

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 BS majors

[Agricultural Economics, Economics](#)

2. Name of the degrees

[M.S. Agricultural Economics, M.S. Economics](#)

3. Name of the department(s) which administer(s) the program

[Department of Economics](#)

4. Rationale for the concurrent degree program:

[There is substantial demand for a 4 + 1 option among our majors, especially among those who arrived at ISU with a large number of credits \(e.g., ≥ 15\). The concurrent option would help students make more efficient use of their time at ISU, allow for closer integration between our BS and MS degrees, expand student placement opportunities, improve the visibility of our degree programs, and likely increase tuition revenue for the university. In addition, there are students in engineering, animal science, and other fields for whom an M.S. in Agricultural Economics or Economics offers expanded employment opportunities, and who possess the necessary technical skills to be successful in our programs.](#)

5. Admission procedures and requirements:

[Undergraduate students interested in the concurrent BS/MS program can formally apply in the spring semester of their junior year or later. The application process will follow the procedures established by the Graduate College for concurrent Bachelor's / MS degrees.](#)

[The Director of Graduate Education will make admission decisions based on a student's interests and academic records. The admission procedures will consider students' prior preparation to ensure they can take advantage of the accelerated pace of the concurrent enrollment program while applying the same academic criteria as the non-concurrent 1-year MS degree in Economics \(MSE\) and Agricultural Economics \(MSAE\). The DOGE will make admission recommendations to the Graduate College which makes the final admission decision.](#)

6. Requirements of the program

[Students will meet both the BS degree requirements and the MS requirements separately. Double-counting of credits will follow the relevant graduate college rules. In particular, we will allow up to 6 credits of 400-level economics coursework to be double-counted towards the concurrent BS and MS degrees.](#)

7. Expected enrollment:

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We anticipate annual enrollments of 8-15 students during the first 3 years, expanding over time as the programs become more visible.

8. If not already addressed, answer the following:
 - a. How will the undergraduate degree plan and graduate program of study be developed?
A student will develop the Program of Study (POS) with the Director of Undergraduate Studies and the MS Program Director.
 - b. When will the student have a major professor?
During the first semester of the MS portion of the program, typically in the fall semester after earning the BS degree.
 - c. Will graduate assistantships be provided?
No graduate assistantship will be considered for BS/MS concurrently enrolled students.
 - d. Will a thesis be required?
No, instead a creative component will be required.
 - e. Who will be responsible for the administration of the program?
The director of the MS program under the supervision of the Director of Graduate Education.
 - f. How much time is required to complete the program? Show a sample semester-by-semester plan.
The expected time to complete the BS/MS program is 5 years. A sample semester-by-semester plan is attached as an Excel file.
 - g. Will students be allowed to double count credits? If so, how many?
Concurrently enrolled students will be allowed to double-count 6 credits, consistent with Graduate College policy.
9. Attach memos showing approval by appropriate department and college committees, faculty, and administrators.
The economics department has voted unanimously in favor of the concurrent degree proposal (see attached). Votes by the LAS and CALS curriculum committees are pending.

10. Proposal Contact

Joshua L. Rosenbloom
Professor and Department Chair
Department of Economics
Iowa State University
Jrosenb@iastate.edu | 515-294-1257