
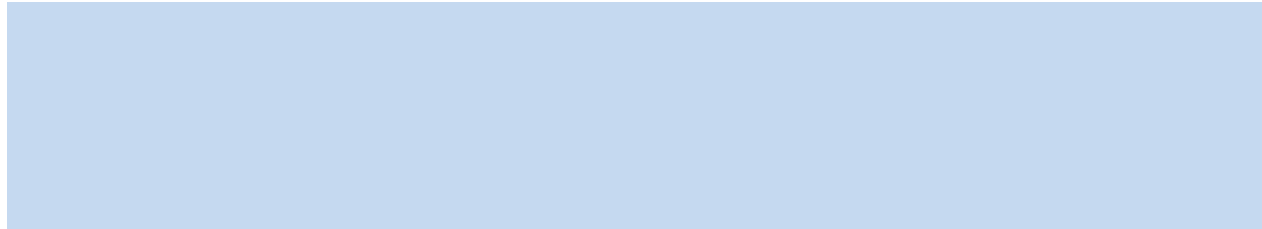



# Policy on Graduate Academic Definitions

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This policy establishes/updates definitions of graduate-level academic programs and their curricular components, and replaces previously-adopted policies and definitions. This policy satisfies multiple institutional planning and documentation requirements of both the Higher Learning Commission and the U.S. Department of Education.

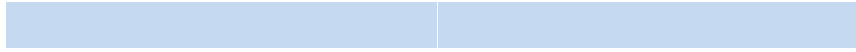
*Note: When needed, these definitions will be amended and additional definitions will be added to this policy (if, for example, there is a need to expand them so as to include new graduate programs).*



An academic program is a formal, coherent and finite program of study which may be composed of credit and/or non-credit bearing courses and non-course requirements. Academic programs are designed to enable students to achieve comprehensive educational outcomes through dedicated faculty guidance and within a holistic educational context.

The University recognizes the following types of academic programs on official SLU transcripts: *degrees, majors (UG and GR/PR), minors, concentrations and certificates.*

*NOTE: Academic programs that draw upon the disciplinary content, pedagogies and research methods of more than one academic discipline for the purpose of intentionally educating students in the context of the integrated nature of knowledge, scholarship, and professional work may be described as "interdisciplinary" programs. However, the extent to which a program is interdisciplinary or solely disciplinary is not a factor in any formal designation of the program (i.e. a major might be interdisciplinary, but would not be classified formally as a separate kind of major that was somehow organizationally/administratively distinct from a disciplinary major; in other words, a major is a major).*



A certificate is a formal academic award (as defined by the U.S. Department of Education) conferred by the University upon the successful completion of all requirements of a certificate program at either the baccalaureate or post-baccalaureate level. There are two types of certificate programs: Embedded and Independent.

Embedded certificate programs are formal, coherent academic programs composed of a minimum of 12 semester hours of credit. They are earned concurrently with an established post-baccalaureate degree program. Embedded Certificate Programs are:

- 1) part of an established post-baccalaureate degree program
- 2) only available to SLU students as part of post-baccalaureate degree program
- 3) designed by a department, college, school, center or other unit authorized to offer degree and certificate programs
- 4) composed primarily of courses but may also include non-course curricular requirements (such as completion of portfolios, engagement in academic assessment or testing, etc.)

Credit certificate programs are formal, coherent and finite academic programs typically composed of a minimum of 16 semester hours of credit for baccalaureate programs and 8 semester hours for post-baccalaureate programs.

Courses are typically numbered according to the level of academic experience and maturity required for success:

	Developmental courses

An official University document issued only by the Office of the University Registrar that formally documents the University's conferral of a degree or certificate. Particular student and program-associated information included on each diploma is limited to the following:

Student Name (e.g., John J. Doe)

Name of the SLU College/School/Center in which the student was enrolled ("College of Arts and Sciences," "John Cook School of Business," "Center for Sustainability")

Degree



- 2) is an independent curricular entity taken only by post-baccalaureate, degree-seeking students;
- 3) need not be related to/subordinate to a degree program; any minor may exist without the existence or any intention of establishing a corresponding degree