Procedures for Obtaining Approval for Concurrent Undergraduate and Graduate Degree Programs

Concurrent undergraduate and graduate degree programs can provide opportunities for well-qualified ISU juniors and seniors to apply for a program leading to both a masters and bachelors degree at the end of a fifth year of study. Students interested in research may apply for a graduate research assistantship during their fourth and fifth years of study. Individualized concurrent degree programs are available.

The following material describes the procedures to obtain approval for a recognized concurrent undergraduate and graduate degree program when both the undergraduate and graduate majors have already been approved. For students pursuing a concurrent undergraduate bachelor’s degree and graduate degree, a maximum of 6 graduate credits can be double counted for both the bachelor’s degree and the graduate degree subject to the Program of Study committee approval.

The proposal will be reviewed by the Graduate Curriculum and Catalog Committee, by the Graduate Council, by the Graduate College, and by the Dean of the Graduate College.

The Proposal for Concurrent Degree Programs
The proposal for concurrent degree programs should include the following information:

1. Name of the programs or majors: Software Engineering (SE), Computer Engineering (CPRE)
2. Name of the degrees: BS (SE), MS (CPRE)
3. Name of the department(s) which administer(s) the program: ECpE
4. Rationale for the concurrent degree program: Many SE undergraduate students want to pursue an MS in CPRE.
5. Admission procedures and requirements:
   Students currently enrolled in either the undergraduate Software Engineering program at ISU and classified as a senior may be eligible to apply for Concurrent BS (SE)/MS (CPRE) or Concurrent BS (SE)/MEng (CPRE) degree program. For concurrent BS/MS admission, the student must have a cumulative GPA of 3.3 or better. For concurrent BS/MEng admission, the student must have accumulative GPA of 3.0 or better, and be within 18 credits of completing requirements for their bachelor’s degree. Application procedures are available on the ECpE website.

6. Requirements of the program:
   (a) Up to one (1) semester of concurrent enrollment is allowed (the semester in which the student has both undergraduate and graduate standing).
   (b) Up to six (6) credits of graduate level coursework taken while an undergraduate during the semester of concurrent enrollment may be double counted toward both their undergraduate and graduate program of study.
   (c) Up to nine (9) credits of graduate level coursework taken while an undergraduate that will NOT be counted toward their undergraduate program of study may be transferred; the coursework must have a grade of B or better.
   (d) Student will take at least three (3) credits of graduate level courses during concurrent enrollment.

7. Expected enrollment: 2-5 students per year

8. If not already addressed, answer the following:
   a. How will the undergraduate degree plan and graduate program of study be developed?
      Once the student is accepted into the concurrent program, ECpE graduate advising will help develop the PoS.
   b. When will the student have a major professor?
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Each student admitted to the concurrent BS/MS program will be assigned a temporary advisor (the DOGE). By the end of the second semester (the semester after the concurrent semester) the student must have a major professor.

c. Will graduate assistantships be provided?
The department does not guarantee graduate assistantships to MS or MEng students. However, students may apply for teaching assistantships, but MEng students are unlikely to receive financial aid. Major professors may offer research assistantships to qualified students.

d. Will a thesis be required?
The BS/MS program can be taken in one of two modes: thesis and non-thesis.

e. Who will be responsible for the administration of the program?
ECpE DOGE

f. How much time is required to complete the program? Show a sample semester-by-semester plan.
It is expected that students will complete the program within 3 semesters after graduation with a BS degree.
Please see the attached sample semester by semester plan

g. Will students be allowed to double count credits? If so, how many?
Yes. Up to 6 credits.

9. Attach memos showing approval by appropriate department and college committees, faculty, and administrators.

Please see the attached documents:
- Approval from the Software Engineering director, Dr. Akhilesh Tyagi
- Approval from the ECpE DOGE on behalf of the ECpE graduate committee
- Approval from the College of Engineering

10. Proposal Contact
ECpE DOGE (Dr. Ahmed Kamal)
kamal@iastate.edu
Concurrent SE/Cpr E MENG– Sample 1

SE/Cpr E 416 - Software Evolution and Maintenance - 3 credits*
SE/Com S 417 - Software Testing - 3 credits*
Cpr E 525 - Numerical Analysis of High Performance Computing - 3 credits
Cpr E 528 - Probabilistic Methods in Computer Engineering - 3 credits
Cpr E 546 - Wireless and Sensor Networks - 3 credits
Cpr E 557 - Computer Graphics and Geometric Modeling - 3 credits
Cpr E 558 - Real Time Systems - 3 credits
Cpr E 582 - Computer Systems Performance - 3 credits
Com S 573 - Machine Learning - 3 credits
Com S 572 - Principles of Artificial Intelligence - 3 credits

Concurrent SE/Cpr E MS (non-thesis) - Sample 2

SE/Com S 409 – Software Requirements Engineering – 3 credits*
SE 421X – Software Safety Analysis – 3 credits*
Cpr E 525 - Numerical Analysis of High Performance Computing – 3 credits
Cpr E 528 - Probabilistic Methods in Computer Engineering – 3 credits
Cpr E 550 - Distributed Systems and Middleware – 3 credits
Cpr E 554 - Distributed Systems – 3 credits
Cpr E 556 - Scalable Software Engineering – 3 credits
Cpr E 557 – Computer Graphics and Geometric Modeling – 3 credits
Com S 512 – Formal Methods in Software Engineering – 3 credits
Cpr E 599 – 3 credits

Concurrent SE/Cpr E MS (thesis) – Sample 3

Cpr E 458/558 – Real Time Systems – 3 credits*
Com S 509 – Software Requirements Engineering – 3 credits*
Cpr E 525 - Numerical Analysis of High Performance Computing – 3 credits
Cpr E 528 - Probabilistic Methods in Computer Engineering – 3 credits
Cpr E 550 - Distributed Systems and Middleware – 3 credits
Cpr E 554 - Distributed Systems – 3 credits
Cpr E 556 Scalable Software Engineering – 3 credits
Cpr E 699 – 9 credits

*double counted credits
Date: November 20, 2017

To: Ahmed Kamal, Director of Graduate Education, Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering

From: Akhilesh Tyagi, Professor-in-Charge of Software Engineering Program

Subject: Concurrent BS/MS for SE

Dear Professor Kamal,

The Software Engineering Bachelors of Science Program is seeing a large demand for a concurrent BS/MS program with a Master’s of Science in Computer Engineering. We would like to ask you to request the graduate college to create a formal arrangement. It has our full support.

Sincerely,

Akhilesh Tyagi

Akhilesh Tyagi
To:  Dr. William R. Graves  
      Dean  
      College of Graduate Studies  

From:  Ahmed E. Kamal  
        Director of Graduate Education  
        Electrical and Computer Engineering Department  

Subject: Concurrent BS (SE)/MS or MEng (CPRE) program  

The graduate committee of the ECpE department met on December 8, 2017 and discussed a proposal for a concurrent program BS in Software Engineering and MS or MEng in Computer Engineering. The graduate committee has unanimously approved and supports this proposal. As ECpE DOGE, I would like to request the approval of the Graduate College of this proposal.
January 18, 2018

Dr. William R. Graves  
Dean of the Graduate College  
Iowa State University

The College of Engineering is supportive of the concurrent degree program in Software Engineering (BS) and Computer Engineering (MS/MEng). This program underscores our commitment to providing the growing number of Software Engineering students with options to enhance their educational experiences at Iowa State. This option would also increase the visibility of our graduate and research programs in Computer Engineering.

Sincerely,

Sriram Sundararajan  
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs  
Professor of Mechanical Engineering  
Iowa State University