

Resolution: Proposed Amendment to the Draft 500-Level Course Policy

Whereas other colleges and universities in the State of New Jersey offer accelerated programs with double-valuation of credits for blended transition from Bachelor's to Master's degrees, in order to sustain and grow enrollment, NJCU needs to offer high quality programs with the same option. This amendment proposes to substitute sections 5, 6, and 7 of the Draft 500-Level Course Policy with the following revised sections 5 and 6. It removes the constraints placed on double-valuation (AKA "double-dipping") of graduate courses to fulfill the requirements of both the undergraduate (BS/BA) and graduate (MS/MA/MBA) degrees.

While the proposed 500-level course policy's scope is limited to 500-level courses, this amendment seeks to do the following:

5. For courses above 500-level remove the course-level restriction on undergraduate students taking graduate courses, and replace it with the college Dean's approval. For all graduate courses, existing admission constraints, as noted in the draft 500-level course policy, would continue to apply. Rationale:
 - Students may have specific interests that are more closely aligned to their careers. These may not be addressed in the undergraduate and 500-level graduate courses. For example: FINC 631 Current Topics in Financial Technology or MGMT 716 Maritime Management.
6. Replace the constraints placed on double-valuation of graduate courses to fulfill the requirements of both the undergraduate (BS/BA) and graduate (MS/MA/MBA) degrees, with a maximum cap of 18 credits of graduate courses that can be used to fulfill the requirements of both. For example, traditionally BA Finance requires 120 credits. While MBA Finance requires 36 credits (Total 156 credits). A blended (BA/MBA) Finance degree would require 102 undergraduate + 36 graduate credits for a total of 138 credits (18 graduate credits would be taken as undergraduate and would fulfill requirements of both). Rationale:
 - Graduate degrees are increasingly becoming the norm for professional careers.
 - The blended transition from undergraduate to graduate keeps the students in the academic track limiting the need for refresher courses.
 - Creates incentive for able students to continue on to graduate school at NJCU.
 - Such approach is not an exception but the norm in our sister universities.

Attached: survey of accelerated degree programs conducted by sister universities

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This report gives an overview of accelerated degree programs conducted by Universities represented in the New Jersey Presidents' Council Executive Board. The intent is to review the practices of the AIC member Universities in the context of double-valuation of credits taken by students in joint undergraduate and graduate degree programs. These programs are often called accelerated because of their ability to let the students complete both the degrees together faster than what it would take to complete them separately in a stacked approach.

AIC has in the past reviewed such program proposals. Below is a extract from the minutes of an AIC meeting held here at NJCU:

New Jersey Presidents' Council Academic Issues Committee May 17, 2019, 10:00 a.m.

New Jersey City University – School of Business MINUTES

Accelerated dual degree programs

1) Accelerated dual degree program: Bachelor of Science in Physics + Master of Arts in STEM Education (CIP 40.0801 Physics, General, and 13.1329 Physics Teacher Education)

2) Accelerated dual degree program: Bachelor of Science in Math + Master of Science in Data Analytics (CIP 27.0101 Mathematics, General, and 30.3001; Computational Science)

3) Accelerated dual degree program: Bachelor of Arts in Environmental and Sustainability Studies + Master of Business Administration (CIP 03.0103 Environmental Studies, and 52.0201 Business Administration and Management, General).

The following are some of the double-valuation approaches taken by other universities to enable the students to complete the programs in an accelerated way.

1. NJCU:

Accounting—B.S./M.S. Bridge Program in Accounting

<https://catalog.njcu.edu/graduate/business/accounting/accounting-bridge-program-ms/>

The MS Accounting Degree requires 30 credits in the specialization. Students in the BS/MS Accounting Bridge Program will have completed nine (9) credits of the required graduate specializations courses in their undergraduate program. The 9 graduate credits taken as an undergraduate, plus the 21 credits taken after matriculation into the M.S. in Accounting Program, fulfill the 30-credit specialization requirement for the M.S. in Accounting Degree.

2. NJIT:

Accelerated Path to Professional Schools: <https://honors.njit.edu/accelerated-path>

Following **three years at NJIT**, students in this program spend four additional years at NJMS (7 years total) studying medicine. The NJIT bachelor's degree is awarded following successful completion of the first year of medical school at NJMS...

3. Stockton:

a. Accelerated Dual-Degree Programs: <https://stockton.edu/graduate/graduate-programs.html>

b. B.A.,B.S./M.B.A.: undergraduate and MBA degrees in about **5** years.

c. B.A./M.A. in Criminal Justice: Program Length: **5** years (for students who enroll in freshman year); opportunities for transfer students catch up

