Description
A graduate certificate program is limited in scope relative to a graduate degree program but provides an opportunity for advanced study with a particular focus. Successful completion of a graduate certificate program is a coherent academic accomplishment that leads to an official notation on the student transcript. Subject to the regulations that govern a specific program, a graduate certificate can often serve as an intermediate accomplishment for a student whose ultimate goal is a graduate degree.

Certificate Requirements
The curriculum of a graduate certificate program is a set of academic courses identified by the university as suitable for properly qualified students who wish to study a clearly delineated topic within a disciplinary or interdisciplinary setting. The curriculum may include both specific courses and a selection of elective courses.

Credit Requirements
The program of study leading to a graduate certificate must satisfy the following two stipulations: 1) the total credit requirement cannot exceed half of the total number of credits required by the most closely related master’s degree program offered by the University; 2) the total credit requirement must include at least nine graduate credits earned in courses exclusive of university-wide graduate courses 591-598, 686-693, and 696-697. Any deviation by the certificate curriculum from these two stipulations must be approved by the Graduate Council. A limited number of credits earned in undergraduate courses may be applied to meet the credit requirements (see Restrictions on Certain Courses below). In all cases, at least two thirds of the total credit requirement must be earned at Boise State University since admission to the program. All credit must be academic credit and must be approved for application by the graduate program coordinator.

Culminating Activity
A culminating activity is normally not a requirement of a graduate certificate program but is not precluded from being a requirement. If a culminating activity is required, it must be of limited scope relative to the culminating activity required by the most closely related master’s degree program offered by the university. The culminating activity must be represented in the total credit requirements using an appropriate course.

Duration of Graduate Study
All requirements for a graduate certificate (including courses completed at another college or university) must be started and completed within a single continuous interval of no more than four years.

Restrictions on Certain Courses
All graduate certificate programs must be consistent with the following restrictions. An academic unit responsible for a particular certificate program may impose more stringent restrictions for that program.

Undergraduate Courses
The number of applicable credits earned in undergraduate courses cannot exceed one third of the total number of required graduate credits. An undergraduate course applied to a graduate certificate must be an upper division course with a grade of B or better and the course cannot represent effort for an undergraduate thesis, internship, practicum, independent study or research, conference or workshop, experiential learning, study abroad, seminar, or colloquium.

Previously Applied Courses
In general, any course applied to a previously earned degree of any type at any institution cannot be applied to meet the credit requirements of a graduate certificate program. An exception that applies to a specific certificate program may be approved by the Graduate Council.

Simultaneous Enrollment in a Graduate Certificate and Degree Program
A student may be enrolled simultaneously in a graduate certificate program and a graduate degree program subject to the following conditions: 1) the content of the two programs are logically related; 2) the specific policies of the two programs permit co-enrollment; 3) the co-enrollment is approved by the chair of the supervisory committee or the advisor and the coordinators of the graduate certificate and degree programs. Because at least two thirds of the total credit requirement for a certificate must be earned at Boise State University since admission to the certificate program, graduate degree-seeking students who are interested in acquiring a graduate certificate as an intermediate step should promptly apply to the certificate program.

Enrollment in More Than One Certificate Program
Simultaneous enrollment in two graduate certificate programs is permitted but only under the condition that both certificate programs allow simultaneous enrollment. Simultaneous enrollment in more than two graduate certificate programs is prohibited by the Graduate College.