

The University Senate of Michigan Technological University

INTERNATIONAL DUAL GRADUATE DEGREES

([Proposal 24-10](#))

([Proposal 3-11](#))

Senate Policy 412.1

Definitions:

Dual degrees are defined as arrangements whereby a student, upon completion of a course of study, receives two parallel degrees, one from each of the institutions participating in the arrangement. These may entail adjustments to accommodate the differences in the rules and expectations of the two institutions, but the student has not completed two distinct curricula and has not written two separate theses or dissertations. Dual degrees can not be arranged ad hoc; they must be administered under the rubric of an established formal agreement.

International graduate degrees are defined through arrangements between Michigan Tech and one other comparable institution in a country outside of the U.S.

Concept proposal is a written document used in the Michigan Tech preliminary approval process.

Formal agreement, such as a Memorandum of Understanding, is legally negotiated between the two, or more, institutions in the arrangement.

Policy:

The Graduate School will entertain concept proposals for establishment of programs to award International Dual Graduate Degrees. Once approved, these degrees will be articulated through formal agreements between Michigan Tech and one or more collaborating universities.

Students enrolled in an International Dual Graduate Degree program must complete all of the requirements (both content and credit) for a degree at Michigan Tech through combined studies at Michigan Tech and the partnering institution. In addition, students enrolled in an International Dual Graduate Degree program must also earn at least 50% of the credits required for a Michigan Tech degree through Michigan Tech (ie., they may earn up to 50% of the credits through the collaborating institution). (Note that this is inconsistent with the general requirement that 2/3 of the graduate course work be taken in residence; see Board of Control Policy 8.5 for mechanism for approval of variance.)

Students pursuing an International Dual Graduate Degree will receive a degree and diploma from both Michigan Tech and the collaborating university. When the degree and diploma awarded from each collaborating university are in the same academic area, up to 50% of the credits required for each degree may be used to fulfill degree requirements at Michigan Tech and another university. When the degree and diploma awarded from each collaborating university are in different academic areas, students may double-count up to 33% of the credits required for each degree (if the academic content covered by those credits can be appropriately applied toward each degree).

Each participating student's final Michigan Tech transcript will indicate that the degree was earned as part of an International Dual Graduate Degree program and will provide the name(s) of the collaborating universities.

Students enrolled in International Dual Graduate Degree programs will complete a thesis or dissertation and will be co-advised by a qualified faculty member from Michigan Tech and the primary collaborating university. If more than one collaborating university is involved in an agreement, the primary collaborating university will be the one at which a participating student will earn the most credits (in addition to the credits earned at Michigan Tech). Students will defend their thesis or dissertation at Michigan Tech and the primary participating university, either on-site or through the use of video or web-based conferencing.

Equivalence of Michigan Tech credits and credits earned at a collaborating university will be determined based on the basic principal that full-time enrollment at Michigan Tech requires the same amount of student effort as full-time enrollment at the collaborating university.

International Dual Graduate Degree programs can only involve degrees that are already available at Michigan Tech. New degree programs cannot be developed initially as International Dual Graduate Degrees.

Proposals for New International Dual Graduate Degrees:

- 1) Initial concept proposals will be developed by a member of the Michigan Tech Graduate Faculty. Faculty seeking assistance or guidance in developing proposals are encouraged to contact the Graduate School. Concept proposals should identify the proposing faculty member, the name of the Michigan Tech graduate program that will offer the degree, a statement of the benefits of the proposed dual degree to Michigan Tech and the appropriate intellectual community, the name of the collaborating university(s), and the name of a correspondent faculty member at the collaborating university(s).

Concept proposals must also attend to the following elements: financial arrangements, including insurance; the time period of student attendance at Michigan Tech; the disciplinary scope of the agreement; clear exposition of credit and other academic equivalencies presumed; policies with regard to the comprehensive, qualifying, and final examinations; any anticipated intellectual property issues; arrangements for renewal and termination of the agreement; and an evaluation process and timeline for program evaluation.

- 2) Concept proposals must be approved by the faculty of the department or school that hosts the degree program. For non-departmental degrees, initial approval can be granted by the dean of the college or school in which the proposing faculty member has their primary academic appointment.
- 3) Concept proposals must be approved by the dean of the college or school that hosts the degree program. For non-departmental degrees, initial approval can be granted by the dean of the college or school in which the proposing faculty member has their primary academic appointment.
- 4) After initial approvals are completed (steps 1-3) proposals will be submitted to the dean of the Graduate School for review. Upon successful preliminary review, the dean of the Graduate School will:

- a. Submit the concept proposal to the Graduate Faculty Council and the University Senate's Curricular Policy Committee (US-CPC) for review. The US-CPC will consider and vote on the proposal and then report on the proposal and their deliberations to the Senate during a regularly held meeting and if approved by the US-CPC;
 - b. Submit the concept proposal to the manager of Sponsored Operations who will develop an initial draft formal agreement. The draft formal agreement will be based on the Michigan Tech Standard Template for International Dual Graduate Degrees, or a similar document from one of the dual agreement institutions.
- 5) The draft formal agreement will then be reviewed by the dean of the Graduate School, the Registrar's Office, the director of International Programs and Services, and the University's legal counsel. Recommendations for modification will be acted upon by the manager of Sponsored Operations. Upon successful completion of the internal review process, copies of the formal agreement will be forwarded to the collaborating university for review and modification. Once the terms of the formal agreement are agreed upon by the collaborating universities, it will be reviewed and, if appropriate, signed by the president and provost at Michigan Tech and by the leadership at the collaborating university(s).

Proposal 24-10:

Senate Introduction: 31 March 2010

Clarifying Amendment added: 14 April 2010

Adopted by Senate with Amendment: 14 April 2010

Approved by administration: 21 April 2010

Proposal 3-11:

Senate Introduction: 10 November 2010

Adopted by Senate: 8 December 2010

Approved by Administration: 20 December 2010