

POLICY for DUAL GRADUATE DEGREE

The following policy and attachments govern the creation of dual graduate degree programs between the University of Florida (UF) and an international collaborating institution. In this context, a ***dual graduate degree program*** is one whereby students complete a jointly designed plan of study at both UF and the collaborating institution, and each institution awards separate degrees upon completion, with each credential bearing only the name, seal, and signatures of UF and the collaborating institution, respectively. In order to meet the intent of this policy, dual graduate degree programs must meet the following conditions:

1. All dual degree programs must have an executed agreement in place for each individual student prior to the onset of study at the second institution. The agreement must be approved by the Office of the General Counsel if the pre-approved template is not used or is altered in any way, and the budget allocated for the dual degree program must provide for resources for dispute resolution (which may take place outside the United States) under the terms of the agreement. Formal written acceptance of the notification and agreement by SACSCOC is required before implementation of the provisions of the agreement for institutions not already approved by SACSCOC for dual degrees with UF. A letter of notification requesting acceptance should be provided to SACSCOC six months prior to implementation of the agreement along with a final copy of the agreement.
2. All courses and components of the UF degree (including transfer credits) must meet UF standards and requirements. Further, the degree granted by the collaborating institution must have comparable standards and educational outcomes as the degree granted by UF. These requirements can be met by initially reviewing courses and components using the usual UF process for transfer of credits, but may require additional monitoring by the department and/or Graduate School during the course of the agreement.
3. The collaborating institution must have legal authority to grant the degree, which shall include but not be limited to all necessary accreditation, licensing, or other permissions to grant the degree under the law governing the collaborating institution.
4. Qualified and competent faculty members at each institution must agree on the content and teaching methodologies of the courses covered, and on the qualifications of the faculty who teach the courses.

5. Students must earn one-third or more of their credits through UF direct instruction.
6. The academic transcript must reflect the name of the institution from which a course is taken.
7. The UF catalogue and any website references should address the fact that any dual degrees awarded are available to all other students as part of their educational program. That is, that no “special” or unique courses are offered by UF as part of dual degrees (excluding “research credits” or “independent study”).
8. The Graduate School must periodically review all existing agreements and monitor their status.