

REVIEW OF CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

Graduate Faculty Committee (GFC) Document No. 1357 requires review of graduate certificate programs on a 10-year cycle and a positive recommendation of the GFC for program continuation. Without this recommendation, a sunset provision will become effective, resulting in the discontinuation of the certificate program. The GFC empowers the Graduate Program Review (GPR) Subcommittee to synchronize the review of graduate certificate programs with the review of the closely-related graduate degree program when and if the GPR deems it beneficial to both programs with the consent of both programs.

Potential outcomes/recommendations of the review include

1. Continue the program as is
2. Continue the program with changes to the curriculum which consider new directions in the field, articulation with other certificates or degrees, or development into a degree program.
3. Discontinuation
4. No action, in which case the sunset clause will be invoked.

The following procedures are established for this review.

Certificate Review Process

Certificate Directors will be notified of the review requirement and provided with the self-study template and data from the Graduate School. Self-studies will be due six weeks after receiving data.

One member of the Subcommittee on Graduate Program Reviews will be assigned to each certificate and will provide a written assessment of the program based on:

- Information in the self-study
- An interview with the certificate program director

The Graduate School will provide a template for the GPR report. Internal reviewers are expected to complete their report within 6 weeks of receiving the self-study. The report will be shared with the Certificate Director, who will be invited to the GPR meeting at which the certificate review will be discussed.

Based on this report and the discussion at the meeting, the GPR will make a recommendation to the GFC regarding continuation of the certificate. If the GPR or the GFC is unable to act by May, the sunset provision shall be extended by one year.

Certificate Self-Studies

In completing the self-studies, certificate programs are encouraged to conduct a thorough and participatory examination of the current status of the program. The process is intended to provide an opportunity to look at all facets of program operation and outcomes, and engage in critical self-examination. Certificate program faculty should be forthright in identifying strengths and weaknesses and assessing continuing need for the certificate.

Format for Certificate Full Self-Study

Discussion points are included to guide certificate programs in identifying issues that ought to be considered in drafting the self-study. Please provide sufficient analysis, explanation, and elaboration for those outside your program to understand it.

The Certificate Program

Description and Evaluation

1. Describe the certificate program with particular attention to its special features and strengths. If the certificate qualifies for Title IV financial aid, list the occupations that the certificate prepares students to enter. Comment on any changes in the certificate program since its last review, and implementation of recommendations from the previous review.
2. Discuss challenges that have arisen over the past ten years, and describe steps that have been contemplated or taken to address these challenges.
3. Discuss the certificate in the context of any new trends in the field.
4. Discuss the current and anticipated future demand for the certificate. How does the certificate contribute toward overall student recruitment and retention, including creation of gateways into existing UWM graduate degree programs?
5. Describe how the certificate fits with college or campus strategic plans and program arrays. How does it support research and/or interdisciplinary collaborations?
6. Describe how the certificate articulates with other certificates or degree programs. Are there plans to growth the certificate program into a graduate degree program?

Administration

1. Describe the administrative and governance structure of the certificate program, including information on budgetary authority.
2. How is the certificate program's structure articulated with its department, school or college (including school or college Graduate Program Committee)? If applicable, discuss any problems of authority or responsibility within the program.
3. How does the structure promote the achievement of the certificate program's objectives?
4. Discuss recruitment strategies.
5. Describe the admissions process.
6. Describe the advising system within the program. How is student progress toward the certificate monitored?
7. Discuss any issues related to interaction with the Graduate School in certificate program administration.
8. Provide a list of advisory/steering committee members, and information on the frequency of meetings and what actions have been taken in the last 10 years.

Curriculum

List qualifying courses and provide information on the frequency of certificate course scheduling.

Required Certificate Courses Offered Since the Last Review

Course Number	Course Title	Semester offered	Instructor's Name

Are any changes to required or elective courses being contemplated? If so, explain the reasons for these changes.

