

2/16: changes include; additions to the opening text, changes to the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> requirement bullets, undergrad degree award on completion, updated escape clause.

## SHARED-CREDIT UNDERGRADUATE/GRADUATE DEGREE PROGRAMS

A Shared-Credit Undergraduate/Graduate Degree Program (such as 3+2, 4+1) provides an accelerated path to earning both a baccalaureate and a master's degree. Both the baccalaureate and master's degree requirements are completed in a program-defined number years by means of shared coursework. Such programs help recruit high-achieving UNM undergraduate students into UNM graduate programs.

This policy provides guidelines for programs that wish to participate in a Shared-Credit Undergraduate/Graduate Degree Program.

Shared-Credit Programs must be approved through the Faculty Senate curriculum process, and are not available for individual student design. Requesting departments, undergraduate and graduate, are responsible for ensuring that accrediting bodies do not object to sharing courses for the two degrees.

Shared-Credit Undergraduate/Graduate Degree requirements:

- All undergraduate degree requirements, including college requirements, must be met.
- The graduate portion of the program must meet Plan I or Plan II University minimums, at least, including approved graduate ~~without counting~~ courses taken at the undergraduate level.
- A ~~minimum of 12 hours, and~~ maximum of 24-18 hours of approved graduate-credit-eligible courses may be taken in undergraduate status and applied again (shared) to the graduate degree. Shared courses are transcribed as ~~non-degree~~ graduate.
- Shared hours must be from a prescribed set of courses that meet an undergraduate requirement, such as that of a minor, concentration, emphasis, second major, distributed minor.
- Time-to-degree for the graduate portion of the program begins in the senior year of the undergraduate degree. Standard Office of Graduate Studies Leave of Absence policy and re-admission procedure applies to students in Shared-Credit Programs. However, upon re-admission the student is no longer eligible for the Shared-Credit Program and courses taken while an undergraduate are not applicable to a graduate degree.

Shared-Credit Programs must identify in their curriculum proposals and published materials:

Admission Requirements. These must be, at the least, the minimum requirements in place for UNM graduate admission. Other considerations may also include the minimum number of

hours that must be completed in the undergraduate portion, completion of a minimum number of hours or specific courses in the undergraduate major, class standing, minimum GPA, etc.

Students will follow the usual graduate admission process to the participating graduate program.

Admission to the graduate portion of the program is provisional until the undergraduate degree is awarded.

~~**Outstanding issue:** We state just below that it's up to the programs to determine if the UG degree will be awarded when UG requirements are complete, or if the UG and GR degrees will be awarded when both sets of requirements are complete.~~

- ~~• **From A. Reber:** I still believe the better choice is to award the UG degree as soon as it is done; completion rates, financial aid implications, etc. So I say leave it as written but if the committees really want this power in the hands of the individual programs ... ok but this item will need to reflect that somehow.~~
- ~~• **On February 1, 2012, the Admissions and Records Committee voted to recommend that the undergraduate degree be awarded upon its completion.**~~
- ~~• **On February 3, 2012, the Undergraduate Committee approved the draft policy with the undergraduate degree being awarded upon its completion.**~~

~~**Awarding Degrees.** The participating Departments must determine if the undergraduate degree will be awarded as soon as it is completed, or if both degree will be awarded when both undergraduate and graduate degree requirements have been met. This must be done at the program level, and not vary by student.~~

~~**From A. Reber:** Perhaps, if we can't require immediate award, we should add ... it is strongly recommended that the undergraduate degree be awarded as soon as it is done ...?~~

~~**Escape Clause.** Students who choose not to continue in the graduate degree portion of the program may will still be awarded the undergraduate degree once all undergraduate degree requirements are met. Program requirements should define the steps to be taken by students who choose not to complete both degrees and by departments choosing not to advance a student to the graduate portion of the program.~~

~~**Question:** Should this be standardized for all such programs?~~

~~**From A. Reber:** Ideally, if the UG award can be standardized as well it will be even easier. If the UG awarding varies, this will also need to vary (text above should cover either way).~~