

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
The Graduate School
Guidelines for New Graduate Degree Option Proposals

A new program option to be offered within an existing graduate degree must include the items below. Contact the [Office of Academic Affairs and Planning \(gsacad@uw.edu\)](mailto:gsacad@uw.edu) in the Graduate School with any questions you may have about the guidelines.

Cover Sheet

Attach the completed cover sheet for new graduate degree options.

Overview

Provide a summary description of the proposed new program option, including rationale for the program. State the program's administrative location and the name of the program option as it should appear on the student transcript. Indicate the desired timeline for implementation of the program option.

Relationship to Institutional Role, Mission, and Academic Unit Priorities – Describe how the proposed program option supports the academic unit's priorities, both in terms of academic priorities and resources commitments.

Documentation of Need for Program

Briefly describe how it reflects or responds to current trends in the field, including available data demonstrating student and employer demand.

Curriculum

Describe in detail the curriculum and total credit requirements for the program option, as well as the relationship of the proposed option to the existing degree (new options within an existing degree program should have 50% curricular overlap with that program). Provide a list of the required courses and a brief description of each course. Indicate whether the proposed option will be developed from existing courses offered by the unit or if new courses will be developed for it.

Briefly describe expected student learning outcomes of the program option and how they will be measured. It may be appropriate to provide a matrix that links learning objectives or outcomes to individual courses or other specific program components.

Indicate when the program option will be offered (day/evening/weekend), where the program will be offered (campus location(s) and/or distance learning), and the delivery mechanism (in-person classroom, online, hybrid, other distance), including the type of technology to be used.

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Infrastructure Requirements

Describe required infrastructure improvements, including the need for additional library or technology resources, special space requirements (special classrooms), and equipment needs. Costs and sources of funding associated with these improvements should be outlined in the budget section of the proposal.

Faculty

Describe in detail how appropriate faculty expertise and teaching capacity exist for the new program option. Provide a profile of the anticipated faculty (e.g., rank, full-time, part-time, etc.), including the amount of effort in the program by full-time-equivalent (FTE). Clearly describe graduate faculty involvement in the program.

Program Oversight

Indicate how the new option deviates from the existing degree program in terms of faculty oversight. This includes any special committees or director associated with the degree option; program admissions; curriculum management, and any other aspects of faculty oversight.

Administration

Describe the staffing plan for additional administrative and support services for the degree option.

Students

Describe the student population to be served. Include information on scholarships or other financial support that may be available to students as well as estimated enrollment.

Diversity

Include a detailed description of how the academic unit will recruit and support traditionally underrepresented minorities to the new option. Reference the unit's diversity plan and how the new program option fits within that plan.

Program Assessment

Describe the academic unit's plan for assessing how well program objectives will be met. Describe how the assessment information will be gathered and used.

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Budget

Describe program cost and include the impact of the new degree option on existing programs within the academic unit.

Describe how the program fits within the following categories and make sure the proposal addresses the items raised in the appropriate section.

- The proposal is revenue* neutral. “Revenue neutral” means that no additional resources are needed. A business model/plan demonstrates that no new courses or course sections are needed; no additional faculty involvement or staff support is needed, no new operational funds are needed, etc.
- The proposal increases revenue. New revenue will derive from the proposal, (e.g., higher enrollments, fee based program, etc.) A business model/plan identifies start-up revenue, program costs, projected revenues, and a clear plan and timeline for reaching financial goals.
- The proposal requires new revenue, but has a compelling strategic value. A business model/plan identifies start-up revenue, program costs, projected revenues, and a clear plan and timeline for reaching financial goals (within a few years of inception).
 - E.g., the proposal positions a unit strategically to take advantage of an important opportunity that will shape the unit for the future.
 - E.g., the proposal meets workforce needs in the state, or important needs in the discipline or field that no other institution in the state will provide, etc.
- For fee-based program, the fully signed Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) is required before the proposal is approved by the Graduate School.

Unit and College/School/Campus Approval

The program proposers are responsible for assuring faculty review and final approval at the appropriate levels (department or unit, Dean’s Office or Chancellor’s Office, etc.) before submitting the final document to the Graduate School for review and approval. Signatures indicating approval are included on the cover sheet.