

Executive Committee, February 18, 2003  
Academic Senate, March 3, 2003

January 31, 2003

David W. Pershing  
Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs  
205 Park Bldg.  
Campus

RE: Proposed Policy for Combined B.S./M.S. Programs in College of Engineering

Dear Vice President Pershing:

At its meeting on January 27, 2003, the Graduate Council voted to approve proposed policy language governing combined B.S./M.S. degree programs in the College of Engineering.

Several departments within the College of Engineering have expressed interest in offering combined B.S./M.S. degrees, which are intended to foster undergraduate research and to accelerate progress toward the M.S. The combined program is designed to be completed in five years and to culminate with the simultaneous conferral of the B.S. and M.S. degrees.

The College of Engineering will use the proposed policy to evaluate any combined programs proposed by departments within the College.

A copy of the proposal is attached for your approval and transmittal to the Academic Senate.

Sincerely,  
David S. Chapman  
Associate Vice President for Graduate Studies  
Dean, The Graduate School

XC: Gerald B. Stringfellow, Dean, College of Engineering  
Robert B. Roemer, Associate Dean, College of Engineering  
Vladimir Hlady, Chair, Dept. of Bioengineering  
Philip Smith, Chair, Dept. of Chemical and Fuels Engineering  
Larry Reaveley, Chair, Dept. of Civil and Environmental Engineering  
Thomas C. Henderson, Director, School of Computing  
V. John Mathews, Chair, Dept. of Electrical and Computer Engineering  
Anil Virkar, Chair, Dept. of Materials Science and Engineering  
Joseph Klewicki, Chair, Dept. of Mechanical Engineering

January 28, 2003

David S. Chapman  
Associate VP – Graduate Programs  
310 Park

Dear Dave:

Attached per your request is our proposed "minimum requirement" policy for combined B.S./M.S. degrees in the College of Engineering. We will use these guidelines within the College to evaluate any combined programs that are proposed by any of our departments or schools. No programs will be approved that do not meet these minimum requirements, and we will immediately inform you of any combined B.S./M.S. programs that we approve in the future.

Thank you for your consideration of these programs. We see them as being of benefit to a significant number of our students.

Sincerely,

G. B. Stringfellow  
Distinguished Professor  
Dean, College of Engineering

vj  
cc John G. Francis

## College of Engineering

### Combined B.S. / M.S. Program

As a premier research institution and technological leader in the mountain west, the College of Engineering at the University of Utah offers unique educational research opportunities for undergraduate students. Students are given the opportunity to participate in ongoing research at a variety of levels, including undergraduate research and honors projects, participation in graduate student and faculty research projects and in guest lectures delivered by leaders in the field and discussions of cutting edge research.

For undergraduate students interested in vigorous pursuit of research, the College of Engineering offers a combined B.S. / M.S. degree program intended to foster undergraduate research and to accelerate progress toward the M.S. The combined program is designed to be completed in five years and to culminate with the simultaneous conferral of the Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees. Students in the combined program begin their research early and complete advanced level courses during the senior year. These activities can accelerate completion of the combined program by a full year relative to enrollment in sequential B.S. – M.S. programs. Students are encouraged to begin research in the summer following their junior year and often receive research assistant financial support. Most BS/MS students working on extramurally funded research projects are eligible for the University of Utah Tuition Remission program for 5000 level and above classes after they are admitted to this program. Although specific course requirements and total number of credits vary by department, the College of Engineering has established the following minimum requirements to be met universally:

- 1) Students must complete a minimum of 152 semester credit hours of qualified studies. A minimum of 30 semester credit hours must meet the M.S. requirements of the University of Utah Graduate School, the College of Engineering and the participating department. A minimum of 122 semester credit hours must meet the B.S. requirements of University of Utah, the College of Engineering and the participating department.
- 2) Undergraduate students must apply to the program through a participating College of Engineering department by May 1<sup>st</sup> of the Junior year. Recommendations for admission are made by the department to the Graduate School by June 1<sup>st</sup> each year. Entrance criteria for the combined B.S. / M.S. program are consistent with criteria for the traditional M.S. program(s).
- 3) Admitted students must submit a B.S. / M.S. program of study to the department within one semester after admission.
- 4) Transfer from undergraduate to graduate status occurs after completion of 122 semester credit hours of qualified studies.
- 5) The B.S. and M.S. degrees are conferred simultaneously following completion of the program.

- 6) Students wishing to exit the combined program can apply qualified coursework toward the traditional B.S. and M.S. degree requirements without penalty.
- 7) No student will be awarded a separate M.S. degree without satisfying all requirements for the B.S. degree.

### **Combined BS/MS in Engineering**

#### **Procedures:**

- Apply to B.S./M.S. program at end of Junior year. This application is processed and decisions made at the department level.
- Select an advisory committee and prepare a program of study for completion of the B.S. and M.S. degree during first semester in the combined program.
- Apply for graduate status during semester in which 122 credit hours is completed. Students will follow the regular University of Utah Graduate School application process. All university requirements for graduate admissions must be met except posting of undergraduate degree. (Note: On the referral sheet that the department returns to graduate admissions, department will note that the student has been accepted to the combined B.S./M.S. program. Graduate Admissions will then approve admission without the B.S. completed.)
- A mid-program review is conducted by the supervisory committee after 2 semesters in the program.
- Degrees are awarded when all work is completed. A Master's degree will **not** be awarded under this program if all requirements for the B.S. are not completed.