

Yale University

JOINT DEGREE PROGRAM AGREEMENT

Joint Degree Program in the School of Nursing and the Divinity School

In recognition of the relationship between nursing and religious studies, the Yale School of Nursing and the Yale Divinity School offer a joint degree program in nursing and divinity. This option, established in 2003, is especially oriented to individuals who wish to combine careers in advanced nursing practice and social ministry that might involve direct practice, planning, and policy making and religious ministry in a variety of health care systems. There are two joint degree options between the Divinity School and the School of Nursing. The first option, a joint degree leading to the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) and the Master of Arts in Religion (MAR), requires a minimum of three years of study (four years for students in the Graduate Entry Pre-specialty in Nursing [GEPN]). The second option, a joint degree leading to the MSN and Master of Divinity (MDiv), requires a minimum of four years of study (five years for GEPN students) and is designed for those students who wish to prepare for the lay or ordained ministries of the Christian churches.

A joint degree is more than simply a list of courses taken at both Schools. It is an integrated educational program which is designed to achieve a combination of the two programs in a way that is complementary to both while protecting the integrity of each separate program. YSN students in any of the clinical specialties, except for Nurse Midwifery (this program is not available for Nurse Midwifery students due to competing scheduling demands), may apply for the joint degree program. Study in one of the following Divinity School MAR Concentrations is most appropriate for the joint MSN/MAR degree: Comprehensive, Ethics, Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies in Religion, or Black Religion in the African Diaspora.

ADMISSIONS

Admissions decisions are made independently by the Divinity School and the School of Nursing. Students are required to apply simultaneously to both schools. Applicants must indicate on each application form that they are applying to the joint degree program. This joint degree program is not open to YSN students enrolled in or applying to the Nurse Midwifery Specialty.

CURRICULUM

For the MSN/MAR joint degree

The normal pattern for this joint degree requires candidates to spend the entire first year almost exclusively in one school and the entire second year almost exclusively in the other. In the third year, they register for one semester in each school, and complete both programs by the end of that year. The two schools have made accommodations in order to make possible the completion of the joint courses of study in a streamlined fashion; with careful planning and credit overloads, students can normally complete the joint degree in one year less than would be required to complete both degrees independently.

Joint Program Sequence:

For students entering the GEPN program the joint degree program with the M.A.R. requires four full time academic years. GEPN program students are required to complete the first year of the four year program at the Divinity School, followed by years two and three at YSN (with Divinity School electives as schedules permit) and in the final (fourth) year, courses are taken at both schools.

For RNs entering the MSN program, the joint degree program with the M.A.R. requires three full time academic years. RN students entering the MSN program (except for Midwifery) also are required to begin their first full time academic year at the Divinity School. The second year is spent in full time study at YSN (with elective courses taken at the Divinity School), while the third year is spent taking courses at both schools.

Course planning for joint degree candidates should be carried out in consultation with the appropriate educational officers, as well as faculty advisors at the School of Nursing and the Divinity School, and must satisfy the following general requirements:

For the MSN/MDiv joint degree

The normal pattern for this joint degree requires candidates to spend the entire first two years almost exclusively at the Divinity School and the entire third year almost exclusively at the Nursing School. In the fourth year, students register for one semester in each school, and complete both programs by the end of the fourth year.

Course planning for joint degree candidates should be carried out in consultation with the appropriate educational officers, as well as faculty advisors at the School of Nursing and the Divinity School, and must satisfy the following general requirements:

The Divinity School Component

Joint degree candidates must complete all Area and other required courses as described in the Divinity School Bulletin. Some courses taken at the Nursing School may meet requirements at the Divinity School, but specifics must be negotiated with the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs and the student's faculty advisor.

The total number of Divinity School credit hours for the MDiv joint degree is reduced from 72 to 60. The total number of Divinity School credit hours for the MAR joint degree is reduced from 48 to 36.

The Nursing Component

Joint degree candidates must complete all School of Nursing required courses contained in their specialty Plan of Study as described in the School of Nursing Bulletin. The total number of credits in the joint degree program will vary, depending upon the student's specialty choice, but a minimum of 40 credits is required for the MSN degree (80.9 credits are required for students in the GEPN program). Some courses taken at the Divinity School may meet

requirements at the School of Nursing, but specifics must be negotiated with the Associate Dean of Student Affairs at the Nursing School and the student's Specialty Director at YSN.

ADVISEMENT

The School of Nursing and the Divinity School has established the following procedures for advisement of joint degree students. They are:

- Each student will work with their Specialty Director at the School of Nursing and their advisor at the Divinity School.
- The students will submit to the faculty advisor, Specialty Director and the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs (YDS) and Associate Dean of Student Affairs (YSN) a program plan containing the following information:
 - The student's reason for undertaking a joint degree.
 - A description of how the student will meet the expectations of the joint degree.
 - Identification of the advisor and Specialty Director from both schools.
- The faculty advisor and Specialty Director collaboratively will review the process periodically with the student.

TRANSCRIPTS

A joint degree student will have a transcript at the School of Nursing and a transcript at the Divinity School. Each transcript will list the courses required for the respective school's portion of the joint degree, as well as elective courses. Each course taken may only be counted toward one degree. The joint degree status will be reflected on the student's transcript.

JOINT AND SEPARATE GOVERNANCE

The School of Nursing and the Divinity School shall share information on each joint student's status. Information to be shared includes registration status, course enrollments and grades, disciplinary actions, and any other information that is normally a part of a student's record. In addition, the academic officers of the two programs may share other information that they believe to be relevant to understanding a student's overall performance.

School of Nursing and the Divinity School shall jointly apply their rules governing a student's conduct. A charge of academic dishonesty in a course shall normally be handled by the school in which the course is offered.

A charge of general misconduct not related to a particular course or to an event in one of the schools shall normally be handled by the program in which the student is currently registered. Jurisdiction of any case may be transferred if the disciplinary officials or committees of both schools agree. The final determination of fact, and any penalty, shall be communicated to the appropriate officials of both schools. A penalty of suspension, expulsion, or loss of course credit shall apply to both schools.

TUITION AND FINANCIAL AID

Joint degree candidates will owe tuition to the Divinity School or the School of Nursing. For the MSN/MAR degrees, the students will pay tuition to the School of Nursing for three terms (six terms if they are in the GEPN program) and the Divinity School for three terms. For the MSN/MDiv degrees, the student will pay tuition for three terms (six in the GEPN program) to the School of Nursing and five terms in the Divinity School.

Tuition is paid to the school where the student is in primary residence. Students requesting financial aid during a particular term must make arrangements with the school charging tuition during that term. Tuition, fees, and financial aid policies may differ between the two schools. Financial aid applications will be judged by each school according to its own policy. Students should consult the financial aid officers in each school for a description of their respective policies.

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