



CGS Agenda Item: 20-04
Effective Fall 2020

DRAFT

TO: Council on Graduate Studies

FROM: Ryan C. Hendrickson, Dean
Angela Jacobs, CGS Chair
Lee Patterson, CGS Vice Chair

RE: Second Master's degree policies

DATE: January 13, 2020

This proposal seeks the creation of a second master's degree policy.

Rationale for Change:

A second master's degree policy would seek to achieve the following:

- a) Adds flexibility across EIU graduate programs to create new second degree options
- b) Avoids curriculum confusion and committee reviews for concurrent dual degrees when these degrees undergo revisions
- c) Provides new marketing opportunities for creative graduate pairings: our existing dual degrees have very small enrollments; we graduate ~2 per semester.

Proposed Policy for Eastern Illinois University

Students may earn a second master's degree at Eastern Illinois University. With approval from the program's Graduate Coordinator or Graduate Committee and Graduate Dean, students may apply shared credit course work toward the second master's degree, under the following conditions.

1. The student must meet all admission requirements to the second graduate degree program.
2. All degree requirements must be met within the 6 year time to completion. Students may seek a waiver to this regulation due to extenuating circumstances.
3. A student may share no more than 12 graduate credit hours for the second degree.
4. A plan of study for the second degree must be approved by the program's Graduate Coordinator or Graduate Committee, and Graduate Dean. The approved plan of study for the second degree must be on file with the graduate certification officer.
5. Credit for culminating activities, including the master's thesis or capstone experience, may not be counted as shared credit.
6. Previously earned shared credit courses in Accelerated Programs may not be used as shared credit courses in the second master's degree.

For incoming graduate students who seek to pursue two master's degrees at the onset of enrollment, students are encouraged to consult with both graduate program directors to determine a plan of study.