

## **Guidelines for Combined Bachelor's/Master's Degree Programs at MSU**

(Endorsed by the MSU Graduate Council)

The creation of a new combined BS/MS (or BA/MS) option for MSU degree programs will allow qualified MSU undergraduates to work on a bachelor's degree and a master's degree concurrently. This will allow the student to obtain the master's degree in less time than in the case where a student would complete the bachelor's before beginning work on the master's degree. Students in combined bachelor's/master's degree program will be allowed to double count selected courses to fulfill the requirements for the bachelor's and master's degrees.

### Admission

- Students may apply as early as the end of their sophomore year in college (60 hours or more of graded courses) for admission into the combined program. An application to graduate school could be made simultaneously with the application into the combined program or delayed to a later date. Each department which proposes a combined program will develop an admission process that identifies students in the combined program.
- Students must have an overall GPA of 3.5 on their undergraduate coursework to apply to the combined program.
- Individual departments may have additional requirements for the admission to the graduate program such as taking the GRE or GMAT.

### Program Specifics

- Students may double count up to nine hours for both the bachelor's and master's degrees. The double counting will work as follows: once the student is accepted into the combined program, the student and the advisor may select up to nine hours that will satisfy both undergraduate and graduate requirements. These courses may be split level or 8000 level classes. The student should take the course for graduate credit. After successfully completing the graduate-level class, the student and advisor will fill out a request to receive undergraduate credit for the course. After receiving the request, the Registrar will grant credit for the undergraduate course and give the same grade. For the case of a split-level class, the transcript will show both on the transcript. In the case of an 8000 level class, a special topics undergraduate course of the same title will be entered on the transcript or a "dummy" class created with the same name to allow dual credit.
- Before fulfilling the requirements for the bachelor's degree, a student can take no more than nine credit hours at the graduate level.
- This program will allow both thesis and non-thesis programs to be included.
- Students may opt out of the combined program at any time and complete only the undergraduate portion of the program. No additional dual counting of courses will occur after opting out.

### Degree Attainment and Classification of Students

- A student will receive the bachelor's degree after the requirements for the bachelor's degree have been met. Typically students will receive their bachelor's after the fourth year and the master's degree after their fifth year of study.
- Students will complete all of the requirements for both the bachelor's and master's degrees.

- Students are classified as undergraduates until fulfilling all the requirements for the undergraduate degree, at which point they are classified as a graduate student.

#### Approval of Proposals for a Combined Degree Program

- A proposal to offer a combined program will need approval by the UCCC and the Graduate Council.

*Submitted by: J. Gilbert*