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2-202 Academic Degree Programs

A. Definition of Academic Degree Program

An academic degree program is a course of study with a prescribed set of requirements which a student must complete. It is identified by a specific degree title and a specific major subject matter area. The name of the major must reflect accurately the skills, competencies, and knowledge to be attained in the course of studies.

B. Minors

An institution may offer a minor in any subject matter area in which it has an approved degree program. However, any minor in a subject matter area for which there is no degree program must be approved by the Board before a university may announce or offer the minor.

C. Subspecializations

Within each academic degree program, the universities may offer subspecialties which may be called emphases, concentrations, specializations, or other appropriate terminology which indicates a subdivision of the major. Subspecializations may not be advertised in the catalog or in other university publications except as an area within an approved major. Subspecializations may not develop to the extent that they require students to complete more than 60 percent of the total number of credit hours required in courses in the major field of study.

D. Master's en route to a doctoral degree

An institution may confer, on an individual basis, a master's degree in any subject matter area in which it has an approved Ph.D. degree program, but for which there is no master's program. The master's degree will carry the same title as that of the Ph.D. program.

1. To be awarded the master's degree, a student must be enrolled in and in good academic standing in the corresponding Ph.D. program and meet the institution's requirements appropriate for a master's degree in the subject area.

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2. An institution may exercise this option only for students admitted directly to a Ph.D. program.