



Second Degrees

Original e-mail from A.Goody, Associate Registrar, Undergraduate Program Services

The University of Guelph is reviewing its policy on the granting of second degrees and would like to hear how other institutions deal with this.

The University of Guelph currently uses the following policy for students wishing to pursue a second degree:

4. Second Degrees

Students from the University of Guelph or from another university may graduate with a second undergraduate degree from the University of Guelph. If they have graduated with their first degree, they must apply for admission to the program for their second degree. However, only 10.00 credits may be transferred from the initial degree program. The course content of the second degree program must be substantially different from that of the first. If University of Guelph students apply to graduate with two different degrees at the same convocation, only 10.00 credits may be transferred from the registered program to the undeclared program. Note: A second degree is judged to be substantially different if:

- the specializations are in different subject areas as listed in Section XII--Course Descriptions; or
- the schedule of studies requirements are substantially different (no more than 25% overlap).

Originally, this policy was meant to apply to students who wished to graduate with two different degrees. However, we are finding that some students wish to graduate with the SAME degree at the same convocation, in two quite different majors (so the overlap issue is not a problem.)

For instance, a student may wish to graduate with a B.Sc. in Biological Sciences, AND a B.Sc. in Theoretical Physics.

Regardless of whether we think that this is the most efficient use of the student's time and money (we do have a double major policy and an honours equivalent upgrade policy), we wish to know the following:

1. whether students at your institution are allowed to graduate with
 1. two of the same degrees
 2. at the same convocation, provided of course that they have fulfilled the requirements and have abided by the regulations.
2. whether you admit students to a degree program that they have already completed (whether at their own institution or another) ie. if a student already has an Honours BA degree would you admit them to your BA program?

Thank you in advance for taking the time to respond. Please send your response directly to me (not the listserv) and I will summarize and post to the listserv.

Best regards,
Alex

UNIVERSITY OF REGINA

6.13 AWARDING OF CONCURRENT AND ADDITIONAL DEGREES

Upon formal application by a student, the University may permit enrolment in two concurrent undergraduate programs (this is not the same as enrolment in a joint program leading to two degrees; joint programs are indicated as such in the faculty sections of this Calendar and on the Application for Undergraduate Program Admission). A student's primary program will be the one the student declares as such, subject to any approved faculty regulations. Faculties will determine which of their undergraduate programs cannot be taken concurrently with another, and will publish this information.

As well, a student who already holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Regina or another institution may pursue undergraduate studies leading to additional bachelor's degrees of the same or another designation. The following conditions apply to concurrent and additional programs. Conditions 4 and 5 apply to degree programs only.

1. In order to graduate with a degree, diploma, or certificate, a student must first be admitted to the associated program (see §2.6.6). Exceptions to this regulation may be approved by the dean of the faculty that offers the program.
 2. All the requirements of each program must be met.
 3. If a student holds a first degree from another institution, s/he must meet the faculty's residence requirement for subsequent programs.
 4. The principal area of study or academic emphasis of each degree program must be different. This determination will be made by the dean of the faculty that offers the second degree program.
 5. Thirty additional credit hours must be completed for each additional degree beyond the first. If the degree programs are of different lengths, then the cumulative total required is 30 credit hours plus the credit hours of the longer program. For example, a student who completes both a three-year (90 credit hour) and a four-year (120 credit hour) degree program, in either order or concurrently, requires 150 credit hours (30 + 120) in order to graduate with the second degree. Formal after-degree programs may require additional credit hours.
- When a student who is enrolled in two programs concurrently graduates from a primary program and the secondary program remains valid and current, the former secondary program becomes the primary program. A new student primary program record will be created by either the Registrar's Office (programs in different faculties) or the student's faculty or college (programs in the same faculty).

Answers to questions 1,2,3

1. whether students at your institution are allowed to graduate with

1. two of the same degrees,

Yes, But They Must Be In Significantly Different Areas Of Study.

2. at the same convocation, provided of course that they have fulfilled the requirements and have abided by the regulations.

Yes., but The Student Will Only Be Introduced Once For Both Degrees Because They Appear Consecutively In The Program And It Is The Same Hood.

2. whether you admit students to a degree program that they have already completed (whether at their own institution or another) ie. if a student already has an Honours BA degree would you admit them to your BA program?

I'm Not Sure About This But I Believe Students Are Not Permitted To Complete A Program For Which They Already Hold A Degree At Another Institution.

