

## **Proposal: Clarify curriculum requirements for each program**

Location: Degree Requirement and Academic Policies/ **Dual Master's Degrees**

### **Current catalog copy:**

#### Dual Master's Degrees

In certain instances, it may be possible for a student to obtain dual degrees in two master's programs through the development of an integrated curriculum. A dual master's degree requires a special arrangement and should be viewed as atypical to standard practice. No degree program is obligated to enter into such an arrangement.

Although other restrictions may apply, basic admission and degree requirements are specified below:

The student must apply to each program separately and be admitted to both by the start of the third semester. No admission requirements established by the Graduate School or by either individual program may be waived. For example, if one degree requires acceptable scores for the GRE and the other the MAT, the applicant must take each standardized exam to be considered for admission to both degrees.

1. Once admitted, the student must develop a suitable plan of study that is acceptable to both programs and to the Graduate School. This plan of study must be done within the first semester of a student's matriculation in the Graduate School and in conjunction with Graduate Program Directors. The plan of study must be forwarded to the Graduate School for review and approval.
2. In cases where one program offers a concentration, the dual degree will replace the concentration and no concentration will appear on the student's transcript.
3. The student's advisory committee must have representation from both degree programs. If there is no advisory committee, the student must have two advisors; one from each program.
4. The number of required credit hours for both degrees must not be less than 75% of the total minimum hours required to complete each degree separately. For instance, if degree program X requires 30 credit hours and Y 30 credit hours, a proposed dual degree should at a minimum require 45 credit hours.
5. The director of each degree program must agree on which courses may be applied to both sets of graduation requirements.
6. The student must complete the capstone requirements for both programs. For example, if program X requires a written thesis and program Y requires a comprehensive exam, the student must meet both degree obligations.
7. If there is a compulsory qualifying exam in each curriculum, it may be possible for the student to take a single exam as long as the examination committee agrees that the assessment covers sufficient background information for each discipline. If only one program requires a qualifying exam, the student is obligated to take the exam.
8. If the student withdraws or is suspended from one of the participating programs, the dual degree arrangement is automatically nullified.
9. All standard policies relating to transfer of and minimum GPA required to graduate, apply to any dual degree arrangement.
10. All of the coursework in the combined program of study must be completed before the student can apply for either of the degrees.
11. No dual degrees will be awarded retroactively.

**Proposed catalog copy:**

## Dual Master's Degrees

In certain instances, it may be possible for a student to **simultaneously complete two complementary graduate degree programs through a prearranged curriculum plan that meets the requirements of both degree programs, while allowing for dual credit for a specified set of shared courses.** No degree program is obligated to enter into such an arrangement.

Although other restrictions may apply, basic admission and degree requirements are specified below:

The student must apply to each program separately and be admitted to both by the start of the third semester. No admission requirements established by the Graduate School or by either individual program may be waived. For example, if one degree requires acceptable scores for the GRE and the other the MAT, the applicant must take each standardized exam to be considered for admission to both degrees.

1. **Within the first semester of dual enrollment,** the student must develop a suitable Plan of Study (POS) that is **approved by both programs and the Graduate School. The paired POS must meet all requirements for both degree programs, including the capstone or other requirements. All courses being shared for credit must be clearly defined in the paired POS.**
2. In cases where one program offers a concentration, the dual degree will replace the concentration and no concentration will appear on the student's transcript.
3. The student's advisory committee must have representation from both degree programs. If there is no advisory committee, the student must have two advisors; one from each program.
4. **The requirements for each of the two degrees in a Dual Degree program must be substantially equivalent to the requirements for a student taking only one of the degrees. No more than 50% of the courses, based on the program with the least required credit hours, may be shared on the dual degree POS.**
5. The director of each degree program must agree on which courses may be applied to both sets of graduation requirements.
6. The student must complete the capstone requirements for both programs. For example, if program X requires a written thesis and program Y requires a comprehensive exam, the student must meet both degree obligations.
7. If there is a compulsory qualifying exam in each curriculum, it may be possible for the student to take a single exam as long as the examination committee agrees that the assessment covers sufficient background information for each discipline. If only one program requires a qualifying exam, the student is obligated to take the exam.
8. If the student withdraws or is suspended from one of the participating programs, the dual degree arrangement is automatically nullified.
9. All standard policies relating to transfer of and minimum GPA required to graduate, apply to any dual degree arrangement.
10. All of the coursework in the combined program of study must be completed before the student can apply for either of the degrees.
11. No dual degrees will be awarded retroactively.