

### Application of Specially Designated Courses Toward Graduate Degrees

This policy applies to undergraduate students who meet rigorous criteria and have been approved to pursue graduate coursework as part of an approved linked, dual-degree, or early-entry graduate program at ODU. It is designed to encourage qualified undergraduate students to engage in specially designated undergraduate coursework that can count toward a graduate degree and facilitate an accelerated pathway to advanced degrees while maintaining academic rigor and integrity.

Prescribed undergraduate coursework may be counted toward a graduate degree under the following conditions:

- Undergraduate students who have been accepted to linked, dual-degree, or early-entry graduate programs may take up to 12 credit hours of specially designated undergraduate courses that meet the same rigor and competencies as required for graduate courses. These credits may be counted toward both the undergraduate and graduate degrees in an approved linked, dual-degree, or early-entry programs.
- Credits must have been earned with a grade of B (3.0) or better.
- The student must have approval from both the Undergraduate and Graduate Program Directors to take the specially designated undergraduate courses after being accepted into a linked, dual-degree, or early-entry program.
- The linked, dual-degree or early-entry program must be approved by the Graduate School. Only the approved, specially designated undergraduate courses can be considered for credit toward graduate degrees.

There are restrictions limiting when undergraduate coursework may be counted, including:

- Credits earned through Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), or transfer credit from another institution cannot be applied toward a graduate degree.
- Graduate programs may have additional requirements and limitations on accepting advanced undergraduate credits. These limitations are described within the catalog pages of degree programs as well as the individual program handbooks.

#### Process

- Students must submit their Request to Accept Undergraduate Credit Toward Graduate Degree form (with Graduate Program Director's signature) to the Graduate School for approval.

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AALT review complete  
Where does this go next?

Commented [A2R1]: [Mention was removed] I'll add it to the list of policies to go to FS. Thanks, Liz

Commented [A3]: I'm going to be honest... if I didn't see the former language (accepting undergraduate credit toward graduate degrees), I would not know what this policy meant. "specially designated courses" is not clear to me in this policy. I understand that we are essentially crosslisting an UG course number with a graduate course so it can count for both UG credit and grad credit and UG students can still access financ... [2]

Commented [A4R3]: I agree with Tammi. It took me a minute to figure out what the policy was addressing... [3]

Commented [A5R3]: this is fine now with Tammi's addition

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Commented [A6]: I added this

Commented [A7R6]: we agree

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Commented [A8]: When we say graduate programs here do we mean the linked, dual-degree or early-entry ... [10]

Commented [A9R8]: resolved - added word degree before programs

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Commented [A10]: Above it says both UPD and GPD endorsement. Shouldn't UPD be added here then?

Commented [A11R10]: I expect it would be up to the graduate program to determine whether to accept... [12]

Commented [A12R10]: we agree that it is not necessary to add UPD here.

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Page 1: [2] Commented [A3] Author

I'm going to be honest... if I didn't see the former language (accepting undergraduate credit toward graduate degrees), I would not know what this policy meant. "specifically designated courses" is not clear to me in this policy. I understand that we are essentially crosslisting an UG course number with a graduate course so it can count for both UG credit and grad credit and UG students can still access financial aid. I know we can't explain this in the policy, but I wonder if we could be a bit more explicit in the way the policy is written to make it clear that qualified UG students will be taking graduate-content courses that have been approved to count toward both their UG and graduate degrees. Even just keeping the former title (Accepting Undergraduate Credit Toward Graduate Degrees) and maintaining the new language in the actual text would make the whole policy clearer...

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I agree with Tammi. It took me a minute to figure out what the policy was addressing.

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When we say graduate programs here do we mean the linked, dual-degree or early-entry programs? If so, does this restriction add new information? The UG courses were already approved in the section above.

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Page 1: [12] Commented [A11R10] Author

I expect it would be up to the graduate program to determine whether to accept the undergraduate credit. I don't know that the UPD would weigh in at this point.

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