WILFRED LAURIER UNIVERSITY

Answers to questions 1,2,3

1. whether students at your institution are allowed to graduate with
1. two of the same degrees,

YES

2. at the same convocation, provided of course that they have fulfilled the requirements and have abided by the regulations.

YES

2. whether you admit students to a degree program that they have already completed (whether at their own institution or another) ie. if a student already has an Honours BA degree would you admit them to your BA program?

YES, although similar to you, we ask that it be in a different discipline. We are not as prescriptive as you in terms of the credits overlap. The department reserves right to approve.

I am currently trying to introduce an honours equivalency policy here to do away with the practice of awarding a second BA or BSc. Are you considering a change to your policy? I am holding you guys up as the way to go! Many other schools are like you as well.

Ray

UNIVERSITY OF ONTARIO INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Our only policy statement on this matter is that UOIT degree holders can complete a subsequent degree, but must do at least one additional year of study as well as complete all program requirements. Because they need another year, it seems unlikely they would go to the same convocation.

Our dual degree policy allows a student to pursue two degrees simultaneously after one year of successful study. There are no limitations around whether these two degrees must be substantially different. In this case there would be nothing stopping them from receiving both degrees at one convocation.

Hope this helps.

Richard

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF THE FRASER VALLEY

Answers to questions 1,2,3

1. whether students at your institution are allowed to graduate with
1. two of the same degrees,

The policy at UCFV is that a second degree must be in a different area, and we interpret that to mean that students cannot receive the same degree twice (even with a different major). The exception would be if a student had a BA and then wanted to completed an applied BA (e.g. BA in Child and Youth Care, BA in Adult Education) as these degrees have very different requirements.

2. at the same convocation, provided of course that they have fulfilled the requirements and have abided by the regulations.

Students can graduate with more than one credential at the same convocation (e.g could get a BGS and a BA, or an Associate of Arts degree and a BA), but we would not issue two of the same bachelor degrees.

2. whether you admit students to a degree program that they have already completed (whether at their own institution or another) ie. if a student already has an Honours BA degree would you admit them to your BA program?

No, unless one of the BA degrees was applied or otherwise structured very differently from ours, and in a different discipline.

DALHOUSIE

At Dalhousie we allow students to graduate with two of the same Bachelor of Science degree only as long as they are in two different majors. We currently do not award more than one BA degree but have had a number of requests. We do have an honours equivalent upgrade policy as well.

If a student has a degree already completed at another institution, we do not have a problem admitting them to our degree program. I am very interested in the results of your survey as we seem to be getting more inquiries each year even though we try to discourage students.

Best regards,

Judy Douglas

Associate Registrar - records

ACADIA

Hi Alex:

Students cannot graduate twice with the same Acadia degree and, for example, two different majors. This is considered one degree and a double or second major, but no second degree is awarded. A second degree can be given if it is a completely different degree, ie arts vs business or science. In that case at least 30 cr hrs must be taken after the first degree and all requirements for the second degree must be met, even if more than 30 hrs are required. If a student has a degree, ie a BA from another institution and wants one from Acadia they must do at least 60 cr hrs at Acadia and meet all our requirements in the process. The BA would need to be in another major in order to award a second one. We consider Honours a different degree, so a student can hold an Honours and a regular BA, but if they want both degrees they must do at least 30 hrs after completing the requirements of the first to be awarded the second. If they can meet the Honours requirements in less than 30 hrs they are given an Honours Conversion Certificate that 'converts' the ordinary degree to an honours degree. We do not award two degrees at the same level at the same convocation due to the 30 credit rule.

Rosemary

ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY

Below are our regulations on dual (concurrent) and second (subsequent) degrees. We allow concurrent graduation with two different degrees (e.g., BA + BSc) as long as they are in different subjects. Students can return for a second degree as long as it is in a different subject, but it can be the same degree (BA econ followed by BA poli sci). Here are the regs:

24. Requirements of Two Academic Programs (Dual Program)

a. If students are endeavouring to satisfy the requirements of two academic programs at the University, it may not be possible to satisfy the requirements of both of these within the minimum number of credit hours stipulated for either or both of them. The two programs include, but are not limited to: dual degree programs; double major/concentration; major in one subject and honors in another; and degree and certificate programs.

