Undergraduate Certificates

Undergraduate Certificate Programs at UK

The University of Kentucky’s undergraduate certificate programs offer our students a convenient and flexible way to earn credentials for career advancement. All are cross-disciplinary clusters of courses integrated in a way that identifies a set of skills or knowledge that carry college credit and is applied to a student’s undergraduate degree program. Students may declare their intent to complete a certificate program at any time. To do so they should contact the Student Services or Advising Office where their primary major is housed, but they are not required to see an advisor before adding the certificate. This is the same process a student would follow to add a minor or second program of study to their record.

Certificates at UK are only awarded to students who successfully complete (or have completed) a baccalaureate degree. Ideally, a certificate can show a potential employer or graduate program’s faculty a specific expertise that a UK graduate brings with them to their new career.

A certificate program at UK must be at least 12 hours but rarely exceeds 24 credit hours. It is typically constructed to be flexible and respond quickly to emerging and cutting edge fields. Unlike the usual minor attached to a baccalaureate program, certificate programs must include at least two different academic disciplines and students are expected to have experiences that do not fit “traditional” academic models. All UK certificate programs must require students to:

• be in good academic standing upon admission to the certificate program;
• take at least 12 credit hours taken for a letter grade; at least 12 credits at 200-level or above and a minimum of 6 credit hours at 300-level or above;
• take no more than 9 credits in the certificate program that are used to satisfy requirements for the student’s bachelor’s degree, minor, or another certificate (exclusive of free or unrestricted electives);
• earn a C or better in each required certificate course;
• take courses in at least two disciplines, with a minimum of three credits to be completed in a second discipline;
• work with the designated Faculty Director to assure that the individual certificate curriculum is appropriate.

All certificate programs are assessed upon the fifth year of its duration. If a certificate is suspended or terminated, students currently enrolled shall have a reasonable period of time, not to exceed three years, to complete the requirements for the certificate.

UK undergraduate certificate programs listed by academic home:

College of Agriculture, Food and Environment

Distillation, Wine and Brewing Studies

The Undergraduate Certificate in Distillation, Wine and Brewing Studies (DWBS) is inclusive of students from all departments and colleges at UK. The Departments of Animal and Food Sciences; Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering; Chemistry; Chemical and Materials Engineering; History; Horticulture, Plant and Soil Sciences; Retailing and Tourism Management; and Writing, Rhetoric and Digital Studies are all engaged in DWBS. Three key student learning outcomes comprise the DWBS and are accomplished through a cluster of courses.

Faculty Director: Dr. Seth DeBolt, Department of Horticulture.

Details and requirements for the DWBS Certificate are listed in the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment section of this Bulletin.

Food Systems and Hunger Studies

Career opportunities related to food systems and hunger are expanding domestically and abroad. However, there are limited academic programs that prepare the workforce with a comprehensive approach focused on the impact of food systems on food security and health. The 12-credit hour Certificate in Food Systems and Hunger Studies provides students with a cross-disciplinary approach to understanding the impact of food systems on food security, hunger, and the overall health and wellness of a community. Through structured experiential learning opportunities, students will apply knowledge of food systems and the environment to develop and implement evidence-based strategies to end hunger in both the United States and globally.

Faculty Director: Tammy Stephenson, Department of Dietetics and Human Nutrition.

Details and requirements for the Food Systems and Hunger Studies Certificate are listed in the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment section in this Bulletin.

College of Arts and Sciences

Appalachian Studies

Students in any college may earn the Undergraduate Certificate in Appalachian Studies. The Certificate is interdisciplinary (requiring course work in at least two colleges) and combines critical analysis with experiential education in the Appalachian region. The course work and practicum are tailored for each student in consultation with the program director to make the interdisciplinary certificate relevant to the student’s major, interests, and career plans.

Faculty Director: Dr. Shauna Scott, Director, Appalachian Studies and Appalachian Center, (859) 281-6928.

Details and requirements for the Appalachian Studies Certificate are listed in the College of Arts and Sciences section of this Bulletin.

Global Studies

The Certificate in Global Studies is designed to show collaboration across all the undergraduate colleges in creating a focus for students’ scholarly work in international settings. Successful completers of this interdisciplinary Certificate have demonstrated their preparedness to live and work in a global community. There are four components: globally focused course work, second language course work, credit-bearing education abroad experience, and co-curricular programming.

Faculty Director: Dr. Monica Blackmun Visionà, School of Art and Visual Studies.

