

Dual/Accelerated Bachelor's to Master's Degree Program Guidelines
(Program approved by Graduate Council on 2/1/2007; Latest procedural revision 12/18)

1. Nature and Rationale

The Dual/Accelerated Bachelor's to Master's Degree Program offers the opportunity for students to advance their careers in a significant way by pursuing the Bachelor's and Master's degrees in a parallel and coordinated program. Graduate education involves a close working relationship between a student and a Graduate Faculty mentor, and the Dual/Accelerated Degree Program develops this relationship early in a student's career. Doctoral degrees are excluded from this dual program.

2. Procedures for Submitting the Degree Program Proposal

Graduate programs are able to develop program specific guidelines for recruiting potential undergraduates and current undergraduates into the Dual/Accelerated Degree Program. These guidelines should outline any deviations from the standard undergraduate program and the standard graduate program, as these are considered in the Dual Degree Program. One deviation from the standard programs may be the possibility of including a limited number of *joint-degree hours* that are applied to both the Bachelor and Master degrees. These joint degree hours may be at the 500-800 level. Programs may use up to 9 hours in a 30-hour graduate program and up to 12 hours in a 36-hour graduate program. If this deviation is requested, joint-degree hours may not be workshop courses, undergraduate core curriculum courses, cooperative education courses, or courses that are prerequisites for the graduate program. The curriculum change form may include a list of courses that are eligible or should not be eligible for the joint credit.

The specific program proposal requires approval through the regular curriculum change process to the level of the Vice President for Academic Affairs (including review and approval by the Graduate Council).

3. Minimum Program Guidelines

Initial admission to the Dual/Accelerated Degree Program occurs soon after the program area identifies the candidate. This typically occurs during the first semester of the junior year, but may occur anytime after the student has completed 60 hours of undergraduate work. Minimum standards for initial admission require a cumulative undergraduate G.P.A. that is at least equal to the program's minimum admission requirement. After initial admission, continuation in the program requires good standing at the undergraduate and graduate (when available) level. Individual departments may require additional admissions criteria including a higher admission G.P.A.

Undergraduate students apply for Bachelor's to Master's Programs using the regular Graduate School admission process (including paying the Graduate School application fee). Students would normally apply for graduate admission at least one semester before the semester in which they plan to obtain credit at both the undergraduate and graduate level. Should the student meet the admission requirements set for the program, a tentative admission will be granted, pending the award of the bachelor's degree. Tentative graduate admission does not guarantee final admission to the graduate program. Final graduate admission is contingent upon the student meeting all the admission requirements in place for the graduate program at the time the Bachelor's degree is awarded. If a tentatively admitted student does not achieve final admission, the graduate work already completed will be moved to the undergraduate transcript.

Until the bachelor's degree is awarded, for each semester in which the student takes courses at the graduate and undergraduate level, a dual enrollment form (attached) must be completed which indicates the courses taken for graduate credit. The bachelor's degree may be awarded at any time following the completion of the undergraduate degree requirements and completion of the joint-degree hours. Joint-degree hours show on both the graduate and undergraduate transcripts. Graduate course work taken in this

program must be completed within 10 years from the first grad level course that will be on the plan of study. Please note that some programs may require the degree to be completed in fewer than 10 years. Consult the program section of the catalog (or with the chair/graduate coordinator) to determine if your program has a shorter time frame for degree completion.

Students in a Dual/Accelerated Degree Program may not hold a graduate assistantship until after the Bachelor's degree is awarded, and the student is fully admitted to the graduate program. For the purpose of requesting exceptions to program and university regulations, students in a Dual/Accelerated Degree Program are considered undergraduates and thus proceed through the undergraduate processes until the Bachelor's degree is awarded.