

Common Attributes –Professional degrees under the oversight of the Graduate School include many but not all of the following common attributes:

- Rather than research, professional and leadership skills are developed; a final project, team experience, experiential capstone or internship may make up a major component of the degree.
- Skills-based interdisciplinary courses focused on applied problem solving, with intentional efforts to develop high-level communication/presentation/collaboration/networking and other workplace skills;
- Program provides access to courses sensitive to the needs of working professional, including a curriculum often typified by non-traditional course delivery; distance learning, part-time options, flexible scheduling (evenings, weekends, intensive summer instruction), cohort model, etc.;
- Outside business relations, an alumni network, an external advisory board and/or an external accrediting agency that may identify employer work-force needs and govern some to all of curriculum and student outcome expectations;

Additional Notes:

- Although the degree generally does not lead into a career in the professoriate, students might pursue a professional practice master's degree on route to a PhD program.
- Many professional students may experience employer-provided release-time, tuition support, etc.; professional degree students are generally not eligible for University Fellowships and conditions of program often preclude acceptance of graduate assistantships
- Instructors drawn from a pool of working professionals, clinical or academic staff and research (graduate) faculty;

Potential Rewards to Departments and Institution:

- Closer relations between department programs and profession/business/industry
- Opportunities for development of private support from satisfied alumni and employers
- More evident contribution to local/regional economic development
- Opportunity for local control of tuition revenue
- Opportunity for enhanced TA and faculty support
- Development of enhanced career opportunities for students pursuing careers in non-academe fields.
- Enhanced awareness of student learning outcomes
- Meets demand for more professional degrees from potential students and employers

For assistance in planning new post-baccalaureate programs, please visit the Academic Planning and Institutional Research webpage <http://apir.wisc.edu/degreesmajorsoptions.htm>.

* All Masters and Doctoral degrees under the oversight of the Graduate School (including any professional/practice degrees) must adhere to the Graduate School's minimum degree requirements as described in the Graduate School Academic Policies and Procedures at <http://grad.wisc.edu/education/acadpolicy/guidelinesindex.html>.

Examples of Professional Degrees in the University of Wisconsin-Madison Graduate School:

Social Studies Division

Business Administration – MBA <http://bus.wisc.edu/mba>

Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis – MS, PhD <https://elpa.education.wisc.edu>

Psychology – PHD <http://psych.wisc.edu>

Public Affairs / International Public Affairs – MPA/MIPA www.lafollette.wisc.edu/degreeprograms.html

Social Work – MSW <http://socwork.wisc.edu>

Physical Sciences Division

Engineering – ME <http://epdweb.engr.wisc.edu>

Computer Sciences MS – Named Option: Professional Program (first cohort Fall 2014) <http://www.cs.wisc.edu/>

Arts & Humanities Division

Professional French Master – PFM <http://pfmp.wisc.edu>

Biological Sciences Division

Biotechnology – MS www.ms-biotech.wisc.edu

Conservation Biology and Sustainable Development – MS www.nelson.wisc.edu/graduate_degrees/conservation/index.php

Doctor of Nursing Practice – DNP www.son.wisc.edu/110.htm

Audiology Doctorate – AUD www.comdis.wisc.edu/future-aud-overview.htm