

SPECIAL GRADUATE COMMITTEE, PHD

(via Graduate School Academic Policies & Procedures (<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.