



MEMO

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FROM Wade Parkhouse, Dean, Graduate Studies

RE General Graduate Regulation 1.3.8.a

[GS2011.23]

CC

DATE December 8, 2011

Motion: That Senate approve the addition of GGR 1.3.8.a which outlines the criteria for admission to a Concurrent Bachelor's-Master's program [GS2011.23]

**Effective Date is September 2012**

Senators wishing to consult a more detailed report of curriculum revisions may do so by going to Docushare:

<https://docushare.sfu.ca/dsweb/View/Collection-12682>

If you are unable to access the information, please call [778-782-3168](tel:778-782-3168) or email [shelley\\_gair@sfu.ca](mailto:shelley_gair@sfu.ca).

## **Addition of G.G.R. 1.3.8.a**

### **Motion**

That SGSC recommend to Senate the addition of GGR 1.3.8.a which outlines the criteria for admission to a Concurrent Bachelor's-Master's program.

### **Rationale**

A number of graduate programs are interested in developing concurrent bachelor's-master's programs (sometimes referred to as combined or accelerated bachelor's-master's programs) similar to what is in place in many other universities. The hallmark of these programs is that exceptional undergraduates can apply into the concurrent program and while they are completing their bachelor's program they complete a portion of the graduate credits needed for their master's degree. It is the responsibility of SGSC to recommend and Senate to establish minimum admission standards for these programs which, as proposed, are similar to programs at other institutions and have been established following consultation across the graduate programs. Further details on concurrent bachelor's-master's programs are provided as background following the calendar language.

### **Background on Concurrent Bachelor's-Master's programs**

A Concurrent Bachelor's -Master's program is one in which it is deemed academically advantageous to treat the educational process leading through the bachelor's to the master's degree as a single continuous integrated whole, while at the same time satisfying the requirements for both degrees. Such structured programs, starting at the undergraduate level and terminating with a master's degree, provide an alternative means, complementary to existing undergraduate and graduate programs, for the attainment of a master's degree. Concurrent Bachelor's – Master's programs may be developed in response to a number of needs among which are:

1. recognition of outstanding students and provision of academic enrichment for them;
2. provision of an introduction to the postgraduate milieu for good undergraduate students who might otherwise overlook the opportunity of graduate studies;
3. the provision of a reasonably firm time horizon for the completion of a master's program;
4. the opportunity to recruit outstanding high school students to UG programs with Concurrent Bachelor's- Master's programs.

These types of programs exist at many institutions including the University of Waterloo, University of Calgary, University of California – Berkeley, New York University, Johns Hopkins University, MIT, Brown University, Yale College, Temple University, and many others. All the programs share some common elements: higher admission standards than regular admission to the master's program, completion of a limited amount of graduate work as part of the UG credential, limits on when students can apply to the program relative to their UG degree completion progress, and time-limits on degree completion at the master's level which are quite short. These programs provide a mechanism for the institution to offer a quicker route to a master's degree for outstanding students.

***SGSC has established the following framework as a guide for the development of Concurrent Bachelor-Masters Programs based on its consultation and a review of other institutional concurrent programs. All programs developed will be subject to Senate approval.***

1. Concurrent Bachelor's - Master's programs will require that students fulfill the degree requirements of both the bachelor's program and the master's program. This implies that:

- students complete at least two terms of full-time registration (or equivalent) at the graduate level (mandatory);
  - the graduate program must adhere to the residence requirements for a master's degree at SFU (GGR 1.7.2);
  - the co-operative work term requirements of the bachelor's or master's programs or any internship requirements of the master's programs must be met (if applicable);
  - a maximum of ten graduate course units used as either electives or upper division required courses at the bachelor's level will be applied to the requirements for the master's degree;
  - students registering for "piggybacked" undergraduate-graduate courses as part of their concurrent program must register in the graduate course, complete the graduate course requirements;
  - if a student becomes ineligible to continue to participate in the concurrent program, the Chair of the Graduate Program Committee must inform the student in writing of his/her ineligibility and a copy of this letter must be sent to the Dean of Graduate Studies;
  - each individual in any concurrent bachelor's-master's program must complete an individual or small group project/research report/extended essays as part of the program via at least 3 units of master's-level independent study units or master's level project/research report/extended essay-based courses to gain experience in applying research methodology to real-world problems.
2. There must be complete freedom of transferability from the concurrent programs to the regular programs and a student may withdraw at any time from an approved Concurrent Bachelor's-Master's program by informing the Chairs of the Undergraduate and Graduate Programs and the Dean of Graduate Studies in writing.
  3. The culmination of the concurrent program is the master's degree.
  4. Students admitted to the concurrent program will pay the UG per credit rate for all UG courses (or premium if applicable) and the graduate per credit rate (or premium if applicable) for all graduate courses while they are registered in their bachelor's program. Once the students complete their bachelor's degree, students will pay the appropriate graduate tuition fees for that program.
  5. Students admitted to the concurrent programs are ineligible for graduate scholarships or awards administered from SFU sources until they complete their bachelor degrees.
  6. Students are expected to complete the master's degree within 12 months of completion of the bachelor's degree for a non-thesis master's degree and within 18 months for a master's program requiring a thesis.
  7. Recruitment into a Concurrent Bachelor's - Master's degree program must have the flexibility to satisfy the requirements of individual students; at the same time it must have coherence – each student's program must be addressed toward a well-defined area of specialization.

## Summary of Program Requirements of Some Concurrent Bachelor's-Master's Programs

	Minimum Admission CGPA	Admission entry	Continuing eligibility	Max grad credits taken while UG	Maximum degree time for masters
Waterloo	Not specified	75-90U	B	6 U	Not specified
Calgary	3.6/4.0	90U	Not specified	6U	12 mo
Dalhousie	3.3/4.3	90U	3.3	6 U	12 mo
NCSU	3.5/4.0	75-96U	3.5/4.0	12 U	12-18 mo
Temple	3.25	75U	B	9 U	12 mo
NYU	3.5/4.0	48-96U	3.0/4.0	8-12 U	12 mo
Yale	Not specified	75U	3.0/4.0	6U	12 mo
John Hopkins U	Not specified	75-105U	3.0/4.0	9U	12 mo
Brown	Not specified	90U	3.0/4.0	6U	12 mo
Berkeley	3.5/4.0 UD	Not specified	3.0/4.0	9U	8 mo
UColorado	3.3/4.0 CGPA	Not specified	3.5 prog 3.3 CGPA	6U	12 mo
MIT	4.25/5.0	Third year	4.0/5.0 B	Varies max 12U	12 mo
UCSanDiego	3.0/4.0	75U	3.0/4.0	0 U	12 mo

Across these institutions, concurrent programs exist in the following disciplines: computer science, engineering, history, mathematics, philosophy, statistics, marketing, communication, criminology, nursing, recreation, public health, public administration, forestry and environmental studies, music, biology, chemistry, classics, comparative literature, economics, English, French, journalism, politics, psychology, sociology, kinesiology, physics, bioengineering earth sciences, and others.

### **Calendar language (insert)**

#### **1.3.8a Admission to a Concurrent Bachelor's-Master's Program**

The minimum University requirements for admission to a concurrent bachelor's-master's program are as follows:

- a) Simon Fraser University undergraduate students following the completion of 90 UG credits with a minimum CGPA of 3.67/4.33;
- b) submitted evidence, usually references, from qualified referees of the student's ability to undertake advanced work in the area of interest.

Students must satisfy any additional requirements set by the graduate program committee.