Faculty

Provide a list of instructional faculty who are involved with the certificate program, and identify those who have graduate faculty status.

Students

Applications and Admissions

Assess the number and qualifications of applicants and admits to the certificate over the past 10 years, and provide demographic information regarding diversity. Have any significant trends in application patterns have been discerned?

Enrollment and Completion

(Data will be provided by the Graduate School)

Academic year (e.g. 10-11)	# who were enrolled in program	# who completed program

What is the average time to completion and what percentage of students complete the certificate program each year?

Post-completion achievements

Comment on the special achievements of those who complete the program, including employment and/or other opportunities.

Resources

Discuss and prioritize any particular resource issues affecting the certificate program (e.g. finances, facilities, office space, clerical support, library collections and services). What might make the program stronger? How might this be achieved? What strategies have been applied or could be applied to improve or acquire the desirable resources?

Other

Provide any other information you think would be helpful in assessing your certificate program.

GFC Document 1360 - Appendix A

**The Internal Review Team (IRT) Template for Report to the
Sub-Committee on Graduate Program Reviews (GPR)**

Report and Recommendations of the Subcommittee on Graduate Program Reviews for the Review of the Graduate Certificate in [REDACTED].

This report is a component of the periodic review process overseen by the Dean of the Graduate School. Recommended limit length for this report is 1 – 3 pages.

Graduate Program Review Subcommittee/GFC Representative

Name of internal reviewer and department

Program Representative

Include the name of the person who you spoke with about the certificate, and their position.

Summary of Certificate Program

This is an overall summary of the certificate and can often be taken almost exactly from the Program Overview section of the self-study. It is to help someone who does not know the program at all get a general sense of who enrolls, how many credits it is, how the program is overseen, etc. It is helpful for the GPR committee.

Summary of Key Issues

The certificate program provided a self-study that addressed each of these areas. In your interview of the program, you may have developed questions from the self-study, about each area. You can then use some information from the self-study together with your own observations to provide the text. This can be separated by areas or put into a running narrative as long as the areas are addressed.

I. Program

This area generally talks about the need for the certificate, and where those who get the certificate may find work. Does it connect to National or International organizations, certifications? If it is new, what is the potential for it or has the certificate run its course of need since areas change over time? Does the certificate connect to industry in the region, state, nation in a significant way?

II. Curriculum

The graduate school or the program will often include a chart of the courses that are a part of the certificate, how often they are offered and enrollments as well. With changes in depts., faculty lines, etc. how is the curriculum being impacted? Can students get the courses in a timely way? Are they dependent on a specific faculty member? How often can they rotate into sequence?

Sometimes it helps to keep some of the charted material in the report and other times, summary is sufficient.

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III. Faculty

This has become an area for critical discussion of who are the faculty that make up a certificate program. This can often help to tell the story of the certificate's stability within the university. This is particular important if the certificate crosses programs/dept. to voice how that is handled.

IV. Students

You are provided with information about how many students have enrolled in the certificate over a period of 10 years, how many have completed, and possibly if students have used the certificate to enter a Masters program. It can help to learn about issues of advising students in the certificate, recruitment efforts, and how the certificate serves students once they finish.

V. Resources

Certificate programs can often have their own unique resource challenges. The self-study outlines these, but you may find others when you do your interview.

Internal Reviewer's Comments

This area is what gets directly reported back to GPR as the most important elements. Should the certificate continue? Is it realistic for it to continue or what would be needed for that to happen? Highlighting the efforts of the program director. Highlighting completion rates as a factor for recommendations.

Program Response (Optional)

Recommendation(s) for Action

Potential outcomes/recommendations of the review include:

1. Continue the program as is
2. Continue the program with changes to the curriculum which consider new directions in the field, articulation with other certificates or degrees, or development into a degree program.
3. Discontinuation
4. No action, in which case the sunset clause will be invoked.
5. The next review of the certificate should take place in .
6. Certificate program review should be aligned with graduate program review cycle.