

## **Joint Degree Policy Revision- Final**

### **Definition**

Joint degree programs provide qualified graduate students with the unique opportunity to earn two graduate degrees from two academic programs concurrently. Such joint degree programs allow a specified number of graduate hours from each of the two degree programs to be double-counted. These “shared-credits” are the essence of a joint degree program and enables graduate students who are admitted/enrolled in both programs concurrently to have a reduced total number of credit hours from each degree program. As a result, students spend less time earning two degrees than if they were to be completed separately. In turn, in accordance with the university’s strategic plan, additional career options and employment opportunities are available to graduate students who complete a joint degree program.

A joint degree program must have a minimum combined total of 60 graduate credit hours and a minimum of 24 graduate credit hours in each of the two component degree programs. It is also required that at least 6 of the graduate credit hours taken in each of the degree programs be designated by the faculty as “shared-credits.”

### **Development**

The development of a joint degree program resides with the program faculty in the specific academic unit involved. Faculty interested in creating a new joint degree program should complete the Joint Degree Proposal Form available on the Office of Faculty Development and Advancement’s website. Courses designated as “shared credits” need to be clearly identified on the Joint Degree Proposal Form and must be *mandatory for* and *appropriate to* the other degree program.

### **Admission Requirements**

Students applying to a joint degree program must complete and submit an application to the Office of Graduate Admissions and must be admitted to each academic program separately, meeting all of the admission requirements for each program, such as applicable entrance exams (e.g., GRE, GMAT, LSAT). Interested students should contact the respective degree programs for specific admissions requirements and programs of study.

### **Joint Degree Conferral**

Upon completion of a joint degree program, a student will receive two separate diplomas, one for each degree. Both degrees must be conferred concurrently because the requirements for each degree are considered connected due to their “shared credits.”