Understanding the Differences Between Graduate Portfolios and Stackable Graduate Certificates

Graduate Portfolios:

- Portfolios are restricted to degree-seeking graduate students.
- Portfolios are certified when the student’s degree is conferred.
- Portfolios are certified as a transcript degree notation. If a student doesn’t complete their degree requirements, they do not receive portfolio certification.
- Portfolios are interdisciplinary in nature, drawing on courses and faculty from multiple graduate programs.
- Portfolios are governed/administered by a director and steering committee that includes representation from the participating programs.
- Portfolios require completion of 9-15 SCH of UT Austin graduate coursework. Two of the courses (6 SCH) must be offered by graduate programs outside of the student’s primary area of study.
- Portfolio programs require legislation and approval through the Graduate Assembly, Graduate Dean, Provost.
- Portfolio completion is not reported to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB).
- Portfolio programs must be listed in the Graduate Catalog prior to implementation.

Stackable Graduate Certificates:

- Stackable graduate certificates require completion of 9-15 SCH of approved graduate coursework in a single discipline/field of study.
- Stackable graduate certificates are available to degree-seeking and non-degree-seeking students.
- Stackable graduate certificates earned by degree-seeking students allow for a limited amount of transfer credit.
- Students receive recognition on the University transcript at the end of the semester when requirements of a stackable graduate certificate program are completed. If a degree-seeking student doesn’t complete their degree requirements, they can still receive a transcript reflecting completed stackable graduate certificates.
- Stackable graduate certificates are offered in specified disciplines or fields of study.
- Stackable graduate certificates are sponsored and administered by the Graduate Studies Committee associated with the given discipline/field of study.
- Stackable graduate certificates require legislation and approval through the Graduate Assembly, Graduate Dean, Provost.
- Stackable graduate certificates do not require approval by or reporting to the THECB.
- Stackable graduate certificates must be listed in Graduate Catalog prior to implementation.

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