Students are advised that they must meet the specific requirements of each portion of their academic program or programs in order to qualify for graduation.

b. It is possible to satisfy simultaneously the requirements for two baccalaureate degrees in the Faculties of Arts, Commerce or Science. To formally declare their status as dual degree, students must complete the appropriate form in the Registrar's Office and have it signed by each appropriate Dean. Prior to signing this form, each Dean will assess the students' university course work to date and inform the Registrar in writing of other general requirements that must be completed in order to earn a degree within that Faculty. The Registrar, in turn, will officially notify the student. Specific program requirements should be discussed with the Chairperson of the Department of the students' major or area of concentration. Students in a dual degree program are advised that in order to receive the two degrees at the same Convocation, they must meet the specific requirements of each portion of their academic program(s). Students must complete the requirements of both degree programs for a minimum of 150 credit hours in order to qualify for graduation. Dual degree students will receive both of their degrees at the same Convocation. Students who complete the requirement for only one degree and who graduate are considered to have discontinued the second degree program. Should they subsequently wish to resume their studies in the second faculty, they must reapply for admission and, if admitted, are considered to be pursuing a second undergraduate degree and hence required to follow the appropriate regulations and guidelines.

25. Second Undergraduate Degree

a. Students who hold a first baccalaureate degree may obtain a second baccalaureate degree in the same Faculty, but with a different major, or in a different Faculty and with a different major, by completing all requirements for that degree as specified by the Dean of that Faculty. The minimum number of credit hours required will be 50% of the number stipulated for a first undergraduate degree. Specifically, therefore, for a Bachelor of Arts degree with a Double Concentration and a Bachelor of Science degree with a concentration, a minimum of forty-five (45) credit hours will be required; for a Bachelor of Arts degree or a Science degree with either a major or honors, as well as a Bachelor of Commerce degree, the minimum number of credit hours will be sixty (60) credit hours. Students must also complete the regulations of the Academic Calendar in existence when they officially began their program. In so doing, they must complete all of their credit hours at Saint Mary's. Any credit hours that have been used to satisfy the requirements for any previous academic credentials will not be permitted to count again for this second baccalaureate degree.

b. All students who wish to register in a program leading to a second baccalaureate degree must complete the appropriate application form available from the Office of Admissions at least three months prior to the academic session in which they expect to officially register for that second degree program. Their application must include the subject(s) of their major(s).

c. Undergraduate Certificates and Diplomas as Second Credentials

(i) Students who already hold a Saint Mary's University degree and subsequently wish to obtain a Saint Mary's University undergraduate certificate or undergraduate diploma are required to apply officially to the Admissions Office at least three months prior to the time when they anticipate beginning this program. The academic administrator of that specific program will automatically evaluate the student's previous academic work and advise the Registrar officially of the precise courses remaining to qualify for this second credential. This evaluation is an integral part of the admission process and, hence, an acceptance cannot be confirmed nor can a student register until this process has been completed.

(ii) Students who hold a degree from a recognized post-secondary institution other than Saint Mary's University are required to follow the admission procedures delineated above in (i). If admitted, the student must complete a minimum of 50% of the courses required for that academic program at Saint Mary's University, including all additional courses specified in individual program requirements.

(iii) In addition to regular degree programs, the undergraduate certificate programs to which this regulation applies are:

- Certificate of Chinese Studies (Cert.C.S.)
- Certificate of Proficiency in French (Cert.Fren.)
- Certificate in German Language & Culture (Cert. G.L.C.)
- Certificate of Human Resource Management (Psychology Option: Cert.HRMP)
- Certificate of Linguistics (Cert.Ling.)
- Certificate of Japanese Studies (Cert.J.S.)
- Certificate of Spanish Language & Hispanic Culture (Cert.S.L.H.C.)

The undergraduate diploma programs to which this regulation applies are:

- Diploma in Engineering (Dip.Egne.)
- Diploma in Forensic Sciences (Dip.F.Sc.)

(iv) Students are advised to check carefully the grade point average requirements for the specific certificate or diploma program in which they plan to enroll.

Paul

UNIVERSITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK

I am responding on behalf of UNB Fredericton.

Our regulations regarding 2nd degree options cover three cases: a student with a degree from another institution; a UNB student completing a 2nd- different degree; a UNB student completing a 2nd - same degree. In the first case the student must take the equivalent of half the degree at UNB and meet all degree requirements on the basis of UNB and transfer courses. In the case of the UNB students they must complete the equivalent of the ch required for the final year of the 2nd degree program and must meet the degree/major requirements. I have included the web link to our regulations rather than trying to outline them in detail in this note.

