

## General Requirements for a Dual Degree Program

The intent of a Dual degree program is to allow a student to receive two master's degrees in established and clearly related programs, more efficiently than would be the case if students pursued degrees in each of the programs separately.

Dual degree programs must meet all graduate program criteria and be approved by the Graduate Council:

1. Clearly stated objectives
  - The cooperating departments must make a proposal that argues the need and the inherent value of the combined program
2. Clearly stated expected student outcomes and methods for measurement
  - Outcomes should be stated from the standpoint of what the graduate is expected to do. Outcomes should be listed in behavioral terms, and the method for measuring the outcomes should be stated.
3. Specific entry and exit requirements
  - Candidates for Dual degree programs must meet the admission requirements and follow the application procedures for each program. A single application fee will be paid. Separate applications to each program must be filed within the prescribed deadlines, and applicants must be admitted to both programs to participate in the Dual degree program. An applicant who is admitted to one program but not the other has the option of entering the program that offered admission to earn a single degree.
  - Students currently enrolled in the first year of either participating program in a Dual degree may also apply for admission. Admission is not open to students who have already completed either degree.
  - Grade point averages in each program will be computed separately, and students must maintain the minimum standards in each area to continue in the program.
  - The required courses in each of the individual programs must also be required for the Dual degree.
  - The *minimum* number of degree credits required will be at least 30 in *each* program. Some planned programs may exceed the minimum of 60 credits in order to satisfy all program requirements.
  - If either degree program requires a thesis, a thesis will be required for the Dual degree. The thesis should address a topic that is derived from the rationale for the Dual degree. If both departments require a thesis, a single thesis must be completed for six credits. The overall number of credits must still meet the minimum requirements.
  - No Dual degree shall be awarded retroactively
4. Student advisement and tracking policy and procedures
  - Students will have a single Planned Program form, specifying the programs involved in the Dual degree. There should be evidence of interdisciplinary integration. Planned programs will be developed by the student and faculty members from both programs, and must be signed by the graduate advisors in each program. The final planned program must be approved by the Graduate School.
5. Appropriate number of qualified faculty
6. A consistently high level of instruction and assignments
7. Adequate library resources for graduate study
8. Adequate non-print resources (audio-visual, computer, labs, practica)
9. Evidence of faculty and student research, scholarship, and/or creative activity
10. A climate of intellectual/professional curiosity and achievement
11. A clear statement of students' rights and responsibilities

Dual Degree Programs will be reviewed at the time each individual department is scheduled for review by the Academic Standards Committee of the Graduate Council.

Approved by Graduate Council: May 3, 2004