Memorandum

From: Double Degree Subcommittee

To: Steve Lonergan

Date: 2017 December 1

According to the ISU Graduate College Handbook, Section 4.3.3, there are 17 double degree programs that have been approved by the Graduate College. These programs vary widely in terms of the total number of credit hours required. Some are as few as 57, while others are as many as 109. All of these programs include at least one professional degree (MBA, MCP, etc.). Individual double degree programs can be created by students interested in areas outside the named existing programs.

Confusion exists because of discrepancies in the language in the graduate handbook related to the number of credits required to receive a double degree. The handbook currently specifies that, “although specific degree programs may require more, the program of study must include at least 44 hours of non-overlapping graduate credit (22 for each major) in the two degrees.” Yet that handbook also states that, “the total number of credits for each degree should be clearly shown and should coincide with the number of credits required by the programs for their respective degree programs.” This appears to be saying both that students could take as few as 44 credits and receive two graduate degrees and that double degree programs should reflect the total number of credits required for each of the individual degrees.

To address this confusion, the Double Degree Subcommittee proposes the following changes to double degree requirements to the Graduate Council:

1) The total credits for any double degree must be at least 48 credits, all of which are non-overlapping (there must be at least 24 stand-alone credits for each major).

2) Total credits must equal at least 75% of the sum of credits from each separate degree.

3) This change would affect any new proposed double degrees.

4) For existing double degree programs that fall below this new threshold, programs administering those degrees would need to adjust the total credits required or justify why existing credit totals should be below the new threshold.

This will likely increase the number of credits required in some existing double degree programs. However, it will still provide a bonus or discount in the total number of required credit hours for students pursuing both degrees simultaneously.

The subcommittee has made adjustments to the language in the Graduate College Handbook to reflect these proposed changes. The changes also clarify how double degrees with and without thesis/creative component should be handled.