

Comparison of Graduate Program Options, Concurrent Degrees, Certificate, and New Degree Programs

The development of graduate program options, certificates, concurrent degrees and new degree programs all require the approval of the Graduate School. This guide is intended to help you distinguish between the options and determine the process and requirements for approval.

	New Degree Program	Degree Option	Graduate Certificate*	Established Concurrent Degree**
Definition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Course of study warrants a distinct notation on the transcript as well as on the diploma. Curriculum among distinct degree programs generally has less than 50% overlap in content and outcomes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Course of study under an existing degree warrants notation on the transcript in addition to the degree title, but does not warrant distinct notation on the diploma. Curriculum among degree options under the same degree generally has at least 50% overlap in content and outcomes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Curriculum provides a coherent course of study and culminates in a capstone or equivalent unifying experience. Minimum of 15 credits. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A curriculum established by two participating academic units resulting in either two graduate degrees or a graduate and a professional degree. Student proceeds in a coordinated manner toward completion of both degrees.
Degree Code	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A new degree code is established that is distinct in level, type, or major from other degrees offered by the unit. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A new degree code is established with the same level, type, and major as other degree options under the existing degree. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A new degree code is established. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A new concurrent code is established in addition to the existing two degree codes.
Enrollment Eligibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students are admitted and enrolled per program guidelines. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students enroll as part of their graduate degree program. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Graduate, professional, or graduate non-matriculated student status is required for admission to graduate certificate programs. Certificate programs are usually open to students from varying departments, programs, or interest areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students are admitted and enrolled in two graduate degree programs.
How Recognition is Given	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Degree is noted on the official transcript and diploma. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Degree option is noted on the official transcript but not on the diploma. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Graduate certificate is noted on the official transcript. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student receives 2 separate degrees, noted on both the transcript and the diploma.
Approval Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Faculty council review followed by final approval by the Board of Regents http://grad.uw.edu/for-faculty-and-staff/creatingmodifying-programs/guidelines-for-new-degree-programs/ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administrative review and approval by the Graduate School http://grad.uw.edu/for-faculty-and-staff/creatingmodifying-programs/new-graduate-degree-program-option-guidelines/ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Faculty council review followed by final approval by the Board of Regents http://grad.uw.edu/for-faculty-and-staff/creatingmodifying-programs/guidelines-for-new-graduate-certificate-program-proposals/ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administrative review and approval by the Graduate School
Subsequent Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviewed in 5 years. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Included in each unit's program review. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviewed in 5 years. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Included in each unit's program review.

* UW Educational Outreach also offers certificate programs that are not affiliated with a graduate program and therefore are not *graduate* certificates.

**There is an Individual Concurrent Degree option for students choosing to pursue two degrees from different units simultaneously. These programs have not been approved as established concurrent programs.