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

https://grad.wisc.edu/acadpolicy/#specialgraduatecommitteedegrees

The Graduate School can authorize special committees to supervise master's or doctoral programs for students whose needs cannot be met within an established program. Students must first be accepted into a graduate-degree-granting program and establish one semester of full-time graduate work at UW–Madison, and then the faculty advisor should submit a proposal for a special committee degree. Students should check with the Graduate School and the individual faculty member with whom they are interested in working.

Special graduate committee degrees are one-of-a-kind degrees built 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.

A 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 an established department or program and be attending classes at UW–Madison before a special graduate committee degree will be considered by the Graduate School.

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.