PROPOSAL FOR A CO-DEGREE MASTERS PROGRAM

Proposed Combined Undergraduate-Graduate Degree (Co-Degree Masters) Program

This proposal describes foundational requirements for an OSU undergraduate or graduate degree program should the program choose to develop a combined undergraduate-masters-degree program in which undergraduate students apply to a masters program during their junior year. Students typically would begin some of their graduate coursework and thesis or project work during their senior year. Completion of the program allows the student both a bachelors and masters degree to be conferred. Participation by individual programs is entirely voluntary, and we propose this as a 3-year pilot to assess interest and success. Any programs deciding to participate in this co-degree program may set their own requirements for their program to be more restrictive than what is described in this proposal.

Foundational Requirements

Outstanding undergraduate OSU students who have completed 105 of their required 180 credits toward their degree with an overall GPA of 3.25 or better are eligible to apply to an OSU co-degree masters program during the winter term of their junior year. The masters program will notify co-degree applicants of admissions decisions during spring term. Accepted students will matriculate into the masters program during the following fall term. With careful planning students can then complete a masters degree within 1 year beyond completion of the bachelors. Students admitted to the co-degree program must maintain a GPA of 3.0 or better throughout their undergraduate and masters degree programs or they will be subject to dismissal from the co-degree program.

Successful applicants are allowed to apply up to 9 credits of graduate coursework (taken for a letter grade and not including blanket-numbered courses) taken as an undergraduate to both their undergraduate and masters degrees. An illustration of how this would work for an undergraduate program requiring 180 credit hours is shown in Figure 1.

![Diagram](image.png)

Figure 1: Example of how 9 credits would count towards both undergraduate and graduate programs for a 180-credit hour undergraduate program
These 9 credits are deducted from the allowed 15 transfer credits for students who have transferred into OSU. Only credits with letter grades of B (3.00) or better may be counted for graduate credit. In addition, those students in the Honors College or in other undergraduate programs that require a thesis, may use the thesis as a step toward completion of the masters thesis. However, the undergraduate thesis would not serve as a replacement for a masters thesis.

Admission to the co-degree masters program is not automatic and will be competitive with students applying directly to the program. Students must identify a graduate advisor prior to application to the program. Students requiring a thesis for their degree must have a professor who agrees to serve as the thesis advisor prior to application. For honors students, this may be the student’s honors thesis advisor. For students in non-thesis masters programs, the graduate advisor must be willing to work with the student to guide the scheduling of required coursework.

TOEFL and ID portfolios are not required but the following are required:

- Online application via the Graduate School website
- A co-degree study proposal or coursework plan of study signed by the graduate advisor for non-thesis masters programs or graduate thesis advisor for masters programs with thesis.
- Statement of Purpose essay of 2-3 pages. This must include the details of the graduate plan of study and, for programs with a thesis, the masters thesis topic.
- Three letters of recommendation from individuals knowledgeable of the student’s academic background and potential for success in a graduate degree program.
- Transcripts from all undergraduate institutions attended.

Students enrolled in a co-degree program would be eligible for financial aid (Pell Grant) until they complete their undergraduate degree. Once the undergraduate degree requirements were met, the student typically would be supported on a Teaching or Research Assistantship or they would pay graduate tuition and fees. The bachelors degree will be conferred after all requirements for the bachelors degree are met; the masters degree will be conferred after all requirements for the masters degree are met.

**Assessment of Pilot Program**

The Graduate School, the Office of Academic Programs, Assessment and Accreditation, and the Graduate and Curriculum Councils will assess the success of the program after 3 years. Indicators of success will include, but not be limited to, number of programs participating, enrollment trends in each program for both co-degree and direct admits, time to degrees, and degree completion rates.
Additional Background on Programs at Other Universities:

Cal Poly: [http://me.calpoly.edu/about/degree-programs/graduate/](http://me.calpoly.edu/about/degree-programs/graduate/) up to 8 units of undergraduate technical electives may be double-counted towards the masters requirements

Southern Methodist: [http://www.smu.edu/Lyle/Departments/EMIS/Programs/41MastersDegree](http://www.smu.edu/Lyle/Departments/EMIS/Programs/41MastersDegree) Up to nine (9) SCH of graduate course work can be applied towards the undergraduate degree requirements.

