

Policy approved by the Graduate Council this spring (2017):

Students may enroll for a second PhD degree if they have previously obtained a PhD from OSU or elsewhere. However, OSU discourages the concurrent pursuit of two PhDs; a special exemption is required for concurrent pursuit of dual PhD degrees and should include consultation with the Graduate School Dean, written approval by each graduate program, and a clear written individual development plan for completion of all aspects of both programs with timelines. In the case of a student pursuing a concurrent or consecutive second PhD degree, all requirements for each PhD must be met, including but not limited to: successful completion of separate prelim exams, separate theses with no overlap, separate final defense exams, separate thesis committees (although some, but not complete, overlap between committee members would be acceptable), separate major advisors, and all other requirements for each degree program. Courses from one PhD degree relevant to the second degree may be allowed to transfer between the two degrees. However, the student's program of study committee must approve all course transfers and should pay particular attention to the relevancy, overlap, and currency of any courses to be transferred from one PhD degree to another.

Changes to approved policy recommended by the EC:

Students may enroll for a second PhD degree if they have previously obtained a PhD from OSU or elsewhere. Concurrent pursuit of dual PhD degrees is not allowed. In the case of a student pursuing a second PhD degree, requirements for the second PhD must be met without overlap with the first PhD degree including, but not limited to: successful completion of a second preliminary exam, a separate thesis with no overlap with the first PhD thesis, a final defense exam for the second PhD, a different major advisor from the first PhD, a thesis committee of different faculty than the first PhD degree (although some, but not complete, overlap between committee members would be acceptable in the case of two PhD degrees from OSU), and all other requirements for the second PhD degree program. Courses from the first PhD degree relevant to the second degree may be allowed to transfer between the two degrees. However, the student's program of study committee must approve all course transfers, should pay particular attention to the relevancy, overlap, and currency of any courses to be transferred from one PhD degree to another, and are advised to proceed conservatively when approving course transfers from a first PhD to a second PhD degree.