<http://eservices.unb.ca/calendar/undergraduate/display.cgi?tables=regulations&id=18>

With regard to the UNB student and a 2nd degree, it is possible for the student to have both degrees approved for the same graduation period (ie May or October). This is not uncommon for our concurrent degree programs as the programs are normally structured in such a way that the requirements for both programs are not completed until the final year.

For students completing a 2nd same degree (eg two BA programs with different Majors), I don't recall this happening but this is not to say that it could not. It would likely be the case that the student delayed graduating with one of the degrees until the 2nd same degree was completed. I expect students would normally follow the double major/honours route in any case.

I hope this information is of assistance. If you have any questions regarding our detailed regulations please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best regards,

David

David J. Hinton

Registrar, UNB Fredericton

YORK UNIVERSITY

Answers to questions 1,2,3

1. whether students at your institution are allowed to graduate with
 1. two of the same degrees,

If you mean, is it possible for a student to graduate with 2 BAs, one in Economics and then, after another couple of years of study, graduate with another BA in English, then yes, this is possible.

2. at the same convocation, provided of course that they have fulfilled the requirements and have abided by the regulations.

No, the only time a York undergrad student can graduate with two degrees at the same convocation is our concurrent Education program in which someone could graduate with a BA in English, for example, in addition to their BEd. There are some joint degree programs at the graduate level (e.g. MBA/MFA, MBA/LLB) where the student receives both degrees at the same convocation.

2. whether you admit students to a degree program that they have already completed (whether at their own institution or another) ie. if a student already has an Honours BA degree would you admit them to your BA program?

No, this wouldn't be possible in the same major. But, if someone had a Hons BA in Economics and applied to transfer to York to do a regular BA in English, that would be fine.

That said, if a York student is in an Hons BA program in English and elects to graduate early with the regular BA, they can come back any time to complete the extra year and get the Hons BA in English. Two degrees granted for the same major but the 2nd degree is considered an upgrade or enhancement and, in principle, replaces the 1st degree even tho we don't revoke/rescind the original.

Hope this helps.

Best,
Don Murdoch
Associate Registrar, Student Services
Registrar's Office, York University
W223 Bennett Centre for Student Services

WATERLOO UNIVERSITY

Hi Alex,

See my response within your email.

In addition, the University of Waterloo has the following policy related to second degrees

For Bachelor of Arts degrees: <http://ugradcalendar.uwaterloo.ca/default.aspx?pageID=10135#secondBA>

For Bachelor of Mathematics: It can't be in the same discipline they have already studied ie. obtain a degree with a mathematics major elsewhere, they are not eligible for a BMath at UW. However, if they are eligible for another degree they must fulfill the residency requirements outlined at the bottom of this website

<http://ugradcalendar.uwaterloo.ca/Default.aspx?PageID=767>

For Bachelor of Science: Students currently holding a Bachelor of Science degree will normally be considered for admission into Post-Degree studies only. However, some exceptions may be considered if it's a completely different discipline. In those cases, the residence requirements would have to be met and are as follows:

<http://ugradcalendar.uwaterloo.ca/?PageID=247>

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER UNIVERSITY

Danny McInnis, Acting Registrar, asked that I respond, on behalf of StFX, to your survey questions regarding the granting of two of the same degree.

1. whether students at your institution are allowed to graduate with

1. two of the same degrees,
2. at the same convocation, provided of course that they have fulfilled the requirements and have abided by the regulations.

2. whether you admit students to a degree program that they have already completed (whether at their own institution or another) ie. if a student already has an Honours BA degree would you admit them to your BA program?

1. Students may not graduate from StFX with two of the same degree (though we're beginning to receive requests, particularly for the completion of a second BA Honours degree - in a second discipline, of course). The exception is for students who have completed a BA with Major or a BSc with Major; qualified students may subsequently complete a BA or BSc with Honours, as a "second degree", with a minimum of 30 additional credits.

2. If a student has completed a degree from another institution, we do allow admission to the same degree program at StFX, as long as the major is different. However, we will transfer a maximum of 60 credits (to our 120-credit program) from the first degree. The remaining 60 credits must be completed at StFX. If a student has an honours BA from another institution, we will admit them to a BA program at StFX, in which they may complete either a major or an honours program.

Looking forward to the results of this survey!

Suzanne

Suzanne Russell

Academic Advisor

& Degree Compliance Coordinator

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