

Graduate Certificate Policies

Graduate certificate programs at NDSU provide focused course experiences in a set curriculum that build a distinct skill set. Certificates may be completed independently or as part of a master's degree program.

Students in a certificate program, (who are not also in a degree-seeking program) are not eligible to receive financial aid, graduate assistantships or tuition waivers.

Certificate Completion

- Certificate students must meet the same academic standing requirements (<https://catalog.ndsu.edu/past-bulletin-archive/2025-2026/graduate/graduate-school-policies/#academicstandardstext>) as degree seeking students.
- Only graduate credits earned at NDSU may be applied to a certificate program.
- Courses used to satisfy the Graduate Certificate program requirements cannot be older than seven (7) years at the time the certificate completion is verified.
- Credits earned toward completion of a certificate also may be used toward the completion of a graduate degree, if allowed by the degree program.
- Courses used for a previously earned NDSU degree cannot later be used towards completion of a graduate certificate.
- Candidates must submit a Graduation Application in Campus Connection (<https://www.ndsu.edu/graduate-school/apply-graduation/>) by the last day of the term in which certificate requirements are completed.
 - The certificate will not post to the student's record if the graduation application is not submitted.

Course Waivers or Substitutions

Course waivers or substitutions may be made with the **Waive/Substitute Course eForm**. This is an advisor initiated form. Students do not have access to this form.