

## Brothers, Sheila C.

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**From:** Smith, William T.  
**Sent:** Friday, April 17, 2020 5:10 PM  
**To:** Brothers, Sheila C.  
**Cc:** Bird-Pollan, Jennifer  
**Subject:** RE: Items for Monday - FYI

Hey Sheila,

Proposal Name: Proposed Changes to *Senate Rules 4.2.8* and *4.2.9* ("Undergraduate Certificates" and "Graduate Certificates")

This is a recommendation that the University Senate approve the proposed language changes to Senate Rules 4.2.8 and 4.2.9 to expand certificate offerings at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.

Rationale: Arts and Sciences is proposing an undergraduate postbaccalaureate certificate that is not supported by the existing Senate Rules. The proposed SR 4.2.8 language would support that proposal and future undergraduate certificates of that nature. In addition, similar language was added to the graduate certificate SR 4.2.9.

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# A Proposal to Change Senate Rules Regarding Certificate Programs

## BACKGROUND

- The College of Arts and Sciences is proposing a Postbaccalaureate certificate that is not supported by existing Senate Rules.
- The College of Arts & Sciences proposed changes in University Senate rules SR 4.2.8 and SR 4.2.9 that define *undergraduate* certificates and *graduate* certificates, respectively.
- The Senate Admissions and Academic Standards Committee (SAASC) was tasked to review the SR proposal. During the vetting process, SAASC came up with the proposed recommended minor edits to the existing SR's. This language does support this class of certificate.
- In particular, the SAASC proposed SR 4.2.8 language on Undergraduate Certificates includes the statement, "Individual undergraduate certificate programs may set reasonable admissions requirements or restrictions. These requirements may include completion of an undergraduate degree from an accredited institution prior to admission into the program." This revised rule would accommodate an A&S-proposed medicine certificate program by allowing the program to specify post-bac status for admission.
- Also, the SAASC proposed SR 4.2.9 language includes the statement, "Individual graduate certificate programs may set reasonable admissions requirements or restrictions with the approval of the Dean of the Graduate School. These requirements may include completion of a master's or doctoral degree from an accredited institution prior to admission into the program."

## Existing SRs

### 4.2.8 UNDERGRADUATE CERTIFICATES

[US: 2/14/11]

Undergraduate certificates are available only to students who are enrolled in an undergraduate degree program or who have successfully completed an undergraduate degree and enroll as a postbaccalaureate (non-degree) student for admission to a certificate curriculum. The minimum Graduate School requirements for admission to postbaccalaureate status apply.

Undergraduate certificates shall be approved by the same process as are programs (see SR 3.2) except that the following are not required: a) a statement of administrative feasibility; b) posting and approval by the Council on Postsecondary Education, and c) approval by the University of Kentucky Board of Trustees.

An undergraduate certificate must be a minimum of 12 credits, all at the 200 level or above, with a minimum of six credits at the 300-level or above. The certificate must have a three-credit breadth component, requiring the student to take courses in at least two disciplines, with a minimum of three credits to be completed in a second discipline.

A student must earn a C or better in each required certificate course to receive the certificate.

No more than nine credits taken for a certificate can be used to satisfy the requirements for the student's bachelor's degree, a minor, or another certificate, exclusive of free or unrestricted electives.

Award of an undergraduate certificate shall be noted on the student's transcript upon successful

completion of the curriculum.

\* Students enrolled in graduate degree programs or professional programs may pursue an undergraduate certificate program. [SREC: 4/8/2015]

#### **4.2.9 GRADUATE CERTIFICATES**

[US: 1/14/2002]

Students who already are or will be enrolled in a graduate degree program, or those who apply for or are enrolled in postbaccalaureate (non-degree) status are eligible for admission to a certificate curriculum. The minimum Graduate School requirements for admission to postbaccalaureate status apply. With the approval of the Dean of the Graduate School, the certificate curriculum may set reasonable admission requirements or restrictions beyond those specified by the Graduate School.

Graduate certificates shall be approved by the same process as are programs (see SR 3.2) except that the following are not required: (a) approval by the Graduate faculty, (b) a statement of administrative feasibility; (c) posting and approval by the Council on Postsecondary Education, and (d) approval by the University of Kentucky Board of Trustees.

A graduate certificate must be a minimum of nine graduate credits in length and should be fewer than 18 graduate credits.

A student must achieve a minimum graduate grade point average of 3.00 in the set of courses required for the graduate certificate in order to be granted the certificate.

Award of a graduate certificate shall be noted on the student's transcript, upon the recommendation of the Dean of the Graduate School.

Graduate certificate curricula must comply with the "Guidelines for Graduate Certificate Curricula" published by the Graduate School.

### **Revised SRs as Proposed by the SAASC**

#### **4.2.8**

#### **UNDERGRADUATE CERTIFICATES**

Undergraduate certificate programs consist of suites of undergraduate courses focused upon a defined academic or professional objective.

Undergraduate certificate programs are open to those who are enrolled as (a) undergraduates, or (b) postbaccalaureate (non-degree) students, or (c) graduate or professional students.

Individual undergraduate certificate programs may set reasonable admissions requirements or restrictions. These requirements may include completion of an undergraduate degree from an accredited institution prior to admission into the program.

Undergraduate certificates shall be approved by the same process as are programs (see SR 3.2) except that the following are not required: (a) a statement of administrative feasibility; (b) posting and approval by the Council on Postsecondary Education, and (c) approval by the University of Kentucky Board of Trustees.

An undergraduate certificate must be a minimum of 12 credits, all at the 200 level or above, with

a minimum of six credits at the 300-level or above. The certificate must have a three-credit breadth component, requiring the student to take courses in at least two disciplines, with a minimum of three credits to be completed in a second discipline.

A student must earn a C or better in each required certificate course to receive the certificate.

No more than nine credit hours of *required* courses taken for a certificate can also be used to satisfy the required courses for a student's bachelor's degree, minor, or another certificate. However, an unlimited number of *elective* courses taken for a certificate can also be used to satisfy the requirements for elective courses for a student's bachelor's degree, minor, or another certificate.

Award of an undergraduate certificate shall be noted on the student's transcript upon successful completion of the curriculum.

#### 4.2.9

### GRADUATE CERTIFICATES

Graduate certificate programs consist of suites of graduate courses focused upon a defined academic or professional objective.

Graduate certificate programs are open to those who are enrolled as (a) postbaccalaureate (non-degree) students, or (b) graduate or professional students.

Individual graduate certificate programs may set reasonable admissions requirements or restrictions with the approval of the Dean of the Graduate School. These requirements may include completion of a master's or doctoral degree from an accredited institution prior to admission into the program.

Graduate certificates shall be approved by the same process as are programs (see SR 3.2) except that the following are not required: (a) approval by the Graduate faculty, (b) a statement of administrative feasibility; (c) posting and approval by the Council on Postsecondary Education, and (d) approval by the University of Kentucky Board of Trustees.

A graduate certificate must be a minimum of nine graduate credits in length and should be fewer than 18 graduate credits.

A student must achieve a minimum graduate grade point average of 3.0 in the set of courses required for the graduate certificate in order to be granted the certificate.

Award of a graduate certificate shall be noted on the student's transcript, upon the recommendation of the Dean of the Graduate School.

Graduate certificate curricula must comply with the "Guidelines for Graduate Certificate Curricula" published by the Graduate School.