BRIEFING: International Joint/Dual Degree Graduate Programs
Joint/Dual Degree Task Force

Background
In December 2011 an OSU task force assembled to review and recommend processes for the development of International dual degree and joint degree programs at Oregon State University. The charge of the committee was to “propose a clear set of guidelines and strategies to develop international joint-degree and dual/double-degree undergraduate and graduate programs.” Provost Sabah Randhawa has since shared an interest in OSU developing two to three dual degree relationships over the next year.

Summary
With the current focus on strategic internationalization and international institutional partnerships, both joint and dual degree programs are becoming increasingly attractive to higher education institutions around the world. Recent surveys show that these programs support the strategic intent of many institutions by permitting them to attract international students and potentially diversify international student enrollments, strengthen academic research quality, increase international visibility and prestige, and increase revenue among other motivating factors. Further, international partnerships—in the form of dual or joint degree programs allow us to work in a global context on student learning and curriculum building, help us build the international capacity of faculty and staff, and connect to key parts of the world where we contribute to pressing global issues as reflected in OSU’s strategic priorities for healthy people, a healthy economy, and a healthy planet.

Definitions:
Dual (or double) degree: A student receives a separate diploma issued by each institution and represents work completed at two or more institutions.
Joint degree: A student receives a single diploma signed jointly by all institutions involved and represents work completed at two or more institutions.

International Dual and Joint Degree Programs: Added Value

- Increased research collaboration (more faculty and student visits)
- Opportunities for faculty to teach OSU courses at partner institution
- Recruitment of graduate students
- Enhance international visibility and global reach of College and OSU at large
- Increased enrollment of quality international students
- Internationalized curricula
- Increased outbound mobility of OSU students

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2 Recent survey reports include: “Joint Degrees, Dual Degrees, and International Research Collaborations,” Council of Graduate Schools, 2010; and “Joint and Double Degree Programs in the Global Context,” Institute of International Education, 2011.
Major findings from the 2011 Survey Report of 245 higher education institutions from 28 different countries include the conclusion that double/dual degrees are much more common than joint degrees. The majority of the reported joint or double/dual degree programs are at the master’s level; however, the majority of programs reported by U.S. institutions are at the undergraduate level. The majority (76 percent) of participating institutions report joint and double degree programs with student enrollment of 25 or fewer. The double-counting of credits was one of the least important challenges faced by participating institutions, and 66 percent of respondents indicated that they have measures in place to regulate the double counting of credits. (See Appendix for complete report) [link the appendix on page 6]

Dual Degree Proposal Process

Dual and Joint degrees have the potential to transform the educational experience, but we must take into account the very real issues surrounding resources needed, governance complexities and assessment over time. In order for programs to have a Dual Degree program approved, there is a four-step process (inquiry, exploration, development and approval) to ensure oversight of such agreements.

1) Inquiry: Submit pre-proposal online which will be received by a representative from the International Joint/Dual Degree Committee (currently a task force). Submissions will need department support prior to submitting to committee. Once reviewed, proposers will either be requested to submit additional information for consideration or will be granted approval to move to the next stage—exploration.

2) Exploration: Proposals proceeding past the inquiry stage will use guided questions for consideration in development of a Full Proposal and subsequently a Joint/Dual Degree Program Agreement contract. A significant study of the partner university and the structure of the basic academic, financial, student care, and partner relationship development components will need to be completed before fully committing resources to program development.

3) Development: The fully designed program proposal will need to be outlined in a Program Agreement document and vetted through the OSU Procurement and Contract Services office. Any curricular or academic elements will need to be approved at the appropriate levels (Graduate Dean for Graduate program proposals, the Academic Programs Assessment and Accreditation for undergraduate program proposals).

