

# CGSR Motion to Revise Graduate Certificate Policy

Presented to the Faculty 3-16-17

# Original

Admission to a certificate program is granted by the faculty of the sponsoring department through the Graduate Admissions Office.

**A student accepted into a master's or doctoral program cannot retroactively apply to a certificate program.** Only two courses taken prior to application to a certificate program may be counted toward a certificate program.

If a student goes beyond the second course as a non-degree student, then those courses cannot be applied to a graduate certificate. A Graduate or Advanced Certificate will not be awarded without acceptance into a program.

# Proposed

A student accepted into a master's or doctoral program may apply to a certificate program only after the graduate committee of the degree (MS or PhD) granting program or department approves, and as long as...

- **Admitted master's or doctoral program students may be awarded one certificate** for which course credits are used to satisfy requirements for both the graduate degree (MS or PhD) and the Graduate Certificate or advanced graduate certificate.
- **Graduate course credits** used to satisfy the graduate certificate or advanced graduate certificate and graduate degree (MS or PhD) requirements **cannot also be counted toward a third credential**, such as a Graduate Certificate, Advanced Graduate Certificate, graduate or undergraduate degree.
- **No more than one-third of course credit** applied to a Graduate Certificate or advanced Graduate Certificate or graduate degree **can be earned by transfer credit.**

# Rationale

- Earning a graduate certificate concurrently with a degree allows a student to demonstrate depth of knowledge in another topic area
- PhD students currently funded with NSF IGERT grant earn a certificate from Business (Entrepreneurship/Innovation focus) but must individually petition because of the current rules
- Safeguards in place:
  - Home department must approve
  - Student must apply to the certificate program
  - Only one certificate + graduate degree allowed
  - Current rules for double counting apply (no triple-counting)