



Quality Assurance Processes

Collaborative Specialization Guidelines

Queen's University Quality Assurance Processes ([QUQAP](#) policy, Appendix 1: Definition, p.53) and [Ontario Universities Council on Quality Assurance](#)) specify the **Collaborative Specialization** as below:

Definition

A Collaborative Specialization is defined as an intra-university graduate field of study that provides an additional multidisciplinary experience for students enrolled in and completing the degree requirements for one of several approved master's and/or PhD programs within the collaborative specialization.

Admission and Collaborative Specialization Requirements

Students meet the admission requirements of and register in the participating (or "home") program but complete, in addition to the degree requirements of that program, the additional requirements specified by the Collaborative Specialization.

A collaborative Specialization **must** have:

- At least one core one-semester course that is foundational to the specialization and does not form part of the course offerings of any of the partner programs.
- This course **must** be completed by all students from partner programs registered in the specialization and provides an opportunity for students to appreciate the different disciplinary perspectives that can be brought to bear on the area of specialization.
- This course may serve as an elective in the student's home program.
- Clear and explicit requirements for each Collaborative Specialization.
- In programs requiring a major research paper, essay, or thesis, the topic **must** be in the area of the collaborative specialization.

- In course-only master's programs, at least 30% of the courses **must** be in the area of specialization including the core course described above.
- Courses in the area of specialization may be considered electives in the home program.
- Core-only faculty, that are those faculty members in the participating home programs who have an interest and expertise in the area of the collaborative specialization (this may include faculty primarily appointed to an interdisciplinary Academic Unit – for example, an Institute of American Studies – that provides the anchor for the specialization).
- Appropriate administrative and academic oversight/governance to ensure requirements associated with the specialization are being met.

Transcript Notation

The degree conferred is that of the home program, and the completion of the Collaborative Specialization is indicated by a transcript notation indicating the additional specialization that has been attained (e.g., MA in Political Science with specialization in American Studies).

Creation of a New Collaborative Specialization

The creation of a new Collaborative Specialization is an example of a major modification. ([Quality Council's guide to Quality Assurance Processes](#), example 17)

Changing an Existing Collaborative Specialization

Major or minor changes to an existing Collaborative Specialization will be handled through QUQAP's protocol for Major or Minor modification, respectively.

The type of change (major or minor modification) is decided in consultation with the VPTL and SGSPA Office.

Cyclical Review of a Collaborative Specialization

Collaborative Specializations are subject to cyclical program review. Review of interdisciplinary collaborative specializations may be undertaken, where appropriate, in combination with the review of the larger degree program. (QUQAP 6.3.2 - 6.3.3)

For additional information on this requirement or the QUQAP process, please contact quqap@queensu.ca.