

# Proposed Policy For a Framework on Dual Degree Programs

With the new initiative to develop and promote dual degree programs, we are proposing the following framework to allow this to move forward without the burden of the full approval process and management of new degree programs.

## Strategic Aims

This initiative has two major strategic aims:

1. Growing enrollment overall, by providing value-added education
2. Specifically attracting top “highly desirable students” students ( i.e. CARMAS targets etc) who are ambitious, and are looking for “something extra”. Such student demographics will support our strategic plan and help in rankings etc.

## Rules and Logistics:

Dual degree programs are defined as programs that:

1. Satisfy the core curriculum requirements
2. Satisfy the requirements of the first degree program
3. Satisfy the requirements of the second degree program
4. Have a minimum credit hour total that is 15 credit hours beyond the degree program with the largest minimum credit hour total
5. Have proposed integration points that are agreed upon by the academic units offering each individual degree program and that meet accreditation program assessment criteria.

To propose dual degree programs, academic units need to present the program to the UGSC with the list of integration points, a sample schedule, and an advising and scheduling plan. Programs meeting all 5 criteria above will NOT be considered new programs and may proceed in an expedited manner. Programs that make changes to any of the items 1-5 will be considered new programs and need to go through the full new-program approval process in accordance with Appendix P..

# Implementation

The proposed target range is 141 to ~150 credit hours. It is recognized that higher totals may be needed in certain 'content heavy' majors. However, ideally, and for both marketing, and student success purposes, programs that can be achieved in 4 years with summers will be prioritized. For this,  $8 \times 18 + 3 \times 6 = 162$  is an upper bound. This is a very high total and in the interest of feasibility a more normal load ( $8 \times 17 + 3 \times 3 = 145$ ) is targeted. Many of the "highly desirable students" in strategic aim #2 come with significant AP or transfer credit. It can be seen that 7 AP classes, ~21 ch, will convert a 147 ch program to a 126 ch program at IIT, which is our normal, no-AP minimum.

In order to achieve this the following strategies may be useful:

- Free electives of course provide the easiest integration room
- With regard #5 and #2 and #3, it is possible that certain classes in major requirements might be waived if there is significant overlap in terms of contents and especially LOs. For instance in the dual Bio/Psych degree program, BS BIO requires MATH425, whereas BS PSYCH requires PSYC203. These are both statistics classes, and the dual, only one is required. The key test here is how the class relates to program LOs; if all program LOs are satisfied, and the program authorities (generally the AU curriculum committees) agree, this can occur.
- With regard to #1 and #2 and #3 the UGSC some time ago developed a policy that overlap with the core is allowed for dual degree programs, This means that core curriculum classes can be counted both toward the core and toward major requirements for relevant degrees.
- Technical electives: With regard to technical electives, it is noted that no technical elective provides any required specific content with regard to program LOs since as an elective the material in the class can not be assumed to have been mastered by a graduating student.. Rather technical electives generally provide breadth of material within a discipline. For dual degree students, and programs with any sort of disciplinary overlap, breadth might be seen to encompass relevant material in related disciplines. This might apply only to certain pairings which have disciplinary synergies, but these integrated duals are exactly the type of pairing being prioritized as "value added". In this case, technical electives might be defined so that certain specific courses in the paired major are acceptable. This is a decision for the program authority only; but AUs seeking to take advantage of this are encouraged to define their technical electives appropriately. It is possible to define certain classes as technical electives ONLY for specific dual degree students ( and not allowable for single degree students). For instance in the dual BIO PSYC program
  - BIO214, genetics, required in BS BIO, is allowed and counts as a PSYC technical elective
  - PSYC426, cognitive science, required in BS PSYC, is allowed and counts as a BIO technical elective
  - Neither of these are allowable tech elects for single degree aspirants