



California University of Pennsylvania

Graduate School POLICY: Degrees, Second Degrees, Dual Degrees, Certifications, and Certificates

A. Purpose & Scope

To describe the process and procedures for graduate degrees and awards

B. Definition(s)

Graduate Degree - a formal credit-based credential designated on the academic record and awarded by an educational institution that represents advanced study beyond the baccalaureate degree and signifying mastery in a discipline or professional field.

Second Degree: earning a second degree after a first degree is completed.

Dual Degree: earning two graduate degrees at the same time.

Certificate - a formal credit-based credential designated on the academic record and awarded by an educational institution to indicate completion of a program of study that does not culminate in a degree. Certificates are not the same as certifications.

Certification - a formal credit-based program offered by an educational institution that prepares individuals to apply for a credential from a third party based on an assessment process that recognizes competencies in a particular occupational specialty as measured against a set of standards. Certifications are not the same as certificates.

C. Policy

Graduate Degrees - California University is authorized to grant the following graduate degrees: Master of Arts (M.A.), Master of Business Administration (MBA), Master of Science (M.S.), Master of Education (M.Ed.), Master of Social Work (MSW), Master of Arts Teaching (MAT), Master of Science in Nursing (MSN), Professional Science Masters (PSM), Doctor of Criminal Justice (DCJ), Doctor of Health Science (DHSc), and Doctor of Education (EdD).

A master's degree requires at least 30 credit hours, but programs may require more credits. Students must possess an overall grade point average of at least 3.00 and have no failing grades on the transcript (unless repeated with a passing grade) to earn a degree. Students may earn more than one graduate degree.

Second Degrees - Any graduate student who has previously earned a master's degree from a regionally accredited institution (including California University of Pennsylvania) may pursue a second master's degree at California University of Pennsylvania. Students who have already earned a first master's degree must complete a minimum of 15 additional credits (regardless of the number of earned credits of the first master's degree) and complete all degree requirements in effect at the time of matriculation for the second master's degree. Transfer credits from other institutions and prior credits from California University of Pennsylvania may be used to satisfy a limited number of courses for a second master's degree. Students

seeking a second master's degree must apply for admission to the program through the Graduate Admissions Office and meet all the admission requirements for the second degree.

Dual Degrees - For graduate students attaining dual master's degrees (two simultaneous degrees), at least 12 credit hours must be completed beyond the minimal credit requirements for the degree program with the most required credits.

Certificates - California University offers a variety of graduate-level certificate programs, which may or may not be aligned to recognized national agencies. Students must possess a grade point average of at least 3.00 and have no failing grades on the transcript (unless repeated with a passing grade) in the certificate requirements to earn the award.

Certification- California University is approved to offer a variety of graduate-level certification programs, which prepare individuals to apply for certification from a third party. Certifications are not degree programs and are commonly referred to as "certification-only." California University does not award or grant certification. Some degree programs incorporate elements that prepare individuals to apply for certification from a third party. The number of credits required and the overall grade point average for a certification program is based upon the requirements of the third party.

D. Procedure(s)

Students who wish to pursue any of the above learning opportunities at California University must follow procedures established by the University, Graduate Admissions, department, and program, as applicable. Please refer to the Graduate Catalog on the University web site.

E. Effective date: 2005-2006 Graduate Catalog

Updated date: May 12, 2017

Amended Date: April 1, 2019