Details and requirements for the Global Studies Certificate are in the College of Arts and Sciences section of this Bulletin.

International Film Studies

Cinema, sometimes referred to as the seventh art, was one of the great contributions to twentieth-century world culture. It will continue to be no less important in the twenty-first century and beyond where it continues to be transformed by its contact with even more recent technologies such as digital media and evolving entertainment and
artistic platforms such as the internet and social media.

The certificate in International Film Studies is a highly interdisciplinary program that allows students to bring the knowledge they have gathered in their home departments to bear on their work in film studies. The certificate in International Film Studies emphasizes, in a comparative global context, how the language and history of film intersects with closely related movements in other artistic media, in philosophy and history, and in different cultural traditions.

Faculty Director: Dr. Jeffrey N. Peters, French and Francophone Studies.

Details and requirements for the International Film Studies Certificate are listed in the College of Arts and Sciences section of this Bulletin.

Peace Studies

The purpose of the Peace Studies program is to develop students with increased interests and understanding of issues of peace and justice from individual to global levels; to provide them with basic skills in peaceful communication, nonviolent and transformative conflict resolution; and to help them develop peaceful and cooperative cultures. The Peace Studies program will empower students to understand and reduce conflict at multiple levels, and will provide them with conflict resolution skills that are increasingly valued by employers, graduate programs, and are much needed in our communities.

Faculty Director: Dr. Clayton Thyne, Department of Political Science.

Details and requirements for the Peace Studies Certificate are listed in the College of Arts and Sciences section in this Bulletin.

Sexuality Studies

This Certificate in Sexuality Studies allows students to explore human sexuality in a profoundly interdisciplinary way. It encompasses scientific and medical fields as well as humanities and social sciences, and encourages the study of sexuality transhistorically and crossculturally. The goal of offering the certificate is three-fold. 1) To train students for fields in which knowledge of diverse perspectives on sexuality is important – including health-related fields, human resources-related fields, and international scholarship or business. 2) To provide students with an opportunity for transformative exploration of the relationship between sexuality and society. 3) To provide leadership in promoting sexuality education with an intersectional and interdisciplinary approach on the college level that profoundly enhances abstinence-only education offered in public high schools.

Faculty Director: To be announced

Details and requirements for the Sexuality Studies Certificate are listed in the College of Arts and Sciences section of this Bulletin.

Social Sciences Research

The Undergraduate Certificate in Social Sciences Research will enhance the educational goals of any University of Kentucky student interested in obtaining research experience in the Social Sciences. The certificate is designed to ensure that students receiving it have mastered basic social science research skills, and have demonstrated their ability to apply those skills in independent undergraduate research. The purpose of this initiative is to encourage and recognize those students who have an interest in developing their scholarly and research pursuits in the Social Sciences, and have an interest in pursuing their scholarship in an advanced degree program or in their chosen career. The certificate provides students with the opportunity to learn a range of basic social science skills and focus their efforts in primary research activities.

Faculty Director: Dr. Sung Hee Kim, Department of Psychology.

Details and requirements for the Social Sciences Research Certificate are listed in the College of Arts and Sciences section of this Bulletin.

Gatton College of Business and Economics

Global Scholars

The Certificate in Global Scholars gives students who have successfully completed the Global Scholars Program the recognition of this accomplishment on their transcripts. This program is designed to prepare those students accepted into the College for careers in international business.

Faculty Director: Dr. Scott Kelley, Department of Marketing and Supply Chain.

Details and requirements for the Global Scholars Certificate are listed in the College of Business and Economics section of this Bulletin.

College of Communication and Information

Directing Forensics*

*PLEASE NOTE: The College of Communications & Information has suspended admissions to the Directing Forensics certificate program for the 2018-19 academic year.

The Division of Instructional Communication and Research offers an undergraduate certificate that will prepare students to teach and coach competitive forensics at the middle school, high school, and collegiate levels and serve the growing demand for forensics coaches. Currently, over 300 colleges and universities sponsor this activity at the state, regional, and national level. Over 100,000 students and 3,500 coaches also compete annually in high school competitions across the nation. This certificate serves both current undergraduate students who wish to enhance their ability to teach public speaking and post-baccalaureates seeking additional training or continuing education credits.

Faculty Director: Dr. Will Buntin, Department of Information Science.

Details and requirements for the Directing Forensics Certificate are listed in the College of Communication and Information section of this Bulletin.

