

Graduate School Guidelines for 2+3 Programs

The 2+3 programs allow students to make a smooth transition from an undergraduate program into a Master's program and to complete both degrees with fewer total credit hours than would be required if they completed the two degrees independently. These programs represent a cooperative agreement between the Graduate School and the student's undergraduate College.

The main points are:

1. The Graduate School agrees to enroll the 2+3 students in the Graduate School prior to their receipt of a Bachelor's degree.
2. The undergraduate College/Department agrees to allow the students to count 12 to 15 credit hours of graduate courses toward the degree requirements for the Bachelor's degree.

The maximum number of credit hours of graduate work that can be applied to the Bachelor's degree is set by the undergraduate department. Currently, the number of graduate credit hours that can be counted toward the undergraduate degree varies from 12 to 15 hours. The Master's degree will be earned based on the normal degree requirements.

All of the Master's coursework must be taken under graduate status.

No 4000-level courses taken as an undergraduate may be applied to the Master's degree.

Admission

Admission to a 2+3 program occurs in two stages. Students with a GPA ≥ 3.0 may apply for **Provisional Admission** after earning 60 credit hours, i.e., in the first semester of the junior year, by completing the upper half of the Supplemental Application for the 2+3 Program and submitting the form to the Graduate School. This form requires approval of both the undergraduate college and the Graduate School. Provisional 2+3 students will continue to take regular undergraduate courses, but will need additional advising to plan and schedule the courses that will be counted toward both degrees. Students must maintain a 3.0 GPA while under provisional status. **With permission (Graduate School Form C1), students may take up to 6 hours of 5000/6000 level courses while still classified as an undergraduate.** These 6 hours will be treated by the Graduate School as "under graduate status".

The transition from Provisional to Formal status is not automatic. Every semester each provisional 2+3 student should be evaluated by the Department to determine whether the student is ready to make the transition to graduate status. In addition to requiring a minimum GPA of 3.0, the program should determine whether the student has taken the foundational courses necessary to be successful at the graduate level. At the appropriate time, provisional 2+3 students will be recommended by their Graduate Program Director for **Formal Admission** to the Graduate School. Program Directors will complete and submit the bottom portion of the Supplemental Application form. The application for Formal Admission must be approved by both the undergraduate college and the Graduate School. After formal admission, the student will pay graduate tuition, and is expected to continue taking courses under graduate status until the completion of the Master's degree.

A student need not spend any minimum number of semesters in Provisional status. A student may be admitted provisionally in one semester and formally admitted to the Graduate School for the following semester. But the longer a student waits before applying for Provisional Admission, the more likely it is that there will be advising and scheduling problems that will add time and perhaps cost to the overall program.

We will not allow a 2+3 student to start a semester as an undergraduate and switch to graduate status during the semester.

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Graduate School Requirements

Once admitted to the Graduate School, the student must meet all of the usual requirements for the Master's degree. No graduate degree requirements are waived for 2+3 students. Once admitted, the student is expected to maintain graduate status until the program has been completed. Only courses taken under graduate status may be used to meet the requirements for the Master's degree.

Graduate Courses used in the Bachelor's Degree

It is up to the undergraduate department to determine which of the courses taken for graduate credit will be counted towards the 120 credits required for the Bachelor's degree. We anticipate that these courses will represent some combination of:

- a. 4000 level courses that could have been counted toward the Bachelor's degree had they been taken as an undergraduate, and
- b. 5000/6000 level courses that will be used to replace some courses in the regular undergraduate curriculum.

Awarding of the Degrees

The Bachelor's and Master's degrees will be awarded simultaneously at the end of the 2+3 program. Students in the 2+3 program will not be awarded a Master's degree unless they are also awarded a Bachelor's degree.

Graduate students who formally withdraw from the 2+3 program may apply for the Bachelor's degree, assuming that all of the undergraduate degree requirements have been met. However, the advantage of dual credit is forfeited.

Any courses (graduate or undergraduate) that are applied to the Bachelor's degree may not be included in any future graduate degree program.