

On March 19, 2018 the University Senate established a new category of professional degree, at the Master's level, that is as distinct from a graduate research/scholarship Master's degree, as is a professional practice doctorate is distinct from a research scholarship doctorate. This definitional distinction was settled at that time by the Senate in the Senate Rules Glossary.

9.11. MASTER'S DEGREE

A Master's degree is an award that requires the successful completion of an academic program of at least 30 semester credit hours or the equivalent at the postbaccalaureate, graduate, **or** professional level. One type of master's degree, that includes the Master of Arts and Master of Science, is awarded for advanced scholarship, whereas a second type of master's degree is awarded for completion of a professional program (definition accords with U.S. Dept. of Education, SACSCOC and KY CPE, see also 9.14). [US: 3/19/2018]

9.14. PROFESSIONAL DEGREE

9.14.1 PROFESSIONAL MASTER'S DEGREE

A professional master's degree program consists of two years of nonthesis academic training in a concentrated science, mathematics, technology or other area and contains a professional component that may include internships and cross-training in business, management, regulatory affairs, computer applications, and communications. The program is designed with the input of one or more employers. The educational content of these programs is as distinct from a graduate research/scholarship Master's as are professional practice doctorates (SR 9.14.2) distinct from research/scholarship doctorates. [US: 3/19/2018]

9.14.2 DOCTORAL DEGREE—PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE

A doctoral degree—professional practice is awarded upon completion of a program providing the knowledge and skills for the recognition, credential, or license required for professional practice. The total time to the degree, including both pre-professional and professional preparation, equals at least six full-time equivalent academic years.

Some of these degrees were formerly classified as "first professional." [US: 3/19/2018]

At its April 10, 2018 meeting, the Senate Rules and Elections Committee interpreted the "or" in the above academic definition in the Senate Rules of this new category of degree:

"The SREC noted that this new category of Professional Master's Degree **is neither an undergraduate degree nor a graduate Master's degree**. The latter, as a research/scholarship degree, is subject to academic policy architecture of the Graduate Faculty Rules. The SREC also noted that the only academic policy architecture that the March 19, 2018 Senate action placed into the Senate Rules around this new category of degree is that proposals for this new degree will be reviewed by the Graduate Council and the Senate Academic Programs Committee."

"The SREC noted the enthusiasm of the Provost for the category 'Professional Master's Degree,' and the SREC anticipates proposals for such degrees will be coming forward to the Senate, perhaps in large numbers. The SREC recommends that the Senate Council have substantive discussions and determinations on the missing aspects of academic policy architecture... "

Motion: (Wood/moved, Grossman second). **SREC will refer this policy matter to Senate Council with the recommendation that the Senate Council have substantive discussions and determinations on the missing aspects of academic policy architecture. Approved unanimously.**

By way of transmitting the present correspondence to the Senate Council, the SREC Chair here formally refers this policy matter to the Senate Council, for SC consideration of how to best effectuate the above recommended policy discussions – Davy Jones