Health Communication

The Health Communication Undergraduate Certificate is designed to give students an enhanced education in communication skills critical to health-related professions, beyond what would normally be received from the UK Core. Upon completion of the Certificate students will be able to determine how communication impacts the major contributors for disease prevention and control as well as how to identify and analyze communication strategies that are most effective for health promotion and wellness.

Faculty Director: Dr. Kelly McAninch, Department of Communication.

Details and requirements for the Health Communication Certificate are listed in the College of Communication and Information section of this Bulletin.

Innovation and Entrepreneurial Thinking

The Certificate program in Innovation and Entrepreneurial Thinking is designed to provide a coherent, integrated approach to helping ambitious undergraduate students develop and document the skills needed to become a successful innovator and entrepreneurial thinker. The Certificate is multi-disciplinary but is hosted by the College of Communication and Information and includes four courses (12 credit hours) completed over a one- to two-year period. Courses include a mix of topics such as communication and leadership, two elective courses on innovation and entrepreneurial thinking from participating colleges, and a required capstone course (EXP 455) involving a project with the iNET entrepreneur-in-residence.

Faculty Director: Dr. Kimberly A. Parker, School of Journalism and Telecommunications.

Details and requirements for the Innovation and Entrepreneurial Thinking Certificate are listed in the College of Communication and Information section of this Bulletin.
Undergraduate Certificates

College of Design

Universal Design

The Certificate in Universal Design is designed to give students a foundation in the principles of universal design and its application across disciplines. The Certificate will create a focus for students’ scholarly work in developing environments that maximize the engagement of all community members, including people with disabilities. Universal design creates environments and resources that are usable by people across the lifespan. Universal design utilizes a broad set of strategies that promote inclusion and participation of all, particularly people with disabilities, within a diverse world. Universal design grew from the independent living movement, and legislation including the Architectural Barriers Act, the Rehabilitation Act, the Education for All Handicapped Children Act, and the Americans with Disabilities Act. The Higher Education Opportunities Act furthered the reach of Universal Design through definition of Universal Design for Learning, or UDL, that provides flexibility in education in information presentation, student engagement and demonstration of knowledge.

Faculty Director: Dr. Kathleen Sheppard-Jones, director of the Human Development Institute (HDI), and adjunct professor in the Department of Early Childhood, Special Education and Rehabilitation Counseling, College of Education.

Details and requirements for the Universal Design Certificate are listed in the College of Design section of this Bulletin.

College of Education

Leadership Studies

The Undergraduate Certificate in Leadership Studies will allow students to demonstrate their preparedness to lead, live, and work in an interconnected and interdependent global community. Students will improve their understanding of leadership and develop the skills needed to lead in their particular field through a series of courses designed to provide a rich leadership focus.

Faculty Directors: Dr. Maria Cahill, Assistant Professor, School of Information Sciences (College of Communication and Information) who holds a joint appointment in the Department of Educational Leadership Studies in the College of Education; and, Dr. Kris Ricketts, Community and Leadership Development (College of Agriculture, Food and Environment).

Details and requirements for the Leadership Studies Certificate are listed in the College of Education section of this Bulletin.

College of Engineering

Power and Energy

This Certificate in Power and Energy gives students the recognition of competency in the power and energy field. Successful completers of this Certificate will have an understanding of global energy issues, knowledge of electric power in an area that best fits their particular discipline (focusing particularly in power generation, transmission and distribution, or economics and public policy).

Faculty Director: Dr. Joseph Sottile, Department of Mining Engineering.

Details and requirements for the Power and Energy Certificate are listed in the College of Engineering section of this Bulletin.

Production Engineering

The Production Engineering Certificate (PEC) encompasses development of students’ experiences and knowledge, and the application of engineering and scientific principles, in automotive manufacturing. It enhances capstone senior design projects, promotes student understanding of key automotive production processes, and involves students in capstone projects that develop knowledge of problems in and potential solutions for automotive production process design. Design projects within the Core Courses are developed through proposals from industry or an engineering organization.

Faculty Director: Dr. Nelson Akafuah, Department of Mechanical Engineering.

Details and requirements for the Production Engineering Certificate are listed in the College of Engineering section of this Bulletin.

