

Dual Degree Shared Credit Policy – Accelerated Bachelor's / Master's Programs

The following policies apply to course credits that are counted toward fulfilling the requirements in two-degree programs (dual degree shared credit). These policies do not extend to certificate programs. Policies governing credits shared between two certificate programs or between degree programs and certificate programs can be found under either the Graduate Certificate Program Policies or the Transfer of Credit Policy.

The following policies serve to supplement and extend the shared credit policies that can be found in the Transfer of Credit section.

General Limit to Use of Credits for More Than One Degree

No credit hours may be counted for more than two-degree programs.

Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's Programs

- Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's programs 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. Proposals for accelerated Bachelor's/Master's programs must include a strong curricular rationale that can support the streamlining of credit requirements in the two degrees.
- Shared credit is limited to formal course work, exclusive of independent study. Grades below a B- are not acceptable to fulfill Master's degree requirements if taken while in undergraduate status.
- Only outstanding students may enter accelerated Bachelor's/Master's programs (explicit requirements may be specified by the graduate program). All students in these programs must have met the undergraduate general education requirements. Students must apply and be formally admitted to the master's program following receipt of the 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.

Dual Degree Programs

Definition

Dual degree programs lead to two different degree citations on the transcript and two separate diplomas. These may combine master's programs, 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 dual credit for a specified set of courses.

Approval

Proposals for all dual degree programs must include a strong curricular rationale that can support the streamlining of credit requirements in the two degrees. Internal, multi-institutional dual degree

programs (prescribed curriculum designed for multiple students), and cotutelles (multi-institutional research and educational opportunities designed for single students) must be approved by the Graduate Council Program Review and Awards Committee.

Shared Credit Limit

A minimum of 50% of required credit hours must be unique to each degree and cannot be used for dual credit. Departments and programs may impose more stringent shared credit limits, but may not exceed the university limit.

Student Admission

Students may be admitted directly to a dual degree program. Upon admission, the College of Graduate Studies will place an indicator on the student's record to activate the second program of the dual degree option prior to the completion of 18 SCH in the first program. No admissions requirements established by the College of Graduate Studies or by either individual program may be waived. For example, if one dual degree program 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 UCF Global prior to applying to a dual degree program. Students that apply to the regular program without the dual degree option and later become interested in the dual degree option must contact the dual degree program director prior to completing 18 SCH in the regular program.

Academic Requirements

Formal proposals for dual degree programs must include:

1. a clear rationale for specifying whether a joint or distinct documents can satisfy the thesis/dissertation or capstone requirements for each of the component programs;
2. a clear rationale for specifying whether joint or distinct examinations can satisfy the requirements for each of the component programs; and
3. specifications concerning the composition of the advisory committee, with representation from both programs.

All students must have two co-advisors, with one from each program.

Should a student fail to make satisfactory academic progress and be placed on probation, the student should consult with both advisors about the future course of action. Please refer to the section on Academic Progress and Performance for options for students who are dismissed as a result of unsatisfactory academic performance. Please note that students dismissed from a dual degree program may only pursue retention and readmission options with one of the degree programs and may not be retained in or readmitted into the dual degree program.

Student Financial Support

Formal proposals for dual degree programs must include a clear structure for the financial arrangements for supported students.

Other Policies

- All standard policies apply.
- The Program GPA minimum must be met for both programs.
- Students enrolled in dual degree programs must have both degrees conferred simultaneously. No dual degrees will be awarded retroactively.
- Dual degree proposals must include statements concerning the handling of grievances, intellectual property issues, and the assigning of teaching "credit" and fees.

Proposed Amendment:

Dual Degree Shared Credit Policy

The following policies apply to course credits that are counted toward fulfilling the requirements in two-degree programs (dual degree shared credit). These policies do not extend to certificate programs. Policies governing credits shared between two certificate programs or between degree programs and certificate programs can be found under either the Graduate Certificate Program Policies or the Transfer of Credit Policy.

