

TO: Deans, Chairs, Graduate Advisors
FROM: Philip Cohen, Dean Graduate Studies
RE: Admission of Students with 3+2 Degrees
DATE: May 4, 2007

A substantial number of international students apply for graduate studies at UT Arlington having completed a 3+2 program that grants them both a bachelor's and master's degree. These degree tracks are especially common in India. We anticipate the number of these applicants will increase when European countries participating in the Bologna Accords begin to graduate increasing numbers of students under the guidelines of that agreement.

Our past policy has been to admit 3+2 students only at the master's level on the grounds that they have not completed the equivalent of a U.S. bachelor's degree plus a U.S. master's degree at the time of application. We recently reviewed that policy and investigated practices of other graduate programs in Texas. As a result, we feel our current policy is due for revision.

Admitting programs may now make a case-by-case decision whether a particular 3+2 student should be admitted at the master's or doctoral level. Programs may elect to admit 3+2 students into their doctoral programs directly if their admissions review indicates the student has completed the three year bachelor's and two year master's degree in the same area of study--e.g. they earned a bachelor's and a master's in Chemistry—and if they determine that the master's degree is equivalent to a U.S. master's degree. The decision to admit a 3+2 student as a doctoral student must be indicated on the admission worksheet in the section reserved for advisor's comments. The Office of Graduate Studies will admit the student at the master's degree level unless the recommendation to admit as a doctoral student is clearly recorded on the worksheet.

In instances where the three year bachelor's degree and the two year master's degree are in different areas--e.g., a bachelor's degree in Biology and a master's degree in Chemistry--or in situations where a program's admission review suggests the student has not completed the equivalent of a U.S. masters degree, we will allow up to 9 transfer credit hours as designated by the admitting program to count toward the UT Arlington master's degree.

This policy takes effect immediately.