

John A. Burns School of Medicine
University of Hawai'i

**Admissions Policy for Medical Students:
Dual Degree (MD/Graduate and Professional) Programs**
(Revised March 1998)
Effective June 1, 1998

Background: Previous "Dual Degree" policies were established at a time when there was a concern among graduate programs that students enrolled in their programs who were accepted to the MD Program would then withdraw and not complete their degree requirements, resulting in a drain on program resources. Since this is no longer a concern, and students have, for the most part, obtained dual degrees sequentially, the policy is being revised to reflect the current situation. Note that this policy is not intended to discourage students with a strong research orientation from pursuing research training or graduate degrees and its sole intent is to maintain the highest academic standards for medical training in this medical school.

POLICY STATEMENT: Students applying to or enrolled in the MD Program wishing to obtain another degree must adhere to the following:

1. Students applying to the MD Program while enrolled in a graduate program will not be required to have completed their graduate program prior to starting the MD curriculum.
2. Students accepted into the MD Program while concurrently enrolled in a graduate program is hereby advised of the following:
 - a) Courses taken towards the MD degree cannot be used to fulfill credit requirements in a concurrent graduate program, nor can courses completed in a graduate program fulfill any requirements for the MD degree.
 - b) No courses or coursework external to the MD Program can be undertaken during Unit 1 and students must adhere to the Electives Policy governing courses external to the MD curriculum in Units 2-5.
 - c) Students in concurrent programs must meet all the performance standards for both programs and be available for all classes required by the MD program, except as set out in section d, below.
 - d) Students may petition for a Leave of Absence from the MD Program to complete coursework or research requirements for the graduate degree to the Student Standing and Promotion Committee, who shall advise the Dean concerning the reasonability and appropriate duration of the Leave. The Dean will make and communicate his decision to the student.
 - e) Students who experience academic difficulty in the MD Program shall be held to the policy governing Student Standing and Promotion, regardless of their status in the graduate program.

(continued)

3. No student shall enter a concurrent graduate program after acceptance into the MD Program except with written permission of the Dean, following careful evaluation of the student's past academic record and future plans by the Student Standing and Promotion Committee. Failure to obtain prior approval shall be considered grounds for dismissal from the medical school.

Passed by the Executive Committee: January 8, 1988

Revised and approved by the Executive Committee: March 13, 1998

Accepted by:

Sherrel L. Hammar, MD 3/16/98
Sherrel L. Hammar, Acting Dean date

OSA: 3/98