

Title: Interpretation of Counting of a Single Course Toward More Than One Degree (Double Dipping)

Category: Academic Affairs

Responsible Cabinet Member: Provost

Purpose

The purpose of this interpretation is to clarify when academic credit earned through a single course may be applied toward more than one credential awarded by the University of Kentucky. While the University recognizes several approved educational pathways that intentionally permit shared coursework, the general expectation is that each awarded degree represents a distinct body of academic achievement. This interpretation identifies the limited circumstances in which shared coursework is permitted and clarifies situations in which additional restrictions apply.

Scope

This interpretation provides guidance regarding the circumstances under which a single course may be applied toward the requirements of more than one University of Kentucky credential. It is intended to promote consistent application of University academic policy while preserving compliance with applicable accreditation standards, professional accreditation requirements and program-specific curricular requirements.

This interpretation applies to undergraduate, graduate, professional, certificate, dual-degree, combined-degree and accelerated degree programs.

Policy

The situations in which the same course can be used by a student for credit for the award of two (2) different degrees (“double dipped”) include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Where a course numbered in the 500-700 series is permitted by the Accelerated Master's Pathway (AMP) to use for credit for both an undergraduate and a graduate degree.
- Where permitted by an approved dual degree program.
- Where permitted by concurrent or consecutive graduate degree programs at UK.
- Where a “Plan A” master’s degree has been approved to be awarded “en passant” toward a graduate doctoral degree.
- Where permitted by an approved B.S. or B.A./professional doctorate combined degree program.

- Where permitted by certificate program. For currently enrolled students, there is no limit to the number of hours that can be applied to both the primary degree (bachelor's, master's, doctorate or professional) and the certificate (unless the program/certificate owners specify otherwise).

If none of the situations above apply:

- Then a student who has used a 500-900-level course toward an awarded graduate degree or professional doctorate degree cannot subsequently use the same course as credit for the award of an undergraduate degree.
- And if an undergraduate course has been used by a student for credit toward an awarded undergraduate degree, then that course cannot be subsequently used by that student for credit for the award of a professional degree in a manner that is inconsistent with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) requirement that the curriculum of a professional doctorate degree must have higher academic stringency than an undergraduate degree.
- Then an 800-900-level course cannot be used as credit for award of a graduate degree unless expressly approved by the program or through a program agreement (such as a dual degree between a graduate and professional program).

Academic policy does not prohibit:

- That a 500–700 level graduate course be used for credit toward the award of a professional doctorate degree. However, once a student has used that course for credit for an awarded professional doctorate degree, that course cannot then subsequently be used for credit for the award of a graduate degree.
- A college faculty from approving that a student who has used a 500-700-level graduate course as credit toward an awarded graduate degree can then use that same course as credit for the award of a professional doctorate degree offered by that college, except as otherwise prohibited by the relevant professional accreditation agency.
- A college faculty from approving that a student who has used an 800-900-level course as credit for an awarded graduate degree can then use that same course as credit for a professional doctorate degree offered by that college, except as otherwise prohibited by the relevant professional accreditation agency.