

University of Colorado Denver
Undergraduate Council
Interdisciplinary Undergraduate Certificates and Minors Guidelines

Introduction

Minors and certificates are a concentration of specialized coursework around a central theme but with a smaller concentration than that of the major. Both certificates and minors require campus-level approval, rather than approval by the Regents and CCHE. Certificates have the added advantage of being available to non-degree-seeking students. Certificates can be transcribed by the Registrar's Office if the certificate is approved through the school/college and campus faculty governance procedures.

The Undergraduate Council (UGC) is charged with reviewing interdisciplinary certificate and minor programs that cross college boundaries. The review is passed on to the provost in the form of a recommendation. The UGC has established the following guidelines for their campus review of interdisciplinary, undergraduate certificate and minor programs.

Certificate and Minor Guidelines

1. The interdisciplinary certificate or minor proposal should be forwarded to the Associate Vice Chancellor for Undergraduate Experiences, chair of the Undergraduate Council, only after being approved by each school's/college's faculty governance procedures.
2. The interdisciplinary certificate and minor proposal should include:
 - outline of the program
 - advantages of cross-college coursework
 - pre-requisites for entry into the certificate or minor program
 - intended student audience and market (specific majors, non-degree, etc.)
 - detailed outline of required and optional coursework
 - verification of whether students may use certificate or minor course work toward other academic requirements (can students "double-dip" coursework?)
 - details of how interdisciplinary certificate or minor program will be administered
 - letters of support from each school/college directly involved as well as from any whose course offerings or enrollments may be impacted by this certificate or minor.
3. Minimum guidelines for the undergraduate interdisciplinary certificate or minor include:
 - 12 semester hours
 - 6 upper division semester hours
 - all courses taken in residence CU Denver (no transfer hours)
 - minimum 2.0 GPA with no individual course grade below C- (1.7).
4. The UGC evaluation will be forwarded to the provost in the form of a recommendation. Copies will be provided to the undergraduate colleges involved with the interdisciplinary certificate or minor program.