**Proposal to add Undergraduate Certificate Options for**

**Non-Degree Seeking Students and Distance Locations**

*Submitted by UA Global, 3/29/19*

**Proposal:**

The UA should offer the same undergraduate certificate and advanced undergraduate certificate options to students enrolled as degree seeking or non-degree seeking students (1) at the UA main campus in Tucson, (2) in degree seeking programs at international universities where the UA has approved international partnerships, and (3) at approved UA global and domestic locations.

This proposal is to amend the Proposal to Create a new UG Certificate Definition, Procedures, & Policies that is currently going through the faculty approval process.

**Rationale:**

* Offering certificate programs to either degree seeking or non-degree seeking students creates a full suite of opportunities for students to enroll in UA courses, earn a certificate, and possibly ‘bridge’ into a master’s degree program, wherever UA courses are offered.
* Advanced undergraduate certificates are important enrollment pipelines into UA graduate programs of study and may consist of traditional instruction, hybrid, or fully online instruction.
* UA currently offers approved international bridge certificate to master’s programs through the College of Engineering and more proposals are anticipated from the College of Engineering, the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and the College of Optical Sciences with several international partners. These students are admitted to the UA as non-degree seeking students for the certificate program in the final year of their bachelor’s degree at the partner institution.
* The College of Engineering has found advanced undergraduate certificates to be an effective way to evaluate potential graduate student candidates for master’s and doctoral programs and is seeking to create more. For example, students in China who are successful in the online instruction of the advanced undergraduate certificate in Advanced Transportation Engineering have chosen to enroll in the main campus Master’s in Engineering program and two students who completed the masters applied and were admitted into UA doctoral programs in Engineering.
* Competition for international students is fierce as universities seek to address capacity issues and stabilize or grow student enrollment. Offering certificates on the main campus as well as at our approved global locations – either micro-campuses or study abroad sites – or in collaboration with approved international partners, increases UA’s ability to grow enrollment and meet the needs of students from around the world. Offering certificates also addresses unmet needs of our carefully-vetted and approved partner universities, creating synergies and strengthening the partnerships for years to come.
* Certificates are very attractive to many UA international partners and are part of the Global Skills Provider component of the fourth pillar in the UA strategic plan, indicating that the opportunities and support to expand into this area are great.
* A number of U.S. universities offer degree seeking and non-degree seeking UG certificate options, for example, University of Florida, University of Iowa, and University of Kansas.
* International students can be admitted to study in the United States under the F-1 student visa category (F-1 student). An F-1 student is a nonimmigrant who is admitted to an academic institution in the United States that has been designated by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to offer “full course of study” programs. The F-1 student status may be used for degree seeking programs (associate, bachelor, master, doctorate) as well as certain approved non-degree programs. F-1 students are eligible to enroll in certificate programs in non-degree status provided that successful completion of the full course of study leads to the attainment of a specific educational or professional objective, and results in the issuance of a certificate with the seal of the university.

**Proposed amendment to the new Policy on Undergraduate Certificates:**

*Undergraduate certificates and advanced undergraduate certificates are available to degree seeking or non-degree seeking students (1) at the UA main campus in Tucson, (2) in degree seeking programs at international universities where UA has approved international partnerships, and (3) at approved UA global locations.*

**Proposed Effective Term:** Fall 2019