

Conferral of Master's Degrees for Students in Doctoral Degree Programs – Previously Earned Master's Degree

A student making satisfactory progress in a doctoral program may be eligible to be awarded a Master's degree in the same discipline. The Master's degree program and the College of Graduate Studies have the authority to determine whether the doctoral program credits satisfactorily fulfill the Master's degree requirements. All requirements for the Master's degree must be fulfilled, including passing all examinations and submitting a thesis, if so required. Up to a maximum of 9 graduate credit hours of substitutions are allowable, provided that the substitutions are higher-level courses for their precise lower-level counterparts, exclusive of substitutions for thesis hours.

In such cases:

1. The program requirements for the Master's degree are governed by the requirement term used for the doctoral degree program.
2. The two degrees are not considered to be part of a formal "dual degree" program and, therefore, are not subject to the policies governing dual degree programs.
3. Courses credited towards the Master's degree are not implemented as transfer credits to another program and therefore fall outside of the transfer credit policy.

The general restriction that no credit hours may be counted for more than two-degree programs applies to these Master's degrees as well. Credits from a previously earned Master's degree may not be used to fulfill the requirements of a Master's degree for a student in a doctoral degree program (a "Master's along-the-way").

Proposed Amendment:

A student making satisfactory progress in a doctoral program may be eligible to be awarded a master's degree in the same discipline. The Master's degree program and the College of Graduate Studies have the authority to determine whether the doctoral program credits satisfactorily fulfill the master's degree requirements. All requirements for the master's degree must be fulfilled, including passing all examinations and submitting a thesis, if so required. Up to a maximum of 9 graduate credit hours of substitutions are allowable, provided that the substitutions are higher-level courses for their precise lower-level counterparts, exclusive of substitutions for thesis hours.

In such cases:

1. The program requirements for the master's degree are governed by the requirement term used for the doctoral degree program.
2. The two degrees are not considered to be part of a formal "dual degree" program and, therefore, are not subject to the policies governing dual degree programs.
3. Courses credited towards the master's degree are not implemented as transfer credits to another program and therefore fall outside of the transfer credit policy.

The general restriction that no credit hours may be counted for more than two-degree programs applies to these master's degrees as well. Credits from a previously earned master's degree **or earned certificate** may not be used to fulfill the requirements of a master's degree for a student in a doctoral degree program (a "master's along-the-way"). **Students who completed a master's degree prior to admission to a doctoral degree program may not add a master's along-the-way in the same discipline in which they earned the initial master's degree.**

Proposed Effective Term: Spring 2025

Rationale: Align policy with best practices of other institutions and current business process.