

Proposal to Double Count Credits Between Two Master's Degrees

An increasing number of students have expressed interest in completing two separate master's degree programs. Under current policy, a student taking a second master's degree at UMBC is unable to count any courses from their first master's degree. This proposal seeks approval to double count a limited number of credits between two master's degrees. The Grad School recommends that up to nine credits can be double counted between two master's degrees with GPD approval.

Under this policy, alumni would have an incentive to return to graduate study, helping to enhance their expertise and strengthen their ties to UMBC. This will allow us to provide additional program flexibility and convenience and better meet the needs of our graduate students.

There will be some restrictions on the double counting of courses. Students may pursue both degrees concurrently or may start the second degree after the first has been completed. If both degrees are pursued concurrently, both GPDs must approve the courses being double counted; for a degree that is being pursued after one degree has been earned, only approval from the GPD of the second program is needed. In order for the courses to be double-counted, they must have been taken no more than five (5) years prior to the completion of the second program and they must have a grade of "B" or better. Courses that are double counted can come from the core or elective courses. Exceptions to the five-year rule will be considered upon request made to the Associate Dean of the Graduate School by the GPD of the second degree program.

The Master of Professional Studies (MPS) is an MHEC approved 30-credit degree template with an 18-credit core and 12-credit specialization in a particular area. The MPS is considered one degree with multiple tracks. Current tracks included in the MPS degree at UMBC are:

- Cybersecurity
- Data Science
- Entrepreneurship, Innovation & Leadership
- Health Information Technology
- Biotechnology
- Geographic Information Systems
- I/O Psychology
- Technical Management
- Community Leadership

As the MPS is one degree, a student would be unable to apply previously earned MPS credit towards another MPS degree. However, students may pursue two different tracks in the MPS degree as long as the students take a minimum of 39 credits total between the two tracks and satisfy the requirements for both tracks. If the MPS has already been completed a student may pursue a second track by completing a minimum of 9 credits above the requirements for the first track, and satisfy the requirements for both MPS tracks. The GPD shall approve courses that will be double-counted. The student will not receive a second diploma; however, the transcript will be updated to reflect the second track.

If one of the degrees is an MPS and the other is a master's other than an MPS, up to 9 credits can be double counted between both masters' degrees.