

## **Combined-Degree Programs Graduate Credit for Undergraduates**

An undergraduate/graduate combined-degree program provides an opportunity for an undergraduate student to begin working toward a masters degree in his/her senior year, and to complete the bachelors and masters degrees in less combined time than it would take to complete them separately; it is an accelerated program designed for high-performing students. A student must meet the academic standards defined below and be accepted to participate in the combined-degree program.

Students pursuing both the bachelors' and masters' degrees at Wright State, or students, under partnership agreements, pursuing bachelors' degrees at other institutions and masters' degrees at Wright State, can participate in approved combined-degree programs. Departments, colleges, and other units wishing to create combined-degree programs must have proposals for those programs approved by the Graduate Council and UCAPC. Such proposals must be based on undergraduate and graduate programs already approved and offered—that is, a combined-degree program proposal cannot be used to create a new degree program.

When submitted, proposals must include:

- Title of the program and college/school and department responsible for administering the program.
- A description of existing requirements for both bachelors' and masters' degrees.
- A description of the proposed program requirements explaining how the program satisfies the requirements of both the bachelors' and masters' degrees.
- A list of graduate courses that will be allowed to count towards both bachelor's and master's degrees.
- Any additional eligibility requirements beyond the minimums described herein.
- Course inventory & course modification requests if courses are being created or modified as part of the proposal.
- Letters or statements of support from all potentially affected departments.
- A resource impact review, assessing the needs of the program pertaining to staffing, space, computer and library resources.

For a student enrolled in a combined-degree program, a maximum of 12 semester credit hours or 18 quarter credit hours of graduate level courses can be used to satisfy both the bachelor's and the master's degree requirements. Units proposing combined programs with a higher number of common credit hours will need to secure approval through the process described above. It is a general expectation that students will take graduate level courses only after attaining senior status as undergraduates; programs that wish to design a curriculum that differs from this expectation should make sure to explain their reasoning in the proposal.

To participate in a combined-degree program, students must meet all of the following qualifications:

- 3.2 cumulative grade point average on all undergraduate work, including undergraduate credits earned at other institutions and transferred to Wright State, upon attaining senior standing.
- Undergraduate advisor's approval.
- Permission of the chair of each department in which graduate credit is desired.

Students admitted into an approved combined degree program do not have to formally apply to take graduate courses. The Program Director of the combined degree program will forward to the School of Graduate Studies Admissions Office the names of the students that desire to take graduate courses for graduate credit. The School of Graduate Studies will make the appropriate arrangements with the Registrar's Office to allow these students to register for graduate credit. Students admitted to a combined degree program will be admitted as provisional graduate students to the School of Graduate Studies, pending completion of the requirements for their bachelors degree.

If students have studies in progress at the time permission to take dual-listed courses is requested for the next term, any approval of the application is provisional and based upon the meeting of all required standards at the end of the current term. Permission will be revoked upon failure to meet these standards.

Students who are pursuing an undergraduate degree at Wright State University or another accredited university may, under certain circumstances, take graduate courses for graduate or undergraduate credit outside of the combined-degree program. Students must complete the Senior Permission Form and obtain all required signatures. Reapplication is required for any subsequent period. In addition, students must indicate their desire for undergraduate or graduate credit. No changes will be granted to the type of credit selected after the course(s) have been completed. Courses taken for undergraduate credit may be applied, with the academic unit's approval, toward undergraduate degree requirements.

Non-degree undergraduate students are not permitted to register for graduate courses.

Approved: University Curriculum and Academic Policy Committee \_March 15, 2011\_

Approved: Graduate Council \_March 15, 2011\_

Approved: Faculty Senate \_May 2, 2011\_