Graduate Academic Plan Definitions

Academic Program Plan (Plan level): Master’s degree programs require a minimum of 30 units. At least 12 required units within the program plan should be unique to that program to differentiate it from other programs. Doctoral degree programs require a minimum of 60 units. Specialized degree paths can be judiciously created through the use of sub-plans (i.e. emphases). Graduate certificate programs require a minimum of 12 units.

Specialized degree paths within a program can be judiciously created through the use of sub-plans (i.e. emphases). To establish sub-plans, program plans must have a required common core of at least 12 units and more than one emphasis.

Emphasis (Sub-plan level): A planned group of courses from one or more subject matter/discipline areas, consisting of at least 9 units. Emphasis requirements cannot account for more than 60 percent of the total program plan requirements. At least 9 units must be unique to that emphasis to differentiate it from other emphases.

Concentrations: An academic program plan may also offer smaller groupings of courses, fewer than 12 units, as concentrations within the program plan. Concentrations are permitted for the purpose of communication clarity and convenience within a specific field.
**Master’s Degree Program with Emphases**

- **Minimum of 30 units**
- **At least 12 units must be unique to this degree to differentiate it from other Master degrees**
- **At least 12 common required units**

**Emphasis**

- **Minimum of 9 units, cannot account for more than 60% of the total degree requirements**
- **At least 9 units must be unique to this emphasis to differentiate it from other emphases**