

Graduate Policy Committee
January 20, 2010
3:30-5:00 P.M., MH 327

AGENDA

- 1) Welcome and call to order; review of minutes
- 2) Z grade policy
- 3) Shared credit policy
 - a) Accelerated bachelor's/master's
 - b) Dual degree programs
 - c) Master's along-the-way
- 4) Adjournment

UCF Graduate Policy concerning Z grade designation for Academic Dishonesty

Draft: 10-12.1.1

The Policy Committee of the Graduate Council is proposing the adoption of a Z grade policy for graduate students at UCF that is related to, but distinct from the Z policy for undergraduate students recommended by the Ethics Task Force Committee, a subcommittee of the UCF Faculty Senate. Similar to the undergraduate Z policy, adoption of this policy is to reaffirm the importance and the civic responsibility that students and faculty have to ensure that degrees earned at UCF are of high quality and have clear standards. The adoption of a more stringent policy for graduate students is in recognition of the advanced nature of graduate education and the higher level of expected behavior of students who have been awarded a bachelor's degree.

Action: A Z designation will be assigned in front of the grade to a student as a result of academic dishonesty in a course.

Process:

- If a student is found in violation of academic honesty by a faculty member in a course, the student will be informed by the faculty member.
- The faculty member will assign a ZF grade for courses graded A-to-F, or a ZU grade for courses graded S/U. Other grades prefaced by a Z would not be allowed for graduate students.
- The faculty member must report the violation (at least for information only) to Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities using forms http://www.osc.sdes.ucf.edu/?id=incident_report_1
- When submitting final grades, the faculty member will inform the Registrar's Office via the Z Grade form.
- A student receiving a ZU grade in a thesis (6973) or dissertation (7980) course will be dismissed immediately.

The graduate student does not have recourse to remove the Z designation other than through the academic grade appeal process (Golden Rule). Appeal of a ZF or ZU grade would be considered by an academic integrity committee, whose sole role would be to adjudicate issues of academic integrity.

- The Z designation stays on the student's audit and a note is added
- The Z designation stays on the transcript and a note is added.

If a student is found in violation of academic honesty a second time, the student will be informed by the faculty member and dismissed by the program.

Please note that the proposed Z Policy, mentioned herein, is separate from the Student Conduct Process, which may include additional sanctions.

The conferral of a Z grade and dismissal from the program are not mutually exclusive – both may be consequences of the same event.

The Z-grade policy does not replace current program policies concerning the consequences of academic dishonesty. All programs may be more stringent and dismiss a student upon the first academic honesty violation. However, all faculty within a program must abide by the program's policy concerning whether students are dismissed after the first or second violation.

Graduate Programs with Shared Credit

Introduction:

- Note: Certificates are not considered shared credit (must be official degree programs) (certificate policy prohibits double counting)

Triple dipping:

A degree program may overlap with only one other program for the purpose of double-counting credit hours. In other words, credit hours may never be counted for three or more purposes. ~~If a student seeks a third program, it must stand alone.~~

Is overlap of *different* courses between three programs acceptable? Yes

Accelerated Bachelors/Master's programs:

Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's programs Student scholar vs Accelerated Program

- ~~have a limit of 9 SCH shared credit for graduate degrees requiring up to 36 credit hours. For graduate degrees requiring more than 36 credit hours, accelerated Bachelor's/Master's programs have a limit of 12 SCH shared credit, in some cases 12 (only if degree is more than 30 SCH). How determined? How is this different from std transfer credits?~~
- ~~Shared credit is limited to 0~~ Only formal coursework, exclusive of independent study.
- ~~Std transfer eligibility~~ Grades below a B- will not be acceptable to fulfill the Master's degree requirements.
- ~~What qualifies as an~~ Only outstanding/exceptional students may enter accelerated Bachelor's/Master's programs? (Specific admission requirements may be specified by the graduate program). All students in these programs must have met the undergraduate general education requirements. Students will be formally admitted to the master's program following receipt of the bachelor's degree.
- Clearly defined curriculum, approved by the Curriculum Committee
 - Does not unduly delay bachelor's completion
 - Does not unduly limit the breadth of the student's experience
- All requirements must be completed prior to receiving the two degrees. How does admission to the Graduate College work without a bachelor's degree?
- Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's programs must be approved by the Graduate Council Curriculum Committee. Such programs must not unduly delay the completion of the bachelor's degree nor limit the breadth of the student's undergraduate experience. Approval procedure

