Policy Clarification

Cash Assistance – All - PCA-22621-135

Employment & Training – All - EPP-22621-135

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program – All – PFS-22621-535

Submitted: **October 9, 2026** **Agency: CAOs**

Subject: **Dual Bachelor's and Master's Degree Program Students**

Question: **Are County Assistance Offices (CAOs) able to support vocational educational activities when participants are enrolled in a joint undergrad-graduate program (e.g., Bachelor of Arts/Master of Arts, Bachelor of Science/Master of Science)?**

Response By: BEP **Date: October 9, 2026**

Yes. While Pennsylvania cannot support the specific vocational education activity of obtaining a master's degree, pursuing an associate or bachelor's degree is an allowable vocational education activity. Therefore, the CAO may support an individual enrolled in a dual bachelor's and master's degree program by counting the activity as allowable for Cash Road to Economic Self-Sufficiency through Employment and Training and/or Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Employment and Training and authorizing Special Allowances until the bachelor's degree is awarded. This includes scenarios where master's level courses are taken concurrently with undergraduate classes.