4) Approval: Proposals will need signatory approval of Program Chair, Department, College, Dean of Graduate School, Contracts, and Provost, prior to officiating the relationship with partner institution. Dual degree graduate program proposals must keep the Graduate School and International Programs informed to ensure policy regulations and processes are in place for the program.
PROPOSAL: Graduate Council Changes for International Joint/Dual Degrees

Policy Topics:
1) Continuous Enrollment
2) Graduate Committee Membership
3) Transfer Credit
4) Current Residence Requirements

Points of Discussion:
- Differences in Dual Degree vs. Joint
- Differences in Masters vs. Ph.D

1) Continuous Enrollment

Current Catalog Language:
Minimum Registration http://catalog.oregonstate.edu/ChapterDetail.aspx?key=38#Section1804

Unless on approved leave of absence (see Section II), all graduate students in graduate degree and certificate programs must register continuously for a minimum of 3 graduate credits until their degree or certificate is granted or until their status as a credential-seeking graduate student is terminated. This includes students who are taking only preliminary comprehensive or final examinations or presenting terminal projects. Students must register for a minimum of 3 credits and pay fees if they will be using university resources (e.g. facilities, equipment, computing and library services, or faculty or staff time) during any given term, regardless of the student’s location. If degree requirements are completed between terms, the student must have been registered during the preceding term.

Joint/Dual Degree Proposal: In cases where students are completing their degree or research overseas, they will be exempt from the continuous enrollment policy when they are enrolled or involved in research at the overseas institution. Students must be enrolled in the overseas institution or completing program requirements as set by the dual degree program, to avoid the minimum of 3 graduate credits enrollment requirement. For any break in enrollment, students must have prior approval or alert the graduate school prior to departure in order to document and verify leave status. Planned leaves can be set in advance.

2) Graduate Committee Membership

Dual degree programs at the graduate level need to consider the composition of the graduate committee. If student’s research is guided by an overseas faculty member or conducted in part at the overseas institution, the graduate committee must include an OSU faculty member, OSU Graduate Council Representative, and faculty member from the overseas university and vice versa. The overseas faculty member proposed will need to be nominated by a major/department/program to be a Courtesy Faculty or Affiliated Faculty member http://oregonstate.edu/admin/hr/sites/default/files/documents/general/courtesy_affiliate.pdf

The remaining committee members for doctoral committees can be from either institution, but the overseas representative must be eligible for graduate faculty status at OSU. These individuals would be responsible for all duties expected of Masters and Doctoral committees, including advice on the student’s research or project, approval of the program of study, examination of the student during Preliminary and final exams, and approval of the thesis or dissertation.
3) Transfer Credit

Current Catalog Language:
Catalog: [http://catalog.oregonstate.edu/ChapterDetail.aspx?key=38#Section1802](http://catalog.oregonstate.edu/ChapterDetail.aspx?key=38#Section1802)

Up to 15 graduate credits may be transferred toward a 45-credit master's degree. Up to 6 graduate credits may be transferred toward an 18-credit graduate certificate. Graduate courses to be transferred to a doctoral degree program can be courses that were used to satisfy the graduate course requirements for a graduate certificate or a master's degree (or equivalent). Selected 700-level courses that have been deemed equivalent to graduate-level learning may be used on doctoral programs of study upon approval of the student's graduate committee. There is no limit on transfer credit toward the doctoral degree as long as the doctoral residence requirement is satisfied.

Joint/Dual Degree Proposal:
Oregon State University Graduate Programs proposing to develop Joint/Dual Degree partnerships with another University may develop a program that allows no more than 50% of the program of study to be completed at the other institution for a Masters Degree. Program proposals meeting these criteria do not need approval by Graduate Council or Faculty senate as long as the program is developed from an existing program. All new programs and courses will need to follow Academic Senate guidelines for development of courses (Category 2 proposal) or development of new programs not in existence (Category 1 proposal).

