GRADUATE CERTIFICATES

Graduate certificate programs at Rice are post-bachelor’s degree academic credential programs that may be earned by students who are already enrolled in graduate degree-granting programs at Rice. In order to apply for a certificate program, students must obtain the approval of their director of graduate studies (in the degree program to which they have been admitted). Students may complete and acquire more than one certificate, provided that the student meets any and all of the requirements for each certificate program.

Graduate certificate programs are intended to recognize students who have achieved a defined level of competence, skill, or professional expertise, as well as to encourage students to pursue additional areas of interest in a particular area or field that may complement their coursework in the graduate degree-granting program to which they have been admitted. Upon completion, the certificate is awarded at the same time as the conferral of the student’s Rice degree, along with a formal notation on their academic transcript.

Graduate certificates are awarded when the student’s graduate degree is conferred, and the declared Graduate Certificate Candidates have completed:

• A minimum of 4 courses (12 credit hours) to satisfy certificate requirements, or
• A minimum of 3 courses (9 credit hours) and a graduate-level internship or other experiential learning opportunity.
• A minimum overall GPA of 2.67 in required certificate coursework with a minimum grade of B- (2.67 grade points) in each course.*
• All coursework taken to satisfy certificate requirements with the standard letter grade earned (not on a Pass/Fail basis), with no more than one-third of the coursework taken to meet certificate requirements on a Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory basis and no more than one-third of the coursework taken to meet certificate requirements earned through transfer credit.
• All requirements for the graduate degree-granting program in which the student is enrolled.

*Note: Departments or programs can identify and define stricter standards than the minimum GPA in their General Announcements Requirements tab.