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Dual degree programs:

1. Definition

Dual degree programs lead to two different degree citations on the transcript and two separate diplomas. These combine master's programs, master's and doctoral programs, and professional degree programs. The purpose of a dual degree program is to allow students to undertake complementary programs of graduate study simultaneously through streamlined curricular arrangements that allow double-counting of courses.

2. Dual degree programs must be approved by the Graduate Council Curriculum Committee; individualized dual degree programs for specific students are not allowed. A strong curricular rationale for shared credits must be made to the Curriculum Committee in the dual degree program proposal. (i.e. not created for an individual student)

OR

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POS for each student must be assessed (within first term of dual program, approved by both program directors)

3. Entry mechanism – Application and Admission

- a. Application and Admission
 - i. Must have *successful* prior term in one of the programs
 - ii. Only within the first year of program enrollment
- b. Must apply to both programs

A student in a doctoral or master's program must complete at least one term of coursework in good academic standing in a regular graduate program before requesting admission to a dual degree program. The student must apply to each program separately and be admitted to both. 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 does not require it, the applicant must take the standardized exam to be considered for admission to both degrees.

International students must contact the International Services Center prior to applying to (?) a dual degree program

4. Plan of study

5. Shared credit structure

- a. Min 50% of grad degree must not be double counted or transferred

OR

- a. A minimum of 50% of required credit hours must be unique to each degree and cannot be used for dual credit.

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- b. 1/6 of total (12 shared in 72 combined SCH); rounded down to the nearest whole number
- c. Dual degree course election form(?)
 - i. Complete at least 1 term prior to completing second degree (POS now req'd)
- d. Time limit for double-counted courses?
 - i. Should it be less than other courses?

Departments and programs may limit the double-counting of credit hours below the university maximum, but may not allow double-counting above the university limit.

- 6. Qualifying examinations: a single comprehensive exam that covers sufficient background for each discipline may be acceptable (specify in dual degree curriculum)
- 7. Capstone completion: must complete for *both* programs
- 8. Advising
 - a. Co-advisors, 1 for each program
 - b. Composition of advisory cmt – representation from both programs
- 9. Degree awarding
 - a. Require contemporaneous degree awarding?
 - b. No dual degrees will be awarded retroactively
 - c. Withdrawal from one program nullifies the dual degree (necessary if program-based?)
- 10. All standard policies apply
 - a. GPA minimum must be met for both programs
- 11. Intellectual property
- 12. Grievance handling
- ~~13.~~ Assigning “credit” and fees
- ~~14.~~
- 13.

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Master's along the way:

- Not Master's degrees that are conferred "along-the-way" to fulfilling the requirements for a doctoral degree are not considered to be part of a formal "dual degree" program. However, the credits counted towards a doctoral degree as well as a master's degree obtained along-the-way are considered double counted credits.
- Courses credited towards a Master's degree along-the-way en route are not implemented as transfer credits to another program, ~~so and therefore~~ fall outside of the transfer credit policy. ~~They do not~~
- What counts as "along the way"; how similar are the same discipline? Who approves of the linked degrees?
 - Same program name, just different degree.
 - Sociology vs Applied Sociology?

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Multiple master's degrees:

- Shared credit
- 9 SCH, as specified in transfer credit policy (earned degree)
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Credit from multiple institutions

Traveling scholar

Joint degree

• Intellectual property

• Grievance handling

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