PROPOSAL FOR THE ACCELERATED GRADUATE PLATFORM

Proposed Combined Undergraduate-Graduate Degrees through the Accelerated Graduate Platform

This proposal describes foundational requirements for an OSU undergraduate or graduate degree program should the program choose to develop a combined undergraduate-masters degree platform – the Accelerated Graduate Platform (AGP) – 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 AGP allows 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 of two admitted cohorts to assess interest and success. The Office of the Registrar will work with the Graduate School to create a Banner attribute to allow tracking of program participants. Any programs deciding to participate in this co-degree program may set their own requirements for their program, which allows programs 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 (or more for some undergraduate programs) toward their degree with an overall GPA of 3.25 or better are eligible to apply to an OSU Accelerated Graduate Platform 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 AGP.

Successful applicants are allowed to apply a maximum of three graduate courses (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. (Note that some undergraduate programs require more than 180 credit hours.)

![Figure 1: Example of how three 3-credit courses (9 credits) would count towards both undergraduate and graduate programs for a 180-credit hour undergraduate program](image-url)
The credits from these three courses 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 undergraduate thesis as a step towards completion of the masters thesis. However, the undergraduate thesis would not serve as a replacement for a required masters thesis.

Admission to the AGP is not automatic and will be competitive with students applying directly to the graduate program. Students must identify a graduate advisor prior to applying to the AGP. Students applying to a graduate program that requires a thesis for their masters 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 selected graduate advisor must be willing to work with the student to guide the scheduling of required coursework.

Applicants must meet English language proficiency standards per the Graduate Catalog. (link to http://catalog.oregonstate.edu/ChapterDetail.aspx?key=36#Section3831) The following steps must also be completed by all applicants to the AGP:

- Online application via the Graduate School website
- An AGP 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 statement must include, at a minimum, 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 an AGP will be eligible for financial aid (Pell Grant) until they complete their undergraduate degree. Once the undergraduate degree requirements are met, the student may be supported on a Teaching or Research Assistantship, or the student will 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 first two AGP cohorts after 3 years. Indicators of success will include, but are not limited to, number of programs participating, enrollment trends in each program for both AGP and direct admits, time to degree, and degree completion rates.
Additional Background on Programs at Other Universities:

Cal Poly: (link to 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: (link to 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: (link to http://www.wcu.edu/6589.asp) Up to 12 credit hours of these upper level courses can be transferred toward the 30 credit hour requirements of the M.S. program.

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

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

Tulane: (link to 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: (link to 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 (link to https://ag.purdue.edu/foodsci/Pages/4plus1_program.aspx)

Arizona State University: (link to 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: (link to 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: (link to 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 (link to http://engineering.wustl.edu/DualDegreeProgram.aspx)
Stanford University: (link to http://gap.stanford.edu/4-2.html) no units may be double-counted

Rensselaer Polytech: (link to 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: (link to http://as.vanderbilt.edu/academics/specialdegreeprograms/4plus1/) There is no double-counting of credits

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

Florida State University: (link to 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 (link to http://yalecollege.yale.edu/content/combined-bachelors-and-masters-degree-programs-professional-schools)

SUNY Albany: (link to 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: (link to 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 (link to http://www.tgs.northwestern.edu/academics/academic-programs/degree-programs/bachelors-masters/index.html)

Miami University of Ohio: (link to 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 (link to http://soe.rutgers.edu/oaa/BS-Masters-programs)

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