College of Fine Arts

Baroque Trumpet

The Undergraduate Certificate in Baroque Trumpet develops performance and interpretation skills for the natural trumpet. The Baroque Trumpet is a valveless ancestor of the modern valved trumpet. It reached its zenith during the Baroque era, and today is once again becoming an important instrument in the fields of music performance, musicology, and music education. Already in many parts of Europe, it is expected that performances of music written prior to the 19th century be played on the valveless natural (“Baroque”) trumpet, and this is now a growing field in the United States. Students will examine the stylistic aspects of Baroque music through (a) study of primary sources from the Baroque era; (b) study of prominent secondary sources on Baroque interpretation; and (c) preparation and performance of music from the Baroque era on the natural trumpet. This certificate may earned concurrently with an undergraduate degree, as an additional (second) program of study if the student is a current degree seeking student or a post-baccalaureate student. This certificate may earned as the primary (first) program of study ONLY if the student is non-degree seeking or is a post-baccalaureate student who is not pursuing any other credential.

Faculty Director: Dr. Jason Dovell, School of Music.

Details and requirements for the Baroque Trumpet Certificate are listed in the College of Fine Arts section of this Bulletin.

Musical Theatre Certificate for Voice Majors

Musical Theatre Certificate for Theatre Majors

These two interdisciplinary Certificates are offered jointly by the Department of Theatre and Dance and the School of Music. They will provide an opportunity for students in both units to gain knowledge in an area of study that includes acting, dance, voice and musical theatre techniques. Successful completers of this Certificate will be able to synthesize acting, singing and dancing in a musical theatre performance.

Faculty Co-Directors for the Musical Theatre Certificate for Voice Majors: Dr. Nancy Jones, Department of Theatre, and Dr. Noemi Lugo, Department of Voice in the School of Music.

Details and requirements for the Musical Theatre Certificate for Voice Majors and the Musical Theatre Certificate for Voice Majors are listed in the College of Fine Arts section of this Bulletin.

College of Health Sciences

Clinical Healthcare Management

Successful completion of the Certificate in Clinical Healthcare Management will demonstrate that the graduate is prepared to function successfully in a clinical leadership and management role in a health care institution. The program is useful for any currently enrolled UK student interested in obtaining clinical management skills; in addition, the program is useful for practicing clinical professionals (non-degree-seeking) such as nurses, physicians, dentists, physician assistants, physical therapists, respiratory therapists and other interested in enhancing their management skills.

Faculty Director: Dr. Richard Roberts, College of Health Sciences.

Details and requirements for the Clinical Healthcare Management Certificate are listed in the College of Health Sciences section of this Bulletin.
Nutrition for Human Performance

This certificate is hosted in the Human Health Sciences department and is co-located with the Departments of Dietetics and Human Nutrition and Kinesiology and Health Promotion. It is ideal for students who are pre-medicine, pre-physical therapy, or pre-physician assistant studies – and for those who have earned or are currently pursuing undergraduate degrees in nutrition (DHN), kinesiology (KHP), and human health sciences (HHS). This certificate provides a unique opportunity to provide students with a better understanding and appreciation for how nutrition impacts athletic performance and the role of diet and exercise in disease prevention.

Certificate Director: Dr. D. Travis Thomas, Assistant Professor, Clinical Nutrition, Department of Clinical Sciences (College of Health Sciences); and, Faculty Co-Directors: Dr. Tammy J. Stephenson, Assistant Professor, Department of Dietetics and Human Nutrition, School of Human Environmental Sciences (College of Agriculture, Food and Environment); and, Dr. Mark Abel, Associate Professor, Kinesiology and Health Promotion (College of Education).

Details and requirements for the Nutrition for Human Performance Certificate are listed in the College of Health Sciences section of this Bulletin.

Research in Health Sciences

The Office of Research in the College of Health Sciences in collaboration with The Departments of Rehabilitation Sciences and Clinical Sciences offers an undergraduate certificate in Undergraduate Research in Health Sciences. This certificate will enhance the educational goals of any University of Kentucky student interested in obtaining experience in health-related research to benefit the pursuit of a health care career.

Faculty Director: Dr. Gilson Capilouto, Department of Rehabilitation Sciences.

Details and requirements for the Research in Health Sciences Certificate are listed in the College of Health Sciences section of this Bulletin.

College of Medicine

Medical Behavioral Science

The 12 credit hour undergraduate certificate in Medical Behavioral Science is designed to complement the university’s rigorous pre-medical curriculum, which currently includes courses in biology, chemistry, physics, and English. The certificate consists of three sequential courses and a cross-disciplinary elective. The courses are uniquely focused on synthesizing the psychological, social, and biological dimensions of health outcomes and behavior.

Faculty Director: Dr. Claire D. Clark, Department of Behavioral Science.

Details and requirements for the Medical Behavioral Science Certificate are listed in the College of Medicine section of this Bulletin.