

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

October 6, 2011

MEMORANDUM

TO: Doug Estry, Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education
and Dean of Undergraduate Studies
Karen Klomprens, Associate Provost for Graduate Education
and Dean of The Graduate School

FROM: Michele Halloran, Chairperson, University Committee on Curriculum

RE: Recommended Policy Change for Requirements for a Linked
Bachelor's-Master's Degree

Recent conversations in the University Committee on Curriculum have led to requesting a policy change in the requirements for a linked bachelor's-master's degree. In the proposed policy statement below, the additional language, needed for the policy change, is noted in bold.

Proposed Policy:

"A candidate for a Linked Bachelor's-Master's Degree from Michigan State University may request the application of up to 9 credits toward the master's program for qualifying 400-level and above course work taken at the undergraduate level at Michigan State University or an external accredited institution. The number of approved credits, not to exceed 9, are applied toward the credit requirement of the master's degree. **Some colleges with programs that require more than 30 credits for the master's degree may apply more than 9 credits toward the master's degree but not more than one-fourth of the total number of credits required for the master's degree.** Credits applied to the Linked Bachelor's-Master's Program are not eligible to be applied to any other graduate degree program."

Current Policy:

(<http://www.reg.msu.edu/AcademicPrograms/Text.asp?Section=111#s6253>)

The current policy statement for a Linked Bachelor's-Master's Degree indicates that the number of approved credits, not to exceed 9, will be applied toward the credit requirement for the master's degree.

"A candidate for a Linked Bachelor's-Master's Degree from Michigan State University may request the application of up to 9 credits toward the master's program for qualifying 400-level and above course work taken at the undergraduate level at Michigan State University or an external accredited institution. The number of approved credits, not to exceed 9, are applied toward the credit requirement of the master's degree. Credits applied to the Linked Bachelor's-Master's Program are not eligible to be applied to any other graduate degree program."



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Rationale for Change:

Changing the policy for linked bachelor's-master's degrees makes the language consistent with the *Transfer Credit* policy for master's programs which states that "some colleges with programs that require more than 30 credits for the master's degree may apply more than 9 credits toward the master's degree, but not more than one-fourth of the total number of credits required for the master's degree."

Changing the policy allows for inclusion of master's degrees that require more than thirty credits within the parameters for linked bachelor's – master's programs.

Benefits of Adopting the Proposal:

This change will make it possible for students in professional master's programs that have a linked option and require substantially more than 30 credits for the master's degree, to apply more than 9 credits toward the master's degree, but not more than one-fourth of the total number of credits required for the master's degree.

Impact of the Proposal:

No negative impact.

The University Committee on Curriculum is asking that your respective committees review the recommended change and provide your commentary as soon as possible to Ms. Joy Speas, University Curriculum Administrator, 176 Administration Building, or jspeas@msu.edu. Thank you for your consideration.

C: Linda O. Stanford, Associate Provost for Academic Services
Nicole Rovig, University Registrar
Traci Gulick, Associate Registrar for Certification Services
Joy Speas, University Curriculum Administrator