**Background**

The APRC unanimously approved the following policy proposed by the Graduate Council. The policy limits the number of credit hours that may be applied from non-degree study towards a graduate degree.

**Non-Degree Admission**

Non-degree Admission. Applicants may apply to the Graduate School for admission as a non-degree graduate student. Applications for non-degree admission must include a transcript (official or unofficial) from a regionally accredited institution showing conferral of a baccalaureate-level degree. Please note that non-degree seeking students are not admitted to any degree program, are not eligible for financial assistance, and are not assigned to advisors.

Some programs allow non-degree students to take one or more graduate courses for self-improvement or exploration of graduate degree program offerings. However, a program may restrict enrollment into classes to degree-seeking students within its program. Check with the program director or academic department head to determine if the program allows non-degree students to be enrolled in a specific class.

Non-degree graduate students who wish to be considered for admission into a graduate degree program may do so by following the instructions noted above in the [Program Change](http://catalog.wcu.edu/content.php?catoid=26&navoid=493#Program_Changes) section. Students should be aware that work completed in a non-degree status does not necessarily apply toward a degree, nor does being allowed to take courses imply acceptance into a degree program. If a student has taken courses in non-degree status and later is formally admitted as a degree candidate, the program may accept up to 9 non-degree credit hours. Admission as a non-degree graduate student does not guarantee admission into a graduate degree program

Non-degree Certificate Programs are exempt from this policy.