

Student Initiated Doctoral Program Requirements

Also referred to as SIDP or IIDP

Student-Initiated Doctoral Programs provide students with the opportunity to combine studies from two Ph.D. programs, which will lead to a single Ph.D. citation. Due to the depth and breadth of study inherent to these programs, only those students whose performance is considered to be strong academically should be encouraged to apply.

The following conditions apply to the Student-Initiated Doctoral Program:

1. The student must have been admitted to a Rackham Ph.D. program and completed at least one term of coursework with a cumulative “B” or better grade point average.
2. The application should be completed the semester before a student plans to become a candidate. NOTE: If a student is currently a candidate they will return to pre-candidate status once the SIDP/IIDP is approved.
3. The Graduate Chair from each department should assist the student in developing his or her degree program.

The Role of Advisors: Advisors help students to understand the goals for the program and the nature of the milestones to degree completion. Students will rely on advisors who understand how the requirements in both fields fit together.

Advisors are responsible for:

- a.) supervising student's pre-candidacy work, including recommendations for any changes that may be desired in the specifications for the student's degree program;
- b.) conducting preliminary examinations, determining the nature of the examinations (or an examination) and how the prelim(s) will examine the student's proficiency in each area; and
- c.) recommending the student for Candidacy with both programs approving the recommendation in the online system.

The Dissertation Committee: A minimum of two faculty members from each program is required. Co-chairs and a Cognate member are not required.

Program Approval: When the SIDP/IIDP program is approved by Rackham, the student, both program graduate coordinators and all program approvers (from page 4) will receive a copy of the application by email. It may take several weeks to process a SIDP/IIDP application.

Application Requirements

Statement of Purpose: This should be a thoughtful description of the program that you are proposing, how it will benefit you, and why it is not possible for you to acquire the desired educational background in your existing program alone. **Attach this statement.**

Funding Agreement: Year-by-year agreement approved by both programs for arrangements to provide full-funding. **Attach this statement.**

Ph.D. Program Requirement List or Handbook: Copies of current departmental brochures that describe the requirements for both programs. **Attach this statement.**

Program Specifications for Doctoral Degree Programs:

- A. Courses Required:** For doctoral students there are no specific Rackham course requirements other than the minimum 18 credit hours of coursework-in-residence (including 3 hours of cognate coursework), but the proposed program of study should reflect the majority of the requirements of each participating department. List the courses that you have taken or plan to take that will satisfy these requirements.
- B. Work Experience and Language Requirement (if applicable):** For both programs.
- C. Qualifying and Preliminary Examinations:** If either or both of your proposed programs require a qualifying exam, explain the nature of the exam(s) you will take to fulfill this requirement. Specify whether or not you will be subject to any or all of the standard doctoral preliminary examinations of both departments or if you will be subject to a preliminary examination prepared and administered by your advisors (or your Dissertation Committee if one has been appointed). Briefly describe the nature of the exam(s) you will take to satisfy this requirement.
- D. Waiver or Exceptions:** Specify in full detail any waivers of requirements or exceptions made from each program.



Application Checklist:

- _____ Statement of Purpose
- _____ Year-by-year agreement approved by both programs for arrangements to provide full-funding
- _____ Copies of departmental brochures describing the requirements for each program
- _____ Application to outline course and program requirements (pages 2-3)
- _____ Approval form with all required signatures (page 4)

Student Initiated Doctoral Program Approval Form

Student Name: _____ **Student ID Number:** _____

Advisors Approval: Secure approval of the program specifications from *faculty advisors* in both departments who assisted in the development of the Student-Initiated Doctoral Program.

	Graduate Program	Advisor's Name	Advisor's Signature	Email
#1	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
#2	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Admission Approval: Secure approval of admission to the degree program in each department from *the Graduate Chair*, on the basis of the program specifications as outlined in the request for the Student-Initiated Doctoral Program application.

	Graduate Program	Grad Chair's Name	Grad Chair's Signature	Email
#1	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
#2	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Approval by Rackham Graduate School:

Signature of Dean or Designate

Date