



Date: April 23, 2025

To: Andre Avramchuk, Chair Academic Senate

From: Shikha Upadhyaya, Educational Policy Committee Chair

Copies: M. Hawley; M. Garcia; K. Brown; M. Wallace; P. Kilroy; C. Harris; K. Fisher; S. Baker; E. Winokur; R. Roquemore; C. Pugh

Subject: **EPC Memo 24-11: Proposed Policy Modifications: Integrated Bachelor's and Master's Degree Programs – Chapter IV of the Faculty Handbook (Ch.4.660)**

On April 8, 2025, the Educational Policy Committee (EPC) received a memo from the Graduate Studies Subcommittee (GSS) and Curriculum Subcommittee (CS) regarding proposed policy modifications to the Integrated Bachelor's and Master's Degree Programs Policy.

The Blended Bachelor's and Master's Degree Programs policy was updated by the CSU system on December 3, 2022. The Curriculum Subcommittee and the Graduate Studies Subcommittee reviewed the Cal State LA policy and proposed the following policy modifications.

On April 16, 2025, the EPC discussed and approved the proposed policy modifications.

- The word “integrated” was replaced with "blended" throughout the policy (Lines 1, 3, 7, 10, 12, 16, 19, 23, 24, 28, 31, 32, 47, 60).
- Line 26: Removal of Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement (GWAR).
- Lines 34-38: Language was added regarding the college associate dean submitting a request to the record's office to change the degree objective from BA/BS to blended degree.
- Lines 44-46: Removal of the previous language pertaining to the office of the associate dean submitting a request to the registrar's office.
- Lines 51-54: Removed the language pertaining to the requirement that both degrees are awarded simultaneously and that the requirements for both degrees must be met to award the degrees. Added language that students may be awarded the undergraduate degree when those requirements are met.

Integrated BLENDED Bachelor's and Master's Degree Programs

(Senate: 5/26/09; President: 6/16/09; Editorial Amendment: 4/15)

Integrated BLENDED bachelor's and master's degree programs provide an accelerated route to the attainment of the master's degree. An accelerated route may be appropriate for certain undergraduate students who have maintained an excellent academic record and have participated in, or plan to participate in, research or other creative, scholarly or professional activities in their senior year. It is expected that students selected to pursue an integrated BLENDED bachelor's and master's degree program will have demonstrated through the application process their intellectual maturity and the ability to think and work independently.

An integrated BLENDED bachelor's and master's degree program allows a student to count up to 12 units of course work towards both degrees, excluding Directed Study units, thereby decreasing the total number of units required for both degrees. For example, an integrated BLENDED bachelor's and master's degree program could require 138 units total instead of the 150 units total that would be required to complete a separate bachelor's degree that requires 120 units and a separate master's degree that requires 30 units.

Integrated BLENDED bachelor's and master's degrees may be approved either for degrees within the same academic unit or between closely related programs with existing bachelor's and master's degrees.

Eligibility for Integrated BLENDED Bachelor's and Master's Degree Programs

The following are minimum eligibility requirements. Individual programs may set more rigorous requirements to encourage applications from candidates most likely to succeed in graduate study.

1. Senior standing (satisfactory completion of a minimum of 90 units) by the time the integrated BLENDED program commences.

2. Minimum 3.0 GPA in all coursework in the major completed at the time of application.

3. Successful completion of the Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement (GWAR).

4. 3. Eligibility requirements that are at least as rigorous as the eligibility requirements for the non-integrated BLENDED master's degree program. However, programs are highly encouraged to establish more rigorous requirements in order to limit the program to highly qualified candidates.

Application to Integrated BLENDED Bachelor's and Master's Degree Programs

1. Approved integrated BLENDED programs will establish their own procedures for review of applications and acceptance of applicants.

2. THE COLLEGE ASSOCIATE DEAN SUBMITS A REQUEST TO THE RECORD'S OFFICE (USING FORM GS-15) TO CHANGE THE DEGREE OBJECTIVE FROM BA OR BS TO THE APPROPRIATE COMBINATION OF BACHELOR'S AND MASTER'S DEGREES AND TO CHANGE THE STUDENT'S CLASSIFICATION TO GRADUATE.

2. 3. Graduate Degree Study Plans are prepared and submitted to the appropriate College Associate Dean prior to completion of 10 semester units on the Study Plan. Study Plans may contain up to 12 units of 4000-level coursework that ALSO count towards bachelor's degree requirements, although at least 50% of the units for the master's degree (including those units that count towards the bachelor's degree) must be at the 5000 level.

3. The Office of the Associate Dean submits a request to the Registrar's Office to change the degree objective from BA or BS to the appropriate combination of bachelor's and master's degrees and to change the student's classification to Graduate.

Retention in the Integrated BLENDED Bachelor's and Master's Degree Program

To be retained in the program students must maintain a minimum 3.0 GPA in undergraduate courses in their major.

Awarding of Degrees

1. Both degrees are awarded at the same time. The degrees are awarded when requirements for both the bachelor's and master's degrees are met. STUDENTS IN BLENDED PROGRAMS MAY BE AWARDED THE UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE WHEN ALL REQUIREMENTS FOR THAT DEGREE ARE MET.

2. If a student fails to complete the requirements for the master's degree or opts out of the integrated BLENDED program, the bachelor's degree may be granted when all requirements for that degree are met. In such cases the student's degree objective must first be changed back to BA or BS and the classification back to undergraduate.

Degree Program Modification

Programs must submit proposals for integrated BLENDED bachelor's and master's degree programs for curriculum approval. Such proposals must include eligibility requirements and application procedures.