

Western Michigan University
Faculty Senate
Memorandum of Action

MOA – 19/11

Revision to Graduate Catalog to Allow Graduate Certificate Credits for Use in
Graduate Programs

Name of Council(s)/Committee(s): Graduate Studies Council

Approval Date:
April 18, 2019


Implementation Date:
Upon Administrative Approval

Responsible Office(s) and Responsible Enforcement Official(s):


The Graduate College Dean is in charge of monitoring, enforcing, and revising the Graduate Catalog.

RECOMMENDATION:

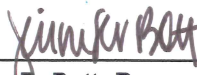
Revise the Graduate Catalog to clarify that departments can allow graduate certificate credits to be used within a graduate degree (and vis versa), and under specified conditions.


Timothy Michael, Chair, Graduate Studies Council 12/29/19
Date

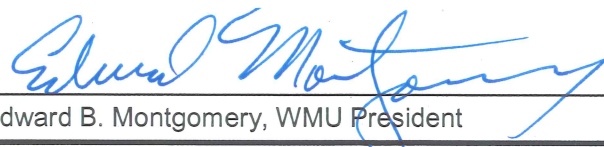
Approve Disapprove Other Action
Comments:


Richard A. Gershon, WMU Faculty Senate President 11/7/2019
Date

Approve Disapprove Other Action
Comments:


Jennifer F. Bott, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs 12.13.19
Date

Approve Disapprove Other Action
Comments:


Edward B. Montgomery, WMU President 12/13/19
Date

**Western Michigan University
Faculty Senate
Memorandum of Action**

MOA – 19/11

**Revision to Graduate Catalog to Allow Graduate Certificate Credits for Use in
Graduate Programs**

RECOMMENDATION

Revise the Graduate Catalog to clarify that departments can allow graduate certificate credits to be used within a graduate degree (and vis versa), and under specified conditions.

RATIONALE/PURPOSE

Current graduate studies language does not allow credits earned within a graduate certificate to also be used within a graduate degree program. With the continued growth in graduate certificates, and the concept of potentially “stacking” certificates for some programs, this revision is needed to better support students and faculty involved with implementing graduate certificates and programs.

STAKEHOLDERS

This proposed revision will positively impact graduate certificates and programs whose faculty agree to include a certain number of credits to be used in both certificates and programs. It will also positively impact graduate students engaged in such certificates or programs.

HISTORY:

- a) Effective date of current version: fall 2020
- b) Date first adopted: Upon Administrative Approval
- c) Revision history: revision adopted by Graduate Studies Council on April 18, 2019
- d) Proposed date of next review: April 2023

CURRENT POLICY (additions in bold and deletions with strikethrough):

Graduate Catalog: General Information/Admissions/Admission Types, Non-degree, Graduate Level/Graduate Certificate Program Admission

Graduate Certificate Programs are non-degree programs (except for the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Certificate Program) with specific course requirements **around a narrow, applied, and coordinated curriculum. Graduate certificate programs may be taken separately or in conjunction with a graduate degree program, with credits from the certificate eligible to be used in the graduate degree program.** Departments can determine which certificate credits, if any, to be used within a graduate degree program; such certificate credits can only be used if the student has been admitted to the graduate degree program at least one semester prior to the completion of that graduate degree program. Similarly, graduate courses taken as a degree-seeking student may be used within a graduate certificate program, as long as the student is enrolled in the certificate program prior to completion of the last course required for the certificate. ~~Such course work usually will not apply to a WMU graduate degree program. Departments may exclude students with this status from taking courses or may limit the transfer of non-degree hours to a degree program should the student later be admitted to a degree program.~~ Students in graduate certificate programs are eligible to hold a graduate appointment (e.g., assistantship) only within their certificate program. The time period for this “Non-degree Admission” status may not exceed four years from the time such admission status is granted.