

POLICY AND PROCEDURES FOR GRADUATE SPECIALIZATIONS Michigan State University

Definition:

"An interdisciplinary program of thematically related courses" separate from the major.
– *Academic Programs* catalog

At Michigan State University graduate specializations:

- include courses drawn from several department, schools, or colleges.
- are designed to complement approved departmental or interdepartmental majors or to provide an interdisciplinary perspective on a topic of interest.

Target Student Audience:

The targeted audience for a graduate specialization may be:

- open to students from a wide variety of majors.
- limited to students from particular majors or colleges.

Credits and Requirements:

The recommended number of credits for a graduate specialization is a minimum of 9 credits.

- Credits earned toward a graduate specialization may also be counted toward requirements for a major or degree program, unless indicated otherwise.

PROCEDURES

Transcriptability:

A graduate specialization is "transcriptable" (eligible to be listed on a student's transcript).

Certification:

- The Associate Dean of the college responsible for administering the graduate specialization will inform the Office of the Registrar when the student has completed the requirements of the specialization. Certification is concurrent with the degree certification process.

Relationship to Other Award Types:

What is the relationship between a graduate specialization and a major?

- A graduate specialization and a major are separate components in a student's degree program.
- All students are required to select a degree program in the major of their choice. A major is a primary field of study with its own set of requirements.
- A graduate specialization is designed to complement approved departmental or interdepartmental majors or to provide an interdisciplinary perspective on a topic of interest.
- A graduate specialization has its own set of requirements.

Request to Establish or Change a Graduate Specialization:

Graduate Specializations must be approved and/or changed via the academic governance system using the *Request for a New Academic Program* or *Request for Changes in an Academic Program* form.

- Each unit responsible for any course included in the graduate specialization must be given the opportunity to approve or not approve the inclusion of said course in the graduate specialization.

Departments, schools, and colleges with administrative responsibility for offering degree programs may decide to offer a graduate specialization.

- The department, school, or college may specify admission requirements for the specialization.
- Any approved Michigan State University courses may, with the approval of the unit offering the course, be included in a graduate specialization.

More Information:

See the University Curriculum and Catalog web page: www.reg.msu.edu/ucc/ucc.asp