Western Carolina: [http://www.wcu.edu/6589.asp](http://www.wcu.edu/6589.asp) Up to nine (9) SCH of graduate course work can be applied towards the undergraduate degree requirements.

Claremont Graduate University [http://www.cgu.edu/pages/623.asp](http://www.cgu.edu/pages/623.asp) variable credits double counted depending on program – 16 credits is the maximum

Duke University [http://meng.pratt.duke.edu/4plus1](http://meng.pratt.duke.edu/4plus1) four departmental graduate courses taken during the senior year can toward the MEng degree.

Tulane [http://tulane.edu/sse/psyc/academics/graduate/masters-program.cfm](http://tulane.edu/sse/psyc/academics/graduate/masters-program.cfm) Up to 6 graduate credit hours may count toward the bachelors and the M.S. degree.

University of Delaware [http://www.ce.udel.edu/current/graduate_program/4plus1.pdf](http://www.ce.udel.edu/current/graduate_program/4plus1.pdf) Up to 6 credits of graduate course work (600 level and above) taken while a senior, may be “dual-counted” towards the Bachelor’s and the Master’s degrees.

Purdue [https://ag.purdue.edu/foodsci/Pages/4plus1_program.aspx](https://ag.purdue.edu/foodsci/Pages/4plus1_program.aspx)

Arizona State University [http://sbhse.engineering.asu.edu/academics/accelerated-degree/](http://sbhse.engineering.asu.edu/academics/accelerated-degree/) It allows students to SHARE up to nine credit hours between their bachelor’s and master’s degrees, and RESERVE up to nine hours to use later in their graduate program.

University of Florida [http://www.admissions.ufl.edu/ugrad/combdegree.html](http://www.admissions.ufl.edu/ugrad/combdegree.html) Students who meet the combined-degree application requirements can enroll in 12 to 21 credits of approved graduate courses (depending on the major) during their junior and senior years. These credits will satisfy undergraduate degree requirements and, if admitted to graduate school at UF, they also will satisfy graduate degree requirements if the courses are completed with grades of B or better.

San Diego State University [http://www.engineering.sdsu.edu/mechanical/msme_4plus1.aspx](http://www.engineering.sdsu.edu/mechanical/msme_4plus1.aspx) students who plan to specialize in Design and Manufacturing can take as double counted classes two of the following courses

Washington University at St Louis [http://engineering.wustl.edu/DualDegreeProgram.aspx](http://engineering.wustl.edu/DualDegreeProgram.aspx)

Stanford University [http://gap.stanford.edu/4-2.html](http://gap.stanford.edu/4-2.html) no units may be double-counted
Rensselaer Polytech: http://srfs.rpi.edu/update.do?artcenterkey=291  credits applied to satisfying requirements of the undergraduate degree cannot be used to satisfy the requirements for the master's degree.

Vanderbilt University: http://as.vanderbilt.edu/academics/specialdegreeprograms/4plus1/ There is no double-counting of credits

University of Massachusetts Amherst: http://www.umass.edu/sphhs/public_health/academics/undergraduate/4plus1DegreeProgram.html

Florida State University: http://www.gradstudies.fsu.edu/Academics-Research/Degree-Programs/Combined-Bachelors-Masters-Degree-Programs double counting of up to 9 credits allowed in some programs.

Yale University: http://yalecollege.yale.edu/content/combined-bachelors-and-masters-degree-programs-professional-schools

SUNY Albany: http://www.albany.edu/undergraduate_bulletin/joint_degree.html Combined programs require a minimum of 138 credits and up to 12 graduate credits may be applied simultaneously to the requirements for the baccalaureate.

University of Maryland: http://www.provost.umd.edu/PCC_DOCUMENTS/DesignX_Combined.htm Normally no more than nine credits of graduate courses applied to the bachelor's degree may be counted also for graduate credit in an individual student program.

Northwestern University: http://www.tgs.northwestern.edu/academics/academic-programs/degree-programs/bachelors-masters/index.html

Miami University of Ohio: http://www.units.muohio.edu/reg/bulletins/GeneralBulletin2012-2013/combined-bachelors-and-masters-degree-program.htm Departments or programs with a combined degree may allow students to double-count up to 9 hours of graduate course work toward their undergraduate degree.

Rutgers: http://soe.rutgers.edu/oaa/BS-Masters-programs

Clemson: http://www.clemson.edu/ces/math/combined-bachelors-masters-program.html