I. **Definition of a Designated Emphasis**
A Designated Emphasis is an area of specialization, such as a new method of inquiry, important field of application, or focus that is interdisciplinary. The Designated Emphasis may exist within one graduate program or more than one program.

The Designated Emphasis program is organized in a manner that resembles a Graduate Group and must have By-laws, an Executive Committee and chair, curriculum, admissions policy, and its faculty will participate in the Qualifying Examination and as chairs of the Dissertation Committees. However, the Designated Emphasis may exist only in association with existing Ph.D. programs, and not independently.

Completion of the requirements for both the Designated Emphasis and the affiliated Ph.D. program will result in the notation of the Designated Emphasis on the doctoral diploma and the student transcript. For example: “Ph.D. in Epidemiology (Translational Research).”

II. **Requirements for a Designated Emphasis**
1. **Admissions**
   Students must be admitted to the Designated Emphasis program before the qualifying examination. The admission is processed through the Graduate Division and the Registrar’s Office.

2. **Curriculum**
   The Designated Emphasis curriculum must be integrated into the curriculum of the doctoral program in which it is affiliated. Course requirements must be met prior to the qualifying examination.

3. **Qualifying Exam**
   The qualifying exam must include an examination of knowledge within the specialization and one faculty member from the Designated Emphasis Graduate Group must participate in the qualifying exam.

4. **Dissertation**
   The dissertation topic must incorporate study and research within the specialization. The dissertation committee must include a minimum of one faculty member from the Designated Emphasis Graduate Group.
5. Program Evaluation
The evaluation of the specialization will be conducted through the Graduate Council Review process when the affiliated Ph.D. program is reviewed.

6. Approval Process
Faculty members submit a proposal for a Designated Emphasis, which is reviewed and approved by the Graduate Council. Any substantive changes to the Designated Emphasis must be submitted to the Graduate Council for approval.

III. Proposal Guidelines for the Creation of a Designated Emphasis
Faculty considering development of a new Designated Emphasis should agree on a definition and description and meet with the Graduate Dean and Assistant Dean to discuss the nature of the Designated Emphasis, the mechanism and format for proposal preparation, and the review process.

1. Description of the Designated Emphasis
Provide a description of the academic rationale for the Designated Emphasis, including recent developments in the field, and the Designated Emphasis’ importance to students and faculty.

2. Requirements for the Designated Emphasis
Describe the criteria used to determine admission. Describe the curricula, qualifying examination requirements, dissertation requirements, and the Designated Emphasis conferral process. Provide course descriptions for core courses and list electives. Describe the Designated Emphasis’ impact on time to degree completion.

3. Graduate Group Administration
Provide a description of how the Designated Emphasis will be administered and the resources available, such as staff support, student support, and available facilities. List the Chair and Executive Committee of the Graduate Group. Describe the structure for student advising and the appointment of faculty to the qualifying examination and the dissertation committees.

4. Appendices
By-Laws of the Designated Emphasis Graduate Group (template provided. Letter of endorsement from the Graduate Program Director of the doctoral program and selected letters from faculty who agree to participate in the Designated Emphasis. Roster of participating faculty (participating faculty must be Academic Senate members eligible to serve on higher degree committees).