

## ***This addendum is effective January 1, 2026***

### **Changes to student definitions:**

#### **Professional Certificate Students:**

The Center for Innovative Leadership at Furman University offers professional certificates for non-degree learners seeking to enhance their skills and knowledge for ongoing career growth and enhancement. Students who successfully complete a designated credit-bearing Furman graduate course will receive a professional certificate from the Center for Innovative Leadership. Nondegree seeking learners can enroll in up to two designated, for-credit Furman graduate courses. These for-credit course options can also count toward the completion of a designated graduate certificate or master's degree. Students seeking to enroll in more than two credit-bearing graduate courses will need to apply for a graduate certificate and/or master's degree.

#### **Graduate Certificate Students:**

A graduate certificate is a program of study and credit-based academic credential for graduate certificate students seeking advanced knowledge and skills in a designated area of specialization. Graduate certificates at Furman require the successful completion of four to six courses (12-18 credits) addressing a particular focus of study and can typically be completed within three to four terms. Students must apply for graduate certificate admission. Graduate certificates are recognized academic credentials that will appear on students' transcripts, but they are not awarded diplomas as diplomas are reserved for degree completers. All students who complete the requirements for a graduate certificate will receive a digital or paper certificate from Furman Graduate Studies. All Furman Graduate Certificate courses can be used (e.g., stacked) toward the completion of an aligned Furman Master's degree. Graduate certificate students may become master's degree candidates by consulting with Graduate Studies and meeting admission criteria for a specific degree program.

### **Graduate Certificates offered beginning January 1, 2026**

***Brand Strategy and User Experience (5 courses):*** Master the art and strategy of building brands and meaningful user experiences. This graduate certificate equips learners with in-demand skills in branding, communication, storytelling, marketing, user experience, and design. Through hands-on projects and industry-relevant tools—including Adobe Creative Suite and AI—you'll learn to craft customer-centered brand strategies, develop compelling content, and leverage emerging technologies to drive engagement while creating memorable user experiences both digitally and in person.

- SDG 600 or 601
- SDG 715
- SDG 716
- SDG 717
- SDG 725

*\*if needed, course substitutions can be approved by Program Director*

***Nonprofit Management (5 courses):*** This practical, five-course graduate certificate equips students with the strategic, operational, and advocacy skills necessary to lead and grow mission-driven organizations. Drawing from the fields of advocacy, policy, strategic design, and fundraising, the certificate provides a multidisciplinary foundation for understanding and managing the complex landscape of nonprofit work. Students will explore key topics such as nonprofit governance, grant writing, community-based leadership, strategic design, and public policy advocacy. Through a culminating practicum, students apply their learning in real-world nonprofit settings to foster innovation, sustainability, and social impact.

- MAP 640
- MAP 611 or 650
- MAP 610
- SDG 606
- MAP 675

*\*if needed, course substitutions can be approved by Program Director*

**Sports Development and Community Partnerships (5 courses):** This interdisciplinary, five-course graduate certificate equips students with the skills to design, lead, and evaluate sports-based initiatives that foster community engagement, nonprofit collaboration, and strategic partnerships. It is ideal for aspiring coaches, nonprofit and community leaders, marketers, community relations specialists, and policy professionals who want to harness the power of sports for social good.

- MAP 611
- SDG 706
- INV 641
- MAP 640 or 610
- MAP 675

*\*if needed, course substitutions can be approved by Program Director*

### **Attendance Policy update**

Instructors establish and announce attendance requirements for their courses. Graduate degree candidates are expected to attend every class and participate in all activities. Absence from class results in missing important classroom instruction and discussion. If an attendance policy is not specifically stated on the syllabus, Furman University's graduate studies policy will be enacted as follows: A student *may* be withdrawn from the course if absent 15 percent or more of the class meetings. A failing grade *may* be recorded unless the absences were due to providential reasons, in which case a course withdrawal (with a grade of W) may be granted after consultation with the Office of Graduate Studies.

### **Program Discontinuation**

Pending SACSCOC approval, the EdS track in Educational Leadership will be discontinued.