Programs deciding to develop a Joint/Dual degree program may set their own requirements to be more restrictive then the set upon agreement. Programs will need to ensure Joint/Dual Degree meet all learning outcomes and assessment requirements. Non OSU curriculum from the overseas institution that are approved for transfer credit should be evaluated prior to the confirmation of the number of credits transferred. In addition, prior to finalizing Joint/Dual Degree agreement, programs should assess program fit, course and academic structure match and offering times of the overseas program and OSU.

- **Point of discussion:**
  - **Dual (or double) degree:** Counting double credit and if additional credits should be required. (Example: 2 year master program: 1 year at partner institution and 1 year at OSU. The student receives a degree from both institutions. Are there additional OSU credits needing to be taken to differentiate from the normal 2 year master option? Such as additional 15 graduate credits for Masters.)

  **Joint degree:** What stipulations are there, if any, for the Joint degree option? Such as programs developing a brand new and innovative program. Or melding two or more programs together for one degree signed by both institutions on diploma.

4) Current Residence Requirements

Current Catalog Language:

- **Masters** [http://catalog.oregonstate.edu/ChapterDetail.aspx?key=39#Section2265](http://catalog.oregonstate.edu/ChapterDetail.aspx?key=39#Section2265)

The residence requirement for the master’s degree is 30 graduate Oregon State University credits after admission as a degree-seeking graduate student. These 30 graduate credits must appear on the master’s degree program. (This does not include credits reserved as an
undergraduate or postbaccalaureate student, credits taken as a postbaccalaureate or graduate nondegree-seeking student, nor transfer courses.) Deviation from the residence requirement requires a petition to the Graduate School.

**Joint/Dual Degree Proposal:** At least 50% of the program of study must be completed at OSU in order to grant an OSU degree. NOTE: Currently, OSU students on Education Abroad programs bring credits in as institutional credit and “O” codes are used. These credits are counted as OSU credits and hence contribute toward residency requirements.

- **Point of discussion:** What should count as 50% of program of study—Coursework versus research credit.

**Current Catalog Language:**

b) **Doctoral** [http://catalog.oregonstate.edu/ChapterDetail.aspx?key=40#Section2285](http://catalog.oregonstate.edu/ChapterDetail.aspx?key=40#Section2285)

For the doctoral degree, the residence requirement consists of two parts:

1. a minimum of 36 graduate Oregon State University credits must be completed; and
2. the student must spend at least three terms of full-time graduate academic work (at least 9 credits per term) on campus or at an off-campus site approved by the Graduate School. The latter requirement of three terms of full-time enrollment does not have to take place in consecutive terms.

Adequate fulfillment of the residence requirement shall be determined by the Graduate School.

**Joint/Dual Degree Proposal:** Must meet current minimum requirements of Doctoral Program.
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Appendix

Proposal Task Force membership: Taifo Mahmud (College of Pharmacy), Charlotte Moats-Gallagher (International Programs) Valerie Rosenberg (International Programs), Yuliya Dennis (International Programs), Bill Warnes (College of Engineering, Chair), and Kim Johnson (Graduate School).

Resource Links:

A Process for Screening and Authorizing Joint and Double Degree Programs, IIE

Joint and Dual Degree Programs in the Global Context: Report on an International Survey, IIE:

Partnerships through Dual Degrees: Benefits and Outcomes as well as Challenges, Rutgers University
https://www.aplu.org/document.doc?id=4683

Challenging Innovation: A Consideration of International Joint Degree Programs for Australia

University of Arizona: http://global.arizona.edu/ua-faculty/graduate-dual-degree-programs

University of Wisconsin, Madison:
http://apir.wisc.edu/uapc/International_DualDegreeGuidelines_Final_May.20.2011.pdf (This is a long, detailed outline of what their university does—it isn’t so helpful except to point out that there is a lot to consider and also what UW Madison, a very good school, is doing to make these work.

Dual Degree Requirements document University of Michigan

Accreditation
Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (Oregon Accreditation)

Western Association of Schools & Colleges (California Accreditation examples with specific dual degree policies) http://www.wascsenior.org/files/Dual_Degrees_Policy.pdf