An Efficient Rubric for Cross-(college/departmental) Ph.D. Degrees

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Objective

Set the table to foster a culture of interdisciplinary education and research with minimal barriers and maximal visibility

- Prepare and promote agility in a student's career post OSU
- Signifiant intellectual and financial interest at boundaries between disciplines
- Over the years, gradual blurring of bright lines between disciplines
- Goal 1: Promote rigorous competence in more than one area at the graduate level
- Goal 2: Lower barriers to such credentialing (Dept X + Y)
- Goal 3: Dynamic and adaptable structure

- Minors and Interdisciplinary Specialization
  - Largely based on course work
  - Has little or nothing to do with research
- Interdisciplinary Graduate Program
  - Student graduates from a program
  - Requires *a-priori* commitments (between departments) and infrastructure
- Dual Degree
  - Two entirely different degrees
  - Separate set of requirements

Simple to implement rubric with very little overhead

- Department X designs requirements for
  - ⊙ Sole credentialing
  - ⊙ Primary credentialing
  - ⊙ Secondary credentialing
- Student chooses either sole or 2 departments with Major or Minor
- Credentials appear in the Degree & transcript

Exemplar: Dept X Ph.D. program

- Sole:
  - Qualifying Exam: Competency in 4 areas
  - Courses: 36 credits post B.S in Dept X
- Primary:
  - Qualifying Exam: Competency in 3 areas
  - Courses: 24 credits post B.S. in Dept X
- Secondary:
  - Qualifying Exam: Competency in 2 areas
  - Courses: 12 credits post B.S. in Dept X
- Guidance committee and candidacy: At least one from both departments
- Thesis: One thesis that contains components of both departments

- In the second year, a student admitted to the primary program
    - ⊙ A typical student would have finished their qualifier
    - ⊙ Identifies primary thesis advisor
    - ⊙ Identifies secondary advisor
    - ⊙ Provides the primary and secondary departments with rationale for Dual degrees
    - ⊙ Provides tentative plan of study and potential members of the guidance committee
- Approval from graduate chairs of the two departments
- Coded in the system as a dual Ph.D (this can be done per registrar)

- Students
  - ⊙ Credentialing in both departments
  - ⊙ Well defined framework for interdisciplinary education
  - ⊙ Fosters enquiry at boundaries
- Departments
  - ⊙ Rigorous per department needs
  - ⊙ Local control of execution
  - ⊙ Enables building bridges without excessive approval chains
  - ⊙ Makes our grad programs more competitive
  - ⊙ Fluid and dynamic
  - ⊙ Can be expanded to other graduate degrees