

Partnership Arrangements with other Universities

Graduate programs may enter into arrangements with other universities in which two or more graduate programs have formalized a program of study to enhance the educational experience of graduate students.

Dual degree programs with other universities (including International Universities)

A **dual degree** program is one in which separate degrees are awarded by UNH and a partner university after the student completes a defined curriculum in two related fields of study with each university. Double counting of courses is permitted. In principle, 80% of the coursework in a dual degree program should be unique, allowing up to 20% to be double counted. Graduate credits completed with a grade of B or better from another university may be applied to a UNH degree. Such credits cannot have been taken prior to the start date of the initiation of the dual degree arrangement. Upon completion of the program students receive separate degrees from each institution. **No dual degree will be awarded retroactively.**

Joint degree programs with other universities (including International Universities)

A **joint degree** program is one in which a single degree is designed and awarded jointly by UNH and a partner university that involves coursework and/or research taken at both universities. Joint degree programs include a single admissions process, submission of a single thesis or capstone experience, and a single advisory committee composed of members from both institutions. Because of the challenges around accreditation, finances, advising, etc, joint degrees are not encouraged.

Collaborative degree activities (including International Universities)

Collaborative degree activities are programs in which a formal arrangement has been established that allows a UNH graduate student to take a portion of his/her program at another university. A similar arrangement could be made in which a student from another university may take a portion of his/her program at UNH. In these cases, only the home institution offers the degree. Such arrangements may include student exchange programs. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is required for each such activity.

Approval Process

A program that wishes to pursue a partnership arrangement with another university should meet with the Graduate Dean and the College Dean early in the deliberative process. A meeting with the Center for International Education should occur for international partnerships.

Formal proposals for dual, joint, or collaborative arrangements must be approved by the relevant program head(s) and academic dean(s) before being forwarded to the Graduate Dean. For international collaborations, an endorsement from the Center for International Education must be included. Proposals for a dual or joint degree program must include an Executive Summary of the proposed program which addresses the following:

- Name of the sponsoring UNH program and faculty contact
- Name of the participating institutions and contacts
- Accreditation status of the institutions and program accreditation, if appropriate
- Rationale for the program
- Proposed start date

Proposals must also include a draft copy of the MOU and must include:

- Name of degree and major to be awarded by each institution or in the case of a joint degree the single degree and major title
- Admission requirements
- Course curriculum indicating which course will be taught by which institution, as well as the delivery mode for teaching the courses
- The number of credits that can be double counted towards each degree must be stipulated by each university
- Culminating experience (UNH requires a culminating experience for all degree programs; if the same culminating experience is acceptable for each program this must be spelled out in the MOU along with the evaluative criteria and the UNH faculty role in that process.)
- Obligations of the participating institutions, including financial arrangements, student support issues, keeping student records, and assessment of student learning
- Statement of who is responsible for advising students as appropriate to the MOU
- Benchmarks for determining success of the arrangements
- Renewal and termination clause for any such agreement (**3** year review at which time the MOU can be renewed or terminated). MOU's can be terminated prior to the end of **3** years with the mutual consent of both parties.
- Signature of a senior administrative official from each institution authorized to enter into such agreements (required upon completion and execution of the MOU)

The Graduate Dean will present the request to the appropriate committee of the Graduate Council for review and recommendation. If the Committee recommends approval, the proposal will be forwarded to the full Graduate Council for action. If the Council recommends approval, the Graduate Dean will forward his/her recommendation to the Provost for review and approval. A copy of the fully executed agreement must be kept on file in both the Graduate School and College Dean's Offices.

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