

DESIGNATED EMPHASIS

All graduate students admitted to Ph.D. programs at the University of California Riverside may participate in a Designated Emphasis (D.E.), a specialization that might include a new method of inquiry or an important field of application related to two or more existing Ph.D. programs. The Designated Emphasis is awarded in conjunction with the Ph.D. degree and is signified by a transcript designation; for example, “Ph.D. in English with a Designated Emphasis in Medieval Studies” or “Ph.D. in Biology with a Designated Emphasis in Vector-borne Diseases.” Graduate students who have completed a Designated Emphases may be more competitive candidates for positions in their primary disciplines

Designated Emphases comprise 12-16 additional units, where 4 of those units reflect a significant research product, whether a paper or poster. Designated Emphases are run by faculty groups consisting of at least one member from each of the cooperating Ph.D. programs. Proposals for Designated Emphases must be submitted to the Graduate Council and Graduate Dean for approval.

A Designated Emphasis (D.E.) proposal must included the following:

1. Must have a specified number of units (no less than 12) to be taken in at least two departments/programs. All courses must be at the graduate level or require graduate level work (both quantity and quality) from the student.
2. Must specify the research requirement for the emphasis
3. Courses used for the Designated Emphasis **may not** also be counted toward the masters or Ph.D. requirements; they must be **in addition**.
4. ALL D.E.s must have a committee that oversees the curriculum.
5. No DE should request extra resources in order to meet its obligation; this includes extra funding for graduate students because of increased time to degree or FTE in order to meet the teaching requirements.
6. The deadline for completion for the D.E. must be established in the proposal and may not be modified without Graduate Council approval. Although proposals may delineate a shorter deadline, the maximum time to D.E. that may be proposed is one calendar year from the quarter in which the candidate advances to candidacy.
7. The GPA required to earn the D.E. cannot be below 3.0 and with regard to substantive research satisfaction of this requirement is subject to approval by the D.E. Program Committee.