- d. B.S./P.S.M. in Environmental Science: A total of 128 undergraduate and 36 graduate credits are required for the two degrees. However, **18 credits will count towards both** the graduate and undergraduate degrees.
 - e. B.A. in Literature & M.A. in American Studies: **5** years
4. St. Peter's University:
Accelerated Dual Degree Programs
Saint Peter's University offers accelerated programs in business, accountancy, public administration and education. Students must apply for a master's degree during their junior year and be accepted into the program in order to schedule graduate courses during their senior year. The number of graduate credits permitted while an undergraduate student **varies per program**.
The following programs are offered as dual degrees, so you can earn your Bachelor's and Master's in a total of five years:
- a. BS to MSA Accountancy: The University will apply the initial **six** graduate credits to the graduate transcript upon completion of 12 additional graduate credits.
 - b. BS to MBA Business Administration: Same as above... **six**
 - c. BSBA to MSA Accountancy: Same as above... **six**
 - d. BSBA to MBA Business Administration: Same as above... **six**
 - e. BS/BA to MS Cyber Security: Same as above... **six**
 - f. BS to MS Data Science: Same as above... **six**
 - g. BA to MA Education: The University will apply the initial **nine** graduate credits to the graduate transcript upon completion of 12 additional graduate credits.
 - h. BS to MPA Public Administration: Same as above... **nine**
5. Drew University:
Combined Degree Programs <https://www.drew.edu/academics/undergraduate-studies/launch/majors-and-minors/combined-degree-programs/>
- a. Business Management with Wake Forest University (BA/MA): **4yrs + 10 months**
 - b. Engineering with Columbia University (BA/BS): **3+2**
 - c. Engineering with Washington University in St. Louis (BA/BS): **3+2**
 - d. Environmental Management with Duke University (BA/MEM): **3+2**
 - e. Forestry with Duke University (BA/MF): **3+2**
 - f. Law School with New York Law School (BA/JD): **4+2**
 - g. Law with Seton Hall University (BA/JD): **6**
 - h. Medicine with Rutgers New Jersey Medical School (BA/MD): **3+4**
6. Rowan:
Accelerated Degree Programs:
<https://csm.rowan.edu/academics/Accelerated%20Degree%20Programs.html>
- Combined Advanced Degree Programs
- Athletic Training (MS): 5 Yrs
- 5-year Accelerated Degree Programs on Rowan Main Campus
- a. Biochemistry (BS) and Pharmaceutical Sciences (MS)
 - b. Chemistry (BS) and Pharmaceutical Sciences (MS)
 - c. Bioinformatics (BS/MS)

- d. Computer Science (BS/MS)
- e. Computer Science (BS)/Data Analytics (MS)
- f. Physics (BS) and Data Analytics (MS)
- g. Mathematics (BS/MA)

7-year Accelerated Degree Programs in Medicine

Cooper Medical School of Rowan University

- a. Biochemistry (BS) and Medicine (MD)
- b. Biological Science (BS) and Medicine (MD)
- c. Biophysics (BS) and Medicine (MD)
- d. Molecular & Cellular Biosciences (BS) and Medicine (MD)

Rowan School of Osteopathic Medicine

- a. Biochemistry (BS) and Osteopathic Medicine (DO)
- b. Biological Science (BS) and Osteopathic Medicine (DO)
- c. Biophysics (BS) and Osteopathic Medicine (DO)
- d. Molecular & Cellular Biosciences (BS) and Osteopathic Medicine (DO)

5-year Accelerated Degree Programs on Rowan Main Campus with College of Education

- a. Biological Sciences (BA/BS) and STEM Education (MA)
- b. Chemistry (BA/BS) and STEM Education (MA)
- c. Mathematics (BA/BS) and STEM Education (MA)
- d. Physics (BA/BS) and STEM Education (MA)
- e. Physical Science and STEM Education (MA)

5-year Accelerated Degree Programs with RowanGSBS Cell & Molecular Biology

- a. Biochemistry (BS) and Cell & Molecular Biology (MS)
- b. Bioinformatics (BS) and Cell & Molecular Biology (MS)
- c. Biological Science (BS) and Cell & Molecular Biology (MS)
- d. Biophysics (BS) and Cell & Molecular Biology (MS)
- e. Translational Biomedical Sciences (BS) and Cell & Molecular Biology (MS)
- f. Molecular & Cellular Biosciences (BS) and Cell & Molecular Biology (MS)

Example:

https://csm.rowan.edu/departments/mcb/academicprograms/BS_Bioinformatics_MS_CMB.htm
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Students enrolled in this program take **15-18** fewer credits to receive both a BS in Bioinformatics and a MS in Cell and Molecular Biology than the number required to obtain both degrees separately.

The dual degree program requires **138-141** credits compared to 156 credits if the BS and MS were earned independently.

7. Rutgers:

Joint and Accelerated Degrees: <https://www.camden.rutgers.edu/joint-degrees>

Two Degrees in One Program

Streamline your education and fast-track your career in our dual- and joint-degree programs. Combining bachelor's and graduate study saves you time—and money.

- a. BA/JD (bachelor of arts/juris doctor): The **29** credits completed during the first year of law school count toward both degrees.
- b. BA/MA (bachelor of arts/master of arts): **3-4** graduate courses transfer as undergraduate and are billed as undergraduate tuition

- c. BA/MAT (bachelor of arts/master of arts in teaching)
 - d. BA/MBA (bachelor of arts/master of business administration): 18 graduate credits (6 courses) toward their economics requirements as well as their M.B.A. requirements
 - e. BA/MPA (bachelor of arts/master of public administration)
 - f. BA/MPH (bachelor of arts/master of public health): Rutgers–Camden has joint BA-MPH programs with Rutgers–New Brunswick and Jefferson University (Philadelphia). These programs allow students to:
 - (i) begin their MPH degree while still an undergraduate
 - (ii) complete both degrees in five years
 - g. BS/DO (bachelor of science/doctor of osteopathic medicine): Students will complete a three year curriculum at Rutgers–Camden and the traditional four year curriculum at Rowan School of Osteopathic Medicine in Stratford, NJ.
 - h. BS/MS (bachelor of science/master of science)
8. Montclair State University
- Accelerated, dual degree programs: <https://www.montclair.edu/graduate/programs-of-study/>
- a. Accounting (Combined BS/MS): 5yrs/150 credits
 - b. Chemistry (BS/MS): 5yrs 112+26 credits instead of 6 yrs 152 credits
 - c. Computer Science (Combined BS/MS)
 - d. Law and Governance (Combined BA/MA)
 - e. Psychology (BA/MA): 5yrs
 - f. Statistics (Combined BS/MS)
 - g. Combined Bachelor's/Master's Programs with Teacher Certification: 5yrs

This survey shows that, both accelerated degrees, as well as double counting of course credits is very much a prevailing practice in our contiguous region.