



Guidelines for Establishing a Dual Degree Program

A dual degree program is designed to allow students to earn two distinct degrees by completing the requirements of both programs over a shorter time period than would typically be required to complete each program individually. The degrees are earned concurrently.

A dual degree program may include degrees at the same level (e.g. MPA/MPH) or a different level (e.g. MD/MPH). It may include two degrees offered by CU Anschutz or may include a degree offered by CU Anschutz and another CU campus or an outside institution.

The stipulations of a dual degree program should be outlined in a written agreement that is approved by the dean of each school or college offering a component degree program. At a minimum, the agreement should address:

- The rationale for creating the dual degree program, including program goals and expectations for student learning, and projected enrollment.
- Admissions requirements and processes, including criteria for admission, application process and deadlines, and communication between units.
- Curricular design, including curriculum structure, number of credits that may be double-counted, the specific courses that can be applied to both programs, and the total number of credits required to complete each degree.
- Program administration, including the process for making curricular decisions and providing oversight for curriculum, standards, policies, and procedures.
- Budgetary considerations and approvals including new resource requirements, shared resources, and revenue sharing arrangements.
- Faculty approvals, consistent with the policies of the schools or colleges involved.

If either degree program is conferred through the CU Anschutz Graduate School, the dual degree program is subject to [Graduate School Policies and Procedures](#), including review and approval by the Graduate Council.

It is strongly recommended that program administrators involve the Registrar's Office early in the process, especially when the program is shared with an external institution. This allows the Registrar to partner throughout the process on matters such as class scheduling, course registration, grading, transcripts and transfer credit, and issuing credentials. Program administrators must work with the Registrar's Office for dual degree programs to be created in CU-SIS and then listed in the academic catalog.

Dual degree programs created from existing degree programs do not require approval beyond the level of the dean, unless they involve programs outside the University of Colorado system. In such cases, the agreement is subject to review by the Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs (EVC-ASA). In all cases the EVC-ASA should be notified of new dual degree programs and provided with a copy of the written agreement.