The following policies serve to supplement and extend the shared credit policies that can be found in the Transfer of Credit section.

Dual degree programs should be comprised of a minimum of 50% of required credit hours for each degree program, plus 50 % of credit hours that are unique to each degree program.

General Limit to Use of Credits for More Than One Degree

No credit hours may be counted for more than two-degree programs.

Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's Programs

- By accreditation standards, bachelor's and master's programs require a minimum of 150 combined credit hours. However, accelerated bachelor's-to-master's programs that require less than 150 credit hours may be approved. These accelerated programs must provide a strong curricular rationale to justify the reduction of credit hours below 150 hours for the two degrees.
- Shared credit is limited to formal course work, exclusive of independent study. Grades below a B are not acceptable to fulfill master's degree requirements if taken while in undergraduate status.
- Only outstanding students may enter accelerated bachelor's/master's programs (explicit requirements may be specified by the graduate program). All students in these programs must have met the undergraduate general education requirements. Students must apply and be formally admitted to the master's program following receipt of the 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.

Dual Degree Programs

Definition

Dual degree programs lead to two different degree citations on the transcript and two separate diplomas. These may combine master's programs, 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 dual credit for a specified set of courses.

Approval

Proposals for all dual degree programs must include a strong curricular rationale that can support the streamlining of credit requirements in the two degrees. Internal, multi-institutional dual degree programs (prescribed curriculum designed for multiple students), and cotutelles (multi-institutional research and educational opportunities designed for single students) must be approved by the Graduate Council Program Review and Awards Committee.

Shared Credit Limit

A minimum of 50% of required credit hours must be unique to each degree and cannot be used for dual credit. Departments and programs may impose more stringent shared credit limits but may not exceed the university limit.

Student Admission

Students may be admitted directly to a dual degree program. Upon admission, the College of Graduate Studies will place an indicator on the student's record to activate the second program of the dual degree option prior to the completion of 18 shared credit hours in the first program. No admissions requirements established by the College of Graduate Studies or by either individual program may be waived. For example, if one dual degree program 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 UCF Global prior to applying to a dual degree program. Students that apply to the regular program without the dual degree option and later become interested in the dual degree option must contact the dual degree program director prior to completing 18 shared credit hours in the regular program.

Academic Requirements

Formal proposals for dual degree programs must include:

4. a clear rationale for specifying whether a joint or distinct documents can satisfy the thesis/dissertation or capstone requirements for each of the component programs;
5. a clear rationale for specifying whether joint or distinct examinations can satisfy the requirements for each of the component programs; and

6. specifications concerning the composition of the advisory committee, with representation from both programs.

All students must have two co-advisors, with one from each program.

Should a dual degree student fail to make satisfactory academic progress, they will be placed on probation for both degree programs when the Program GPA falls below a 3.0 in either program. The student should consult with both advisors about the future course of action. Please refer to the section on Academic Progress and Performance for options for students who are dismissed as a result of unsatisfactory academic performance.

Please note that students dismissed from a dual degree program may request readmission to the dual degree program they were dismissed from by submitting a new application to the program to start at least 3 semesters following dismissal. Readmission is not guaranteed but may be possible depending on the reason for dismissal, the student's GPA, and other factors assessed by the graduate program.

However, students dismissed from a dual degree program may apply for readmission to one of the degree programs, a new degree program, or as a non-degree seeking student at any time.

Student Financial Support

Formal proposals for dual degree programs must include a clear structure for the financial arrangements for supported students.

Other Policies

- All standard policies apply.
- The Program GPA minimum must be met for both programs.
- Students enrolled in dual degree programs must have both degrees conferred simultaneously. No dual degrees will be awarded retroactively.
- Dual degree proposals must include statements concerning the handling of grievances, intellectual property issues, and the assigning of teaching "credit" and fees.

Proposed Effective Term: Summer 2025

Rationale: Establish a minimum number of required credits for dual degree programs.