Accelerated/Dual/Joint/Collaborative Degree Definitions

Degree Types

ACCELERATED DEGREES

CPE - An accelerated program refers to the use of accelerated courses, credit for prior learning, and/or other methods to allow students to complete the program in less than the usual amount of time.

SACSCOC – has no definition for accelerated degrees.

UofL - Accelerated Degrees are internal to the institution and are awarded to students who wish to pursue a Master’s degree while completing their baccalaureate degree. For undergraduate students who meet all admissions requirements of the Graduate School up to 9 hours of coursework taken for graduate credit. The graduate credits will apply toward the baccalaureate degree. Each program will determine the additional graduate coursework need to constitute the minimum number of credit hours for obtaining the masters. Accelerated degrees will also include any five-year degree programs that result in both a bachelor and master degree.

A maximum of 12 credit hours is allowed for the transfer of graduate credit hours (earned at UofL or another accredited institution) to be applied toward a master’s degree.

DUAL DEGREES

CPE - A dual degree program is a formalized path of study that allows a student to pursue two different degrees at the same time, either at the same institution or at different institutions, and possibly complete them in less time than it would take to earn them separately. The two degrees could be in the same subject or in two different subjects; they could be at the same level (for example, two bachelor’s degrees) or at two different levels (for example, bachelor’s and master’s degrees). Students must meet the admission requirements for both degree programs. THE UOFL AND CPE DEFINITIONS ARE THE SAME.

SACSCOC - Dual award is an agreement by 2 or more institutions whereby students study at 2 or more institutions and each institution grants a separate academic award bearing only its name, seal, and signature.

JOINT DEGREES

CPE – A joint program is an academic program that is sponsored by two or more institutions leading to a single credential or degree, which is conferred by all participating institutions. None of the participating institutions delivers the entire program alone, and all participating institutions and organizations share responsibility for all aspects of the program’s delivery and quality. The program is registered on the Council on Postsecondary Education’s Registry of Degree Programs in an enrollment and degree-granting category for each institution participating in the joint program.
SACSCOC - An agreement by two or more institutions to grant a joint academic award is one whereby students study at two or more institutions and the institutions grant a single academic award bearing the names, seals, and signatures of each of the participating institutions.

UofL – the term “joint” should only be used if another academic institution is participating in awarding the degree. This practice is consistent with both the CPE & SACSCOC definitions.

COLLABORATIVE DEGREES

CPE - A collaborative program is an academic program under the sponsorship of more than one institution or organization and contains elements of resource sharing agreed upon by the partners. None of the participating institutions delivers the entire program alone, and the partnering institutions/organizations share responsibility for the program’s delivery and quality. The credential awarded may indicate the collaborative nature of the program.

• If only one institution (primary) offers the degree or credential but other institutions or organizations (secondary) provide some resources, the program at the secondary institution(s) is registered on the Council’s Registry of Degree Programs in an “enrollment-only” reporting category. Ex. UofL/U.K. PhD in Social Work, UK grants the degree, UofL is enrollment-only.

• If the degree or credential is offered by all institutions participating in the resource-sharing arrangement but only one institution is listed on a graduate’s diploma, the program is registered on the Council’s Registry of Degree Programs in an enrollment- and degree-granting category for each participating institution.

SACSCOC – has no definition for collaborative degrees.

UofL – uses the CPE definition, but any degree programs offered with another academic institution(s) are labeled as “joint”. The term “collaborative” is used to describe academic relationships with other non-degree granting entities. Ex. UofL programs with the Quality Leadership University (QLU), and the UofL Masters in Public Health (MPH) with the NUR Foundation offered in Lahore, Pakistan.
Requirements

Accelerated Degree Specifications

Dual Degree Specifications

A. The student must apply for admission into the second degree program and follow the procedures outlined in the University Catalogs or the program’s admission policy.

C. Students must complete the minimum number of credit hours as specified by the program in order to satisfy the second degree.

Joint Degree Specifications

Approval Process

Accelerated Degree

Dual Degree

Joint Degree

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