

## Policy on Cross-Level Linked Courses

The Graduate Council supports the limited use of Cross-Level Linked Courses (CLLC). Cross-Level Linked Courses refer to two courses, one undergraduate and one graduate, which are offered concurrently, in the same place, with the same instructor. Cross-Level Linked Courses supported by the Graduate Council include 400/500 and 400/600 courses. The Graduate Council does not recognize or support 300/600 level courses after the spring 2024 semester. The Graduate Council encourages the general practice of having separate and distinct undergraduate and graduate courses that are not linked in most circumstances but recognizes that CLLCs may be used on a limited basis if measures are in place that identify how the undergraduate and graduate courses differ. As such, the two courses must have a separate syllabus and address all the following:

1. The graduate course must result in a deeper understanding of the course material compared to the undergraduate course with which it is Cross-level Linked.
2. The graduate course assignments must differ from those of the undergraduate course in quality/depth/rigor, and quantity. This could include a difference in reading assignments, course textbooks, projects, or assignment scope.
3. The graduate course should include greater opportunities for independent study.
4. The graduate course must have learning objectives that are written with a higher level of expectation (e.g., Bloom's Taxonomy). For instance, a greater focus on analysis, evaluation, and creation.
5. The assessment or evaluation of student performance (e.g., examination, written assignments, presentations, applied projects) should be different both qualitatively and quantitatively.
6. Course outcomes should reflect a clear distinction of academic preparation of the graduate students compared to the undergraduate students.
7. The graduate course must be commensurate in academic rigor with other graduate-level courses offered by the program or department.
8. Prerequisites should be appropriate for each course.

The existing CLLC's may continue to run through Spring 2025; however, a continuation of these CLLCs after that time will require Graduate Council approval. All requests for new Cross-Level Linked Courses will require submission of *GC#11 Cross-Level Linked Courses Addition* form and both syllabi, which clearly address the above requirements. The program must also provide a rationale for why Cross-Level Linked Courses are required and why distinct undergraduate and graduate courses are not practical.

Requests for CLLCs will follow the normal approval process for course additions (i.e., approval by the Department Chairperson, Register, College Curriculum Committee, and the Graduate Council); however, the Graduate Council Chairperson and the Assistant Provost for Graduate Studies may collectively approve short-term (one academic year) emergency requests. New course requests must be submitted on the Graduate Council *GC#11 Cross-Level Linked Course Addition* request form. Cross-Level Linked Courses may include 300/500, 400/500, and 400/600 levels.

**Approved by the Graduate Council on February 23, 2024**