

# **DUAL DEGREE PROGRAMS**

## Academic Affairs Policy Statement No. 16

### **1. References**

- a. Academic Affairs Handbook, Board of Regents, University System of Georgia, July 1987.
- b. Bylaws of the University Council of the University of Georgia, 1988.
- c. Degrees, Policy Manual Section 3.8, Board of Regents, University System of Georgia
- d. Program Length, Core Requirement 2.7.1 and Federal Requirement 4.4, Resource Manual, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges
- e. Dual Degrees, Academic Affairs Handbook Section 2.3.9, Board of Regents, University System of Georgia
- f. Agreements Involving Joint and Dual Academic Awards, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, 2012
- g. Program Coherence, Core requirement 2.7.2, Resource Manual, Southern Association of College and Schools Commission on Colleges
- h. Integrity of Undergraduate Programs, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges Policy Statement
- i. Post-baccalaureate degree rigor, Comprehensive Standard 3.6.1, Southern Association of Schools and Colleges Commission on Colleges

### **2. Policy**

Policy and implementing guidance outlined herein are applicable to all dual degree programs. No provisions stated herein are intended to conflict with the Bylaws of the University of Georgia or the Academic Affairs Handbook of the Board of Regents.

### **3. Definition**

#### Formal Dual Degree Program

A dual degree program is a combination of two separate approved degree programs including; undergraduate/undergraduate, undergraduate/graduate, graduate/graduate, and graduate/professional. Upon completion of a dual degree program, a student will be conferred with the two separate degrees included in the dual degree program. This does not preclude individual students from completing multiple degrees.

This policy applies both to dual degrees within the University of Georgia and to agreements between the University of Georgia and another degree granting institution of higher education. When an agreement exists to offer a dual degree program between the University of Georgia and another institution, each institution will award a separate program completion credential that bears only its name, seal and signature.

#### **4. Responsibility**

**a. Faculty**

The responsibility for developing a new dual degree program resides with the faculty in each academic unit. Such proposals should be submitted when faculty identifies a need or an interest that is best served by offering two degree programs in a dual degree program.

**b. Administrative**

It shall be the responsibility of each school or college to ensure that all proposals receive appropriate faculty review prior to submission to the next higher administrative level. Both the head of the academic unit and the appropriate dean of each school or college submitting a proposal must review the proposal before it is submitted to the next higher administrative level. The Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost shall be responsible for reviewing proposals and providing any needed internal and external coordination of procedures. This shall include making appropriate recommendations to the President of the University on program proposals which are transmitted to the Board of Regents for information. The Office of the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost shall keep unit (institute, department, school, or college) heads informed of the current status of proposals as they move through the review stages required by governance procedures.

#### **5. Routing of Proposals**

Establishment of a dual degree program proposal should begin with the academic units offering the majors included in the dual degree program proposal. After the proposal is approved by the dean of each school or college, it is submitted to the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost. Dual degree program proposals including graduate programs must first be reviewed by the Dean of the Graduate School who will then forward them to the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost. Dual degree program proposals will be reviewed by the University Curriculum Committee and subsequently forwarded with a recommendation to the University Council for consideration. University Council recommendations on proposals are forwarded to the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost who will transmit the same to the President of the University for consideration. After approval by the President of the University of Georgia, dual degree program proposals will be forwarded to the Office of the Chancellor, Board of Regents, for information.

#### **6. Process**

**a. Undergraduate/Undergraduate Dual Degree Programs**

Courses may count in more than one undergraduate program of study.

**b. Bachelors/ Masters Dual Degree Programs**

A maximum of 12 credit hours of graduate coursework may be counted towards an undergraduate degree and also used to satisfy requirements for a graduate degree program of study. The resulting dual degrees will consist of 120 credit hours counted towards the undergraduate degree and 30 credit hours counted towards the graduate degree, with up to 12 credit hours of overlapping graduate coursework

Graduate courses counted towards the undergraduate degree must be appropriate for that degree program, consistent with SACSCOC core requirement 2.7.2 requirement that degree programs

embody a coherent course of study and the SACSCOC Policy on Quality and Integrity of Undergraduate Degrees. Conversely, the integrity of the graduate program must be maintained, despite inclusion of dual bachelors/ masters students in graduate courses, per SACSCOC Comprehensive Standard 3.6.1 (Post-baccalaureate Program Rigor). Programs will set appropriate admissions standards to ensure that dual bachelors/ masters students are adequately prepared for graduate-level coursework.

**c. Graduate/Graduate, Graduate/ Professional Dual Degree Programs**

Graduate courses in excess of the 30-hour minimums may be counted in both graduate degrees in a dual degree program.

**d. Graduate/Professional Dual Degree Programs**

Courses may be used to satisfy the requirements for both professional degree and a graduate degree.