

Approved by:

Faculty Senate Committee on Undergraduate Education, May 2010

Faculty Senate Executive Committee, October 2010

FSCUE Statement on Academic Certificate Programs for Undergraduates

While applauding the curricular innovation that often leads academic units to seek ways to recognize students' sustained work in an academic area, the Faculty Senate Committee on Undergraduate Education, FSCUE, strongly discourages the development of certificate programs for this purpose for students pursuing an undergraduate degree at Case Western Reserve University. We prefer that such recognition be fit into the existing rubrics of majors and minors that can be recognized on a student's transcript.

The University and its constituent faculties have well-defined procedures for reviewing and approving new minors, including interdisciplinary programs that cross the boundaries of departments and schools, and programs developed by academic units of the University that do not offer undergraduate degrees. Minors normally require a minimum of 15 credit-hours of work, which seems an appropriate minimum for formal recognition of a free-standing academic program.

There is often a wish to recognize and certify focused work within a student's major. The FSCUE requests that the University Registrar and the Dean of Undergraduate Studies explore ways to include the name of the specific track or specialty sequence completed by the student as part of his or her major on the transcript. Once developed, the FSCUE will expect that this recognition only be granted to well-defined tracks that are part of the approved structure of the major and that include at least 9 credit-hours of defined work for the track that count toward the major.