The Graduate College

Revisions to the Policies for Graduate Minors and Graduate Concentrations

July 12, 2013
Need for Changes

• This year the Graduate College Executive Committee formed a subcommittee to review the policy for Graduate Minors. The concerns were:

  1. that students were completing very different amounts of work to earn the same transcripted credentials
     • In the same programs
     • Across campus
  2. and that we have enough minors now that students could double count credit among them

• This lead to changes to Graduate Concentrations
Overview

• The policies only apply to campus-approved, transcripted Graduate Minors and Concentrations
• Minors are open to all students, except for those enrolled in the major
• Concentrations are only available to students in predetermined curricula

• Except for the items that follow, there are no changes to Graduate Minors or Concentrations, how they are implemented or shown on transcripts.
Applies to Approved Only

• Minors
  http://provost.illinois.edu/ProgramsOfStudy/2013/fall/programs/graduate/grad%20minors.html

• Concentrations
  http://provost.illinois.edu/ProgramsOfStudy/2013/fall/programs/graduate/grad_concentrations.html
Currently

Minors

• 12 hours minimum
• could be completely outside the usual degree requirements or it could significantly extend knowledge in an area closely related to, but still outside, a particular degree program
• The student's enrolling department may decide how many graduate hours of a minor may help fulfill the degree requirements for the student's program.

• The spirit of a minor is the development of additional academic strengths. It would thus be unusual for there to be total overlap between defined degree requirements and the requirements of a minor.

Concentrations

• 24 hours minimum
• credit in the sponsoring department(s)

• As in the case of graduate minors, the student's major department will determine how many graduate hours of a concentration may count toward the degree requirements in the student's program, or toward completing other graduate concentrations.
Revised

Minors

- 12 hours minimum
- could be completely outside the usual degree requirements or it could significantly extend knowledge in an area closely related to, but still outside, a particular degree program
- The spirit of a minor is the development of additional academic strengths. For this reason, credit used toward the completion of a minor may not be applied toward the completion of any other transcripted credential (i.e., coursework completed for one minor cannot be counted towards another minor nor to the major).

Concentrations

- 12 hours minimum
- credit in the sponsoring department(s), which gives a student more breadth or depth in their major area of study
- Because a concentration is intended to be within the major area of study, the hours required to fulfill the concentration should likewise apply toward completion of the degree.
- However that is not to say that completion of a concentration within a degree couldn’t require more hours than the degree itself, in that the student is earning an additional credential.
Links to Policies

• Will be updated on August 26, 2013
• Minors
  • http://www.grad.illinois.edu/gradhandbook
    /2/chapterix
• Concentrations
  • http://www.grad.illinois.edu/gradhandbook
    /2/chapterviii
Implementation

• New policies go into effect August 26, 2013.

• If changes are needed to current minors or concentrations, the approval process will take about a year, so units wishing to change their programs need to start the process this summer.
Transition Year

• In this upcoming year,
  - We can’t change the rules for students currently pursuing a minor or concentration.
  - And we don’t want to negatively impact new students who are coming here expecting to earn these credentials.
  - And we don’t want to negatively impact students programs have advised under the old policies.

• So, if one of the above is the case, it should be noted on the student’s Change of Curriculum form
  - that the student is requesting to add the minor,
  - and they wish to be able to follow the old policy.
  - And these will be approved through the start of classes fall 2014 (8/22/14).
Summer 2013 for Programs

• Email was sent to units impacted.
• The Graduate College will contact each unit with a minor or concentration to see if changes are to be made to the current offering in response to the policy changes and assist with changes.
• For those that want changes, proposals need to be drafted this summer.
• The approval process is about a year, and we want the new options to be available to next year’s incoming students.
Other Outcomes

• Low Enrollments
  – The subcommittee also discovered that many Graduate Minors have very few students, for many no students, completing.
  – Those units were notified to see if they might want to consider revisions to their programs.

• New Programs
  – With the change in the minimum hours for concentrations, some units may decide to offer these types of programs.
Adding Minors and Concentrations

• It is very important that all students “pursuing” minors or concentrations complete the Change of Curriculum form to have the minor or concentration added to their academic record

  – Concentrations can be added at admission or later in the program, up until graduation
  – Minors must be added after students begin graduate school and before graduation
Questions

• Policy and Program Changes
  – Mary Lowry, lowry@Illinois.edu

• Change of Curriculum Form
  – Allison McKinney, agrindly@Illinois.edu

• Completion/Certification of Minor/Concentration
  – Jodi Miller, jsalexan@Illinois.edu
Thanks for Coming!

July 10 –
Grad Student Housing Options

August 14 –
Leave of Absence Policy