

GUIDELINES ON AWARDING OF TWO DEGREES AT THE SAME LEVEL



Memorandum to Presidents

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From: Office of the Vice Chancellor for Academic
Programs, Policy and Planning

Subject: Guidelines on Awarding of Two Degrees
at the Same Level

The issue of the awarding of two degrees at the same level has arisen from time to time and has been recently addressed by representative groups throughout the University. There appears to be general support for the draft policy circulated earlier, and I am pleased now to issue it as formal academic policy for the University. In developing these guidelines, an attempt has been made to provide a broad policy framework for a diverse group of campuses. It is expected that each campus will develop its own degree of specificity in interpreting and applying the guidelines.

Guidelines

1. Every campus of the State University shall have a defined, written policy developed by its faculty concerning the awarding of two degrees at the same level, which shall be readily available to students for their information.
2. In general, the campus policy should be in accord with the State Education Department memorandum number 4 to Chief Executive Officers from Alvin P. Lierheimer, dated September 10, 1971.
3. A second degree at the same level may be undertaken concurrently or consecutively, but should be awarded only when a significant amount of additional course work in a very different field is completed.
4. When a student meets the requirements of more than one option or major within a single degree area, a single degree should be awarded rather than two separate degrees.
5. Programs pursued in two different colleges or schools of a campus which lead to two different career objectives may result in the awarding of two degrees, provided degree requirements have been met in each program, and a significant additional amount of course work beyond the single degree requirement has been completed.

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- 6. Programs pursued in two different colleges or schools of a campus which result simply in a double major within a single program should result in a single degree only. (This does not preclude transfer arrangements under which course work is completed at another institution toward a professional degree and also transferred back for completion of a degree at the initial campus.)
- 7. At the graduate level, a significant amount of additional study must be undertaken for the attainment of a second degree at the same level and no more than a specified minimal amount of credit should be allowed to overlap between the two programs, if any, in such circumstances.
- 8. Exceptions to these guidelines may be permitted in special circumstances and should be cleared with the appropriate Vice Chancellor.

In order to avoid excessive specificity, we have avoided prescribing a specific number of credits for an additional degree, and instead have used the word "significant." At the undergraduate level, we believe that a significant amount of additional course work should approximate an additional year of study or something approaching 30 or more credit hours.

Please let me know if you have any questions about this policy.


James E. Perdue

This memorandum addressed to:
Presidents, State-operated Campuses
Presidents, Community Colleges
Deans, Statutory Colleges

Copies for information sent to:
Mrs. Cook
President Neville