

Minors, Specializations and Certificates

Please see the appropriate undergraduate or graduate section for information regarding minors, specializations and certificates.

Undergraduate

Undergraduate Minors, Specializations and Certificates: Definitions and Guidelines

A **minor** provides students the opportunity to explore a secondary area of inquiry independent of the academic major. A minor requires successful completion of at least 15 semester credits in a single prescribed area of study pursued concurrently with bachelor's degree requirements.

A **specialization** is an identified area within an undergraduate program that consists of a minimum of 15 semester credits pursued concurrently with bachelor's degree requirements. The specialization is a subset of the major, and credits earned toward a specialization are calculated in the required number of courses/credits for the earned major.

A **certificate** represents the pursuit of applied knowledge and/or skills in a specific field of study recognized by a profession. An undergraduate certificate is a non-degree program requiring at least 15 semester credits. A student who wishes to pursue a certificate program must apply through Admissions. If a certificate student enrolls later in a degree-bearing program, the applicable courses successfully completed for the certificate program may be applied to the requirements of the student's declared program.

A **micro-certificate** is a non-degree credential offered to non-degree students through JWU's College of Professional Studies (CPS) to provide targeted instruction for industry/field specific knowledge and/or skills. Undergraduate micro-certificates are normally comprised of 12 semester credits. Graduate micro-certificates are normally comprised of 9 semester credits. Previously earned academic credits cannot be applied to micro-certificate requirements. A student who wishes to pursue a micro-certificate must apply through CPS Admissions. If a micro-certificate student later enrolls in a degree-bearing program, the courses successfully completed for the micro-certificate may be applied to the requirements of the student's declared program.

Guidelines for Minors

- To earn a minor, a student must complete a minimum of 15 semester credits in a single prescribed area of study concurrently with his or her bachelor's degree requirements.
- A student may not pursue a major and a minor in the same field of study.
- A student may not create their own minor.
- Credits earned in major courses cannot be applied to the minor. Courses in the A&S Core Experience, Related Professional Studies and Business Foundations may be applied to the minor. Please consult the catalog for specific course requirements for minors.
- A student who wants to declare a minor must submit a request form to Student Academic Services no later than the start of their senior year. Students are encouraged to declare a minor as early in their academic career as possible to allow for proper planning of registration.
- Courses offered through study abroad may apply.
- A maximum of 6.0 credit hours of transfer credit can be applied to the attainment of a minor.
- Credits earned or applied toward one minor will not be counted toward the requirements of another minor.
- Some minors may require completion of prerequisite courses that extend the minor beyond 15 semester credits. Advisors must caution students that pursuing a minor may extend the amount of time needed to complete a degree program.
- The successful completion of a minor will be recorded on the student's academic transcript when the degree is awarded. A minor will not be applied to a student's academic transcript after the degree has been awarded. No form of honors or grade point average will be issued for the minor.

Guidelines for Specializations

- To earn a specialization, a student must complete the requirements as prescribed within the program as part of the bachelor's degree requirements.

- A student may not pursue a specialization outside of their chosen program.
- Only one specialization can be earned within a program.
- A student may not create their own specialization.
- Credits earned towards the specialization cannot also be applied to a minor or other specialization. Please consult the catalog for specific course requirements for specialization.
- A student who wants to declare a specialization must submit a request form to Student Academic Services no later than the start of their senior year. Students are encouraged to declare a specialization as early in their academic career as possible to allow for proper planning of registration.
- A maximum of 6.0 credit hours of transfer credit can be applied to the attainment of a specialization.
- Credits earned or applied toward one specialization will not be counted toward the requirements of another specialization.
- The successful completion of a specialization will be recorded on the student's academic transcript when the degree is awarded. A specialization will not be applied to a student's academic transcript after the degree has been awarded. No form of honors or grade point average will be issued for the specialization.

Graduate

Graduate Concentrations and Certificate Programs: Definitions and Guidelines

A **concentration** is an area of study within a graduate degree program that consists of a minimum of 12 semester credits. The concentration is a subset of the major, and credits earned toward a concentration are calculated in the required number of courses/credits for the earned major.

A **certificate program** represents the pursuit of applied knowledge and/or skills in a specific field of study recognized by a profession. A graduate certificate is a non-degree program requiring at least 12 semester credits.

Embedded certificates will be awarded only in certain areas where the credential would be recognized by a profession.

A **micro-certificate** is a non-degree credential offered to non-degree students through JWU's College of Professional Studies (CPS) to provide targeted instruction for industry/field specific knowledge and/or skills. Undergraduate micro-certificates are normally comprised of 12 semester credits. Graduate micro-certificates are normally comprised of 9 semester credits. Previously earned academic credits cannot be applied to micro-certificate requirements. A student who wishes to pursue a micro-certificate must apply through CPS Admissions. If a micro-certificate student later enrolls in a degree-bearing program, the courses successfully completed for the micro-certificate may be applied to the requirements of the student's declared program.

Guidelines for Graduate Certificates

- An external student who wishes to pursue a graduate certificate program must apply through JWU Admissions. If a certificate student enrolls later in a degree-bearing program, the courses successfully completed for the certificate program may be applied to the course requirements of the student's declared program.
- A maximum of 3.0 semester hours of transfer credit can be applied to the attainment of a graduate certificate.
- The certificate will be awarded after the necessary courses have been successfully completed. Completion of a certificate will be recorded on the student's academic transcript.