaden career possibilities, or allow study in an area of interest from a variety of perspectives. Students will be awarded the certificate and receive official recognition on their transcript when they graduate with a bachelor's degree. These certificate programs require:

- courses from at least two disciplines, i.e. distinct departments
- 15 credits minimum
- 24 credits maximum
- At least 2 courses at the junior level or above.

Graduate Certificates

In order to differentiate graduate certificate programs, certificate program names must be unique across all graduate certificate program types.

1. Interdisciplinary certificates

These programs provide a significant interdisciplinary academic experience intended to complement a major program of study, broaden career possibilities, or allow students to study an area of interest from a variety of perspectives and may be for degree and/or non-degree seeking students. Graduate interdisciplinary certificates require:

- courses from at least two disciplines, i.e. distinct departments
- 14 credit minimum
- 20 credit maximum

2. Specialized certificates

These programs are not required to be interdisciplinary, but provide an opportunity for skill development or achievement often for non-degree-seeking students in the workforce and may be related to external agency licensure, endorsements¹, or certifications., but they may also be available to degree-seeking students. Graduate specialized certificates require:

- 9 credit minimum
- 20 credit maximum

3. Specialized stackable certificates

These programs should provide a coherent academic course of study that may be within a single discipline or program, or may be multidisciplinary. A stackable certificate is intended to be combined (“stacked”) with other stackable certificates and/or other requirements to lead to a graduate degree but may be for degree and/or non-degree seeking students. A capstone or integrating experience is recommended for graduate degrees composed of stackable certificates.

Graduate specialized stackable certificates require:

- 9 credit minimum
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¹Program codes for teacher certification endorsements granted by the State of Ohio are not required to have UCC approval ([Minutes of the University Curriculum Council 13 November 2012](#)), only notification.