

Discussed and Approved by GPC on 8/30/21. Approved by Faculty Senate on 9/15/21.

From: Graduate Policy Committee

To: Faculty Senate

Date: 9/2/2021

Proposal: To insert new language regarding Master's in-flight into the Graduate Bulletin on page 78, under the "Graduate Degree and Certificate Requirements" Section.

The following language was discussed and approved by the Graduate Policy Committee. We propose to add this language as a new section into the Graduate Bulletin. This language formalizes a policy that has been common practice already on campus.

Proposed language:

Master's Degree In-Flight (en route) to Completing the Doctoral Degree

A student who has earned the bachelor's degree as the highest degree earned may choose to enroll directly into a doctoral program. Graduate students who have enrolled directly into a doctoral program may be interested in obtaining a master's degree in the program while continuing the progress toward completing the doctoral program. For some programs, this is normal.

A doctoral student might be interested in having the additional "master's" credential on his/her resume or CV to showcase his/her professional skills for the competitive job market. Moreover, the student's outlook for completing the doctoral degree may be uncertain, and as such, obtaining the master's degree in-flight (en route) to the doctoral degree can serve as another option.

Doctoral students interested in having a master's degree in-flight (en route) awarded need to meet with their primary academic advisor, major professor and/or unit head prior to completing the doctoral degree.

Required Criteria:

Keep in mind, units may impose stricter criteria.

1. The student is an active/current doctoral student who is in good academic standing.
2. The doctoral student has met the curricular criteria and respective degree requirements for the coursework-only, thesis-type, or project master's degree in-flight (e.g., total hours, requisite GPA, recency requirement, passed the comprehensive exam, completed the capstone project, passed thesis defense/manuscript clearance, etc.).
3. A doctoral student is requesting a master's degree in-flight (en route) or a unit is offering this degree to a doctoral student from a major/plan that is active and available within the same doctoral major/plan being pursued. The master's degree in-flight must also be under the same degree program as the doctoral program. If not, a dual degree request form should be submitted to The Graduate School.
4. The doctoral student has not achieved a master's degree in the same degree program. See "Second Graduate Degrees" Policy Section.