SPECIAL GRADUATE COMMITTEE, M.S.

(via Graduate School Academic Policies & Procedures (https://grad.wisc.edu/acadpolicy/#specialgraduatecommitteedegrees))

The master's and doctoral special graduate committee guidelines are:

grad.wisc.edu/acadpolicy/#specialgraduatecommitteedegrees

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around unique needs of individual students that cannot be satisfied by

approved programs (e.g., by existing major program/minor combinations,

joint degrees, distributed minors, and so on) and may permit individual

degrees in new and emerging fields or combinations of disciplines. A

higher degree of independence is required on the part of the student,

since easily available guidance provided by programs is often more
difficult to obtain, and there is not the usual collegial group of students in

closely related research and coursework.

ADMISSIONS

(via Graduate School Academic Policies & Procedures (https://grad.wisc.edu/acadpolicy/#specialgraduatecommitteedegrees))

The master's and doctoral special graduate committee guidelines are:

1. Prospective students who may have an interest in a special graduate

   committee degree should apply to the degree program that is closest
to their program interest.

2. Upon receipt of an application on which a prospective student has

   expressed interest in a special graduate committee degree, the
   program will follow all relevant program admission requirements.

3. Students may not be admitted directly to a special graduate

   committee degree program. They must be accepted for admission
   by an established department or program and be attending classes
   at UW–Madison before a proposal for a special graduate committee
   degree will be considered by the Graduate School.

4. The department or program admitting the student must be prepared

   to see the student through an established degree program. No
   commitments are made to provide a special graduate committee
degree until after the student is enrolled and the proposal for the
   special degree and the student's ability at the graduate level have
   been evaluated and approved.

5. The student's advisor authors and submits the special graduate

   committee degree proposal on behalf of the student as early in
   the student's program as possible. Proposals submitted after a
   substantial portion of the program has been completed will not be
   accepted. Doctoral proposals must be submitted by the end of the
   first year of graduate work. Master's proposals must be submitted
   after the equivalent of the first full-time semester of graduate work.
   The proposal should consist of the following elements:

   • The reasons the special graduate committee program is needed
     and an explanation of why the student's needs cannot be met
     within existing programs.
   • The exact title of the proposed degree program (which should be
     brief and descriptive).
   • The proposed course and seminar program of graduate work on
     this campus. Include the course title, program, course number,
     credits, grade, and semester taken/to be taken.
   • Any specific requirements of the dissertation or thesis (language,
     equipment, etc.).
   • The nature and scope of preliminary examinations for the
     doctoral degree, or the examination procedure for the master's
     degree.
   • The nature of the dissertation or thesis (general subject area).
   • The names of the faculty members who, in addition to the advisor,
     are willing to share the responsibility of supervising the student's
     program. Including the advisor, the doctoral degree requires
     five members (including four UW–Madison graduate faculty
     members), and the master's degree requires three members
     (including two UW–Madison graduate faculty members).
   • Approval signatures of the committee members are required on
     the proposal.

6. The Graduate School will carefully review proposals to determine

   whether or not the program can be carried out within an established
   department or program, joint degrees, appropriate use of minors,
or other available mechanisms. The suitability and degree of
   commitment of the committee for the proposed program will be
   examined.

7. The chairperson of the committee (usually the advisor) should be

   a member of the program to which the student originally had been
   admitted. That program should remain the keeper of the student's
   records and should make all appropriate nominations for financial
   aid.

8. The Graduate School is concerned about maintaining active

   participation by all members of special degree committees in the
   ongoing program of the student and asks the individual members
   of the committee to assume program responsibilities provided
   institutionally in a conventional program. Faculty members who
   are willing to serve on these committees should be prepared to
   participate fully in all aspects of the student's program from
   the beginning, especially where they must provide the necessary
   expertise in their particular areas of interest.

REQUIREMENTS

MINIMUM GRADUATE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

Review the Graduate School minimum academic progress
and degree requirements (http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/
#policiesandrequirementstext), in addition to the program requirements
listed below.

MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

Since the curriculum of the special graduate committee degree will vary,
students must work closely with their faculty advisor and committee
to make sure they are completing all necessary coursework and other
requirements.