

Graduate Academic Council meeting on 04/05/21, 9 AM via Zoom

Approved by the Council by vote of 10-0-0 on 5/3/2021.

In attendance: G. Berg (Chair), S. Appe, A. Dawson, S. Faught, M. Ferraino, A. Gill, O. Lunin, E. Pacer, K. Stanwicks, C. Wolff, K. Williams (ex officio member), C. Davis (staff), J. Deden (staff)

Guests: Christy Smith – Assistant Dean, Professional Studies, School of Education  
Celine LaValley – Admin. Manager, Dean’s Office, School of Public Health  
Mary Gallant – Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, School of Public Health  
Rachel French – Assistant Registrar, Registrar’s Office  
Zina Lawrence – Assistant Dean, Full-time MBA program  
Kathie Winchester – Assistant Dean, Office of Undergraduate Education

1. Approval and/or update of this GAC Agenda – Chair Berg added an item of discussion to the agenda regarding the SUNY proposal for granting transfer credit based on evaluation.
2. Approval of the minutes of the GAC meeting of 3/8/2021 - 10-0-0
3. Dean’s Report – Kevin Williams commented that our approved proposals are moving well through SUNY Administration. UAlbany’s Letter of Intent to add a Graduate program in Nursing is heading into the development phase and GAC will see proposal for a Graduate Nursing program perhaps in Fall 2021. He outlined the phase chronology and aspects.
4. Chair’s Report – George Berg reminded the members that next meeting on May 3 will have nominations and a vote for GAC chair for next academic year as well as starting the process for staffing committees. He informed the Council of his willingness to chair again next year.
5. Committee on Curriculum and Instruction (CC&I) Report – Sydney Faught reviewed 2 program proposals of minor changes to the Information Science MS and Data Science MS programs. The GAC accepted the CC&I’s report by a vote of 10-0-0
6. New Program Proposals –
  - a. Spanish BA/Secondary Education MS Combined Program proposal. - Christy Smith gave highlights of this final combined program request. The GAC approved the proposal by a vote of 10-0-0
  - b. Public Health BS/Public Health MPH combined program proposal. – Mary Gallant reviewed the proposal and fielded questions. The GAC approved the proposal by a vote of 10-0-0.
7. Proposed Policy update to the Combined Undergraduate-Graduate Degree Policy – Colleen Davis reviewed the proposed language changes to the Graduate Bulletin that adds clarity to the double-counting of credits in combined programs. The GAC approved the policy and Bulletin changes by a vote of 10-0-0.

8. Any Other Business – Chair Berg discussed SUNY’s proposed policy on award of academic credit via evaluation. Though this does not yet apply to graduate credit, it may in the future. He encouraged all to send comments to him today so he can take them to the Senate.

Meeting adjourned at 9:42 without opposition.

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CCI Report - 3/29/21

Committee Members Electronic Review: Susan Appe, Haijun Chen, Sydney Faught (chair), Andrew Gill, Ilka Kressner, Jeannette Sutton, Stephen Weinberg

Staff: Colleen Davis

Program Proposals Reviewed: Information Science MS and Data Science MS

#### Information Science MS

The College of Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security and Cybersecurity is proposing minor edits to the Information Science MS program, Data Analytics concentration as follows:

- Add INF 505 (Advanced Concepts and Practices in Software Development) as an option for the Tool requirement.
- Currently the Tool requirement only lists IST 529 (Text Analysis), and they are looking to add another option for students in this concentration.

INF 505 provides students with hands-on experiences with software design and development which is an important tool for the track. Along with IST 529 it will provide increasing breadth to the choices available to student in the Data Analytics concentration.

Based on the department’s justification above, the committee voted to approve the proposed program changes (7 approve, 0 disapprove, 0 abstain).

#### Data Science MS

The Department of Mathematics and Statistics is proposing minor edits to the Data Science MS program as follows:

- Remove AMAT582 Computational Methods in Statistical Inference from the capstone requirement.

The department indicates that this course was in the original program proposal as one of three available capstone courses but was never developed and offered. They realized that the other two capstone courses serve the purpose of the program and there is no room for another practicum course in the program. They feel there are other more essential needs to include among the other 12 required courses.

Based on the department’s justification above, the committee voted to approve the proposed program changes (7 approve, 0 disapprove, 0 abstain).

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## Combined Undergraduate-Graduate Degree Policy Proposal

*Proposal:* Add language to the existing policy, indicating that the 12 graduate credits that can double count between the undergraduate and graduate degree programs are to be taken at the University at Albany.

