



POLICY

Focus Areas

Policy Owner: **Senior Associate Dean for Professional Education** | Effective Date: **April 2016** | Last Updated: **April 2016**

POLICY STATEMENT

A focus area is a set of electives that are identified that relate to a specific area, but does not meet the University criteria for an emphasis area. In order to be recognized as a Focus Area, the proposed set of electives must meet the following criteria:

- A focus area shall consist of at least three courses and at least 9 credits total, and shall have both didactic and experiential (1–4 credits or credit equivalents) learning.
- A faculty member designated as the Focus Area Director shall be responsible for advising students and ensuring that they meet the appropriate requirements.
- Each focus area shall have its own procedure for eligibility and admission.
- If a specific Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience site or preceptor is required for a focus area, students enrolled in that focus area shall receive priority for the respective APPE assignment. This does not guarantee that a student will be assigned any particular APPE site or preceptor, although every effort will be made to accommodate each student on a case by case basis.

A student may not be enrolled in more than two focus areas, or more than one focus area if that student is enrolled in an emphasis area. Completion of a focus area does not confer designation on a student's transcript or diploma, but it is appropriate for inclusion on a student's CV. The intended purpose of focus areas are that they will allow students to demonstrate commitment and developing concentrated knowledge and experience within a professional area. In addition to giving structure to a specific area of a learner's interest, Focus Area completion may assist graduates in securing PGY-1 or PGY-2 residencies or other postgraduate positions. Examples of potential focus areas include direct competency domain links such as interprofessional education or pharmacy management, or domain-linked, but separate areas, such as critical care or geriatrics.

REASON FOR POLICY

This policy defines a focus area and is based upon the focus area component of charge C recommendations from the Curriculum Revision Steering Committee in the "Report to the Dean Regarding Elective Courses in the Curriculum" approved by College Assembly on August 13, 2014.

PROCEDURES

Focus area designation will require Educational Policy/Peer Review Committee (EPC) and College Assembly approval. Students may request a new focus area by working with faculty and domain leads in identifying a potential Director to explore this option. Proposed changes to the course requirements for an existing focus area shall be approved by EPC.

Proposals for a new focus area should be forwarded to the Office of Professional Education include the following components:

- Educational goals proposed for the focus area
- Identification of the Focus Area Director and description of the advising process that will be included in the Focus Area design.

- A list of the courses, APPEs or other learning experiences required for completion of the Focus Area.
- Rationale for the courses, APPEs or other learning experiences included in the Focus Area design.
- Criteria for eligibility and procedures for admission to the Focus Area.

CONTACTS

Subject	Contact	Phone	Fax/Email
Senior Associate Dean for Professional Education	Caroline Gaither	612-626-0811	cgaither@umn.edu

OTHER INFORMATION

None.

HISTORY

May 17, 2016 – Approved by the Educational Policy/Peer Review Committee

June 23, 2016 – Approved by College Assembly