

ACADEMIC PROGRAM DEFINITIONS at Texas A&M University

ACADEMIC PROGRAM TYPE	DEFINITION	SOURCE
ACADEMIC CERTIFICATES		
Major-dependent Certificate	A student is admitted to the program through the offering department. Admission to the program requires the student to be <i>pursuing a specific degree/major</i> at Texas A&M University. This type of certificate program typically serves as a track within a degree program. The certificate and degree are awarded simultaneously.	https://registrar.tamu.edu/Graduation-Degree-Programs/Certificate-Tracking-Awarding#0-Major-dependent
Degree-dependent Certificate	A student is admitted to the program through the offering department. Admission to the program requires the student to be <i>pursuing a degree</i> at Texas A&M University. The certificate is awarded upon completion of the requirements independent of a degree.	See above
Stand-alone Certificate	A student is admitted to the program through the Office of Admissions. The student may pursue the certificate <i>without being enrolled in a degree program</i> . The certificate may be awarded upon completion of requirements.	See above
COMBINATION PROGRAMS WITHIN TAMU		
Combination Programs	<p>Combination programs represent <i>two degrees of different academic levels pursued and awarded simultaneously</i>. Combination programs may allow a shorter time for completion due to the “double-counting” of some coursework. Combination programs at TAMU include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● undergraduate and master’s level graduate programs (e.g., BA in Economics/Master of International Affairs 5-year program); ● undergraduate and professional programs (e.g., BS in Interdisciplinary Engineering/JD 6-year program); ● graduate and professional programs (e.g., MD/PhD); and, ● graduate and doctoral programs (e.g., Master of Public Service and Administration/PhD). 	<p>https://catalog.tamu.edu/graduate/degrees-programs/#newitemtext</p> <p>https://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/degree-information/#combinedprogramstext</p>

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Combined Master's Programs	<p>The combined master's program represents <i>two master's degrees pursued and awarded simultaneously</i>. Combined degree programs may allow a shorter time for completion due to the "double-counting" of some coursework. The minimum number of unduplicated combined credit hours should be 60 credit hours, 30 credit hours for each program.</p>	https://catalog.tamu.edu/graduate/degrees-programs/#combineddegreestext
Fast Track Programs	<p>Fast track programs are a specific type of a combination program that allows students to begin making progress toward a master's degree while completing the baccalaureate degree <i>in the same discipline</i>. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • College of Engineering - Academically qualified students take 600-level courses during their senior year, earning graduate credit for the master's degree while fulfilling undergraduate requirements through "credit by exam." 	https://engineering.tamu.edu/academics/fasttrack.html
UNIQUE PROGRAMS AVAILABLE AT TAMU		
Interdisciplinary Degree Programs	<p>Interdisciplinary degree programs are comprised of courses from two or more academic disciplines. At TAMU, there are both interdepartmental programs (thus, comprised of courses offered by two or more departments/disciplines within the same college) and interdisciplinary programs that represent a collaboration between two or more colleges and their respective academic disciplines.</p> <p>Interdepartmental and interdisciplinary programs (IDPs) include degrees across all levels (baccalaureate, masters, doctoral) and both undergraduate and graduate level certificate programs.</p>	https://catalog.tamu.edu/graduate/colleges-schools-interdisciplinary/interdisciplinary/#masterstext https://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/interdisciplinary/
Early Admission to Professional Programs	<p>A student from an undergraduate program that is selected early into participating programs in medicine, dentistry, optometry, pharmacy, law, or veterinary medicine must have satisfied all university Core Curriculum requirements. The student must complete at least half of the total hours required for the baccalaureate degree while in residence at TAMU. Upon completing a pre-approved portion of the professional program curriculum, the student will be eligible for the Texas A&M degree (based upon completion of the total credit hours required by his or her undergraduate degree plan). Each undergraduate major specifies those professional courses that may be used to satisfy its degree plan. Although this is a University-wide policy, not all colleges choose to participate.</p>	https://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/degree-information/#requirementsforabaccalaureatedegree

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COMBINATION PROGRAMS WITH OTHER INSTITUTIONS		
Joint Degree	<p>An agreement by two or more institutions to grant a joint academic award is one whereby students study at two (or more) institutions and the institutions grant a <i>single academic award</i> bearing the names, seals, and signatures of each of the participating institutions. For joint degrees, students apply for, and are accepted into, the joint degree per the criteria and process outlined in the formal agreement between the institutions. Course instruction and advisory committee membership typically involve faculty members from both institutions.</p>	<p>http://www.sacscoc.org/pdf/JointDualAwards.pdf</p>
Dual Degree	<p>An agreement by two or more institutions to grant dual academic awards is one whereby students study at two or more institutions and <i>each institution grants a separate academic award</i> at the same credential level bearing only its name, seal, and signature. In most instances, students apply for, and must be accepted into the dual degree program per the criteria and process outlined in the formal agreement between the institutions. Students enter the dual degree program with the intention of completing both programs from both participating institutions and with the understanding that the program typically involves co-enrollment or overlapping enrollment in both institutions.</p>	<p>https://sacscoc.org/app/uploads/2019/08/JointDualAwards.pdf; (definition updated in the SACSCOC Substantive Change Policies and Procedures, https://sacscoc.org/app/uploads/2019/08/SubstantiveChange.pdf)</p>
Engineering Academies	<p>The Texas A&M Engineering Academies are co-enrollment programs between the College of Engineering and select two-year institutions. Students in the Engineering Academy program are Texas A&M engineering students, who take math, science, and core courses from the two-year institution and engineering courses from Texas A&M faculty on the community college campus. After 1 – 2 years, students transition to Texas A&M to complete their bachelor’s degree. The offer of admission to the Engineering Academy is made by Texas A&M University.</p>	<p>https://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/engineering/</p>

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Cooperative (Doctoral) Program	<p>The primary purpose of a cooperative doctoral degree is to meet an identified unmet need in a <i>particular region</i> and to increase the capacity of the degree-granting institution (DGI) through an arrangement with the cooperating institution (CI). Sole responsibility of the program rests with the degree-granting institution. The DGI has full responsibility for maintaining the quality of the program, including but not limited to, the admission and advisement of students, selecting CI courses to be used in the program, assuring adequate library resources and equipment, selecting CI faculty to deliver instruction, monitoring internships, supervising graduate assistants, and supervising student research, including the dissertation. Examples of cooperative doctoral programs offered at TAMU include the PhD in Horticulture and the PhD in Hispanic Studies (both in cooperation with Texas A&M University – Kingsville).</p>	<p>THECB designation on the institution's Program Inventory and on the Degree Programs Table in the university catalogs - https://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/degree-information/#degreeprogramstablestext</p>
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