*Justification:* The intention of the combined undergraduate-graduate degree program is to encourage students to pursue further study at the University at Albany, while offering the student reduced admission requirements and reduced cost. The current language does not specify that the graduate level courses must be taken at the University at Albany, which means students could potentially take a graduate level course at another institution and request that it count towards both their undergraduate and graduate degrees. Even though the possibility of this scenario is low, we would like to request this language be added. Combined programs were developed by our faculty, utilizing existing UAlbany curriculum and courses. Taking a graduate level course at another institution would cost the student more (increased tuition cost and potential financial aid complications) and require the student to follow the transfer credit policies at both the undergraduate and graduate level. The transfer credit policies are not aligned at the undergraduate and graduate levels:

Undergraduate Policy:

[https://www.albany.edu/undergraduate\\_bulletin/requirements.html](https://www.albany.edu/undergraduate_bulletin/requirements.html)

<https://www.albany.edu/registrar/transfer-credits.php>

Graduate Policy:

[https://www.albany.edu/graduatebulletin/requirements\\_degree.htm#transfer\\_credit\\_regulations](https://www.albany.edu/graduatebulletin/requirements_degree.htm#transfer_credit_regulations)

There is potential for a course to be transferrable at the undergraduate level but not applicable at the graduate level (undergraduate allows grades of C- or better while graduate level requires grades of B or better). We are looking to reduce the ambiguity in the language.

*Existing policy with suggested language in red:*

[https://www.albany.edu/graduatebulletin/requirements\\_combined\\_baccalaureate\\_masters.htm](https://www.albany.edu/graduatebulletin/requirements_combined_baccalaureate_masters.htm)

### Standards and Requirements

1. In qualifying for the baccalaureate, students will meet all University and school requirements, including the second field requirement, the minimum liberal arts and sciences credit-hour requirement, and residency requirements.
2. In qualifying for the graduate degree, students will meet all University and school requirements, including the following:
  - Completing the minimum number of graduate credits required for the graduate program;
  - Completing the culminating program requirement, such as a research seminar, thesis, comprehensive examination, or other professional experience where required (i.e. internship, field work, teaching placement); and
  - Fulfilling the residency requirements.

3. The total minimum credit-hour requirements for combined degree programs will vary depending on the graduate program's total credit requirement (138 to 193 credits). The minimum graduate credits will equate to the minimum credits required for the graduate program (e.g. a 30-credit master's program has a minimum total credit requirement of 138 credits, of which 30 credits must be at the graduate level). The overall program total will vary depending on how many credits the department allows to double count (up to 12 graduate credits **taken at the University at Albany**) between the undergraduate and graduate degrees. To earn the baccalaureate degree, students must complete 120 credits of appropriate study; to receive the graduate degree, students must complete the minimum graduate credits required for the program in appropriate graduate study. Up to 12 graduate credits **taken at the University at Albany** may be applied simultaneously to both the undergraduate and to the graduate programs. The credit amount eligible for double counting will vary based on the graduate program and may be limited to less than 12 graduate credits. Please confirm the allowable amount with the graduate program. Although it is permissible for combined degree programs to require a minimum of 138 to 193 total credits, faculties responsible for specific combined degree programs may require more than the minimum total credits in order to satisfy the unique characteristics of differing disciplines. Combined degree programs may not, however, require additional baccalaureate major credits that exceed current credit limitations for majors.
4. Because of the wide range of total credits required in professional graduate degrees (30-73), total credit-hour requirements for combined baccalaureate-professional graduate degree programs can be approved on a range from 138 to 193 credits.
5. Exceptions to the program minima stated in sections 3 and 4 may be approved by the Graduate Academic Council and/or Undergraduate Academic Council.
6. All combined degree programs must be approved by both the Graduate Academic Council and Undergraduate Academic Council. Programs will be monitored under procedures jointly established by both academic councils.

### **Admissions and Administrative Procedures**

1. Students may be admitted to an integrated degree program at the beginning of their junior year, or after the successful completion of 56 credits. A GPA of 3.2 or higher and three supportive letters of recommendation from faculty are required.
2. Students are considered undergraduates until they have accumulated 120 credits, satisfied all degree requirements and been awarded the baccalaureate degree. *However, although students who have failed to satisfy "all degree requirements" will not be granted the baccalaureate degree until all undergraduate requirements are met, please be aware that for determining such matters as whether students pay undergraduate or graduate tuition, the following policy applies:* Although admitted to an integrated degree program, a student will be considered as an undergraduate student for the purposes of tuition billing, financial aid, and enrollment identification until qualified to receive the bachelor's degree or until enrolled in the 13th credit of graduate coursework. Once a student is qualified to receive the bachelor's degree or enrolls in the 13th credit of graduate course work, the student will be considered a graduate student for tuition billing, financial aid and enrollment identification, and will be eligible for graduate assistantships, fellowships, and loans.

Students' progress through the combined program will be reviewed in the Office of the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education to ensure timely completion of the undergraduate degree. Academic advisors of bachelor's-graduate programs and students themselves should also attend to course enrollment choices that lead to timely completion of undergraduate requirements. Students interested in further information regarding the combined programs should contact the appropriate program's department chair.

3. A student who enters a second bachelor's program and then subsequently applies and gains admission to a combined second bachelor's/graduate program will be considered as an undergraduate student for the purposes of tuition billing, financial aid, and enrollment identification until completion of 12 credits of graduate course work or qualified to receive the second bachelor's degree. Once a student is qualified to receive the second bachelor's degree or enrolls in the 13th credit of graduate course work, the student will be considered a graduate student for tuition billing, financial aid and enrollment identification, and will be eligible for graduate assistantships, fellowships, and loans.