



## Guidelines and Procedures for Dual Master's Degree Programs

### Guidelines:

1. In each degree field a minimum of 18 hours of graduate courses is required with a minimum of three hours of 8000-level courses.\*
2. 12 hours of shared 8000-level graduate credit, which can include thesis/project research credit, as applicable.\*\*
3. Up to eight hours of transfer credit may be applied as follows: to one of the two degree programs, or divided between the two degree programs. The eight hours of transfer credit cannot be applied to each degree program separately.
4. Students should apply for and be admitted to both degree programs at the same time using a separate application to each program. Because some students may not be aware of an approved dual master's degree program prior to their arrival at MU, the option to participate in an approved dual master's degree program may be postponed to no later than the end of a student's second semester at MU.
5. There will be a separate advisor and committee for each degree program. *[Dean's Note: the option of a combined committee structure may be included in proposals for Senate consideration, e.g. co-advisors who would also serve as outside members, plus one additional member from each degree program, for a total of four committee members.*
6. There will be two separate diplomas awarded upon completion of all degree program requirements.
7. All dual degree programs require GFS approval.
8. Special dual master's degree program forms will be used to certify programs of study, committee members, and final defense/examinations. They are available from the Graduate School.

\*The 18 hours of graduate course work is to be taken for each degree program, respectively. For example, for a dual master's degree program in Journalism and Communication, a student's program of study must show 18 hours of Journalism graduate course work that applies only to the Journalism degree and 18 hours of Communication graduate course work that applies only to the Communication degree.

\*\* $18 + 18 + 12 = 48$  hours of graduate credit which is the minimum total hours for a dual master's degree program.