

## UCI Graduate Council Guidelines for Undergraduate/Graduate Hybrid Degree Programs

Approved by Graduate Council on June 14, 2018

Endorsed by Cabinet on January 22, 2019

In recent years, the UCI Academic Senate has reviewed several proposals for undergraduate/graduate hybrid degree programs (also called 4+1 programs). While some language on these programs and their review is provided in the [UC Compendium](#) and [CCGA Handbook](#), the UCI Graduate Council deems that additional guidelines are needed to ensure that these programs meet the high standards established across all UCI graduate degree programs. Therefore, the UCI Graduate Council approved the following guidelines for Undergraduate/Graduate Hybrid Degree Programs on June 14, 2018.

- Students completing a 4+1 graduate program should be expected to demonstrate mastery of material at a level greater than that required at the bachelor's level in the same or similar major. For example, as a requirement for admission, the minimum number of courses in the same or similar department, combined with the courses required for the +1 Master's, should be greater than the number of courses required for the equivalent undergraduate major.
- Before proposing a 4+1 graduate program, academic units should carefully assess their target audience and ensure that there is sufficient interest from qualified students. Changes to admissions requirements, core curriculum, and degree requirements are discouraged in the early years of a program's operations, as programs should be run in the form in which they received campus and systemwide approval. Admissions requirements should be developed thoughtfully to ensure that faculty will have sufficient information to determine a student's qualifications and likelihood to thrive in an accelerated program.
- If applicants to a 4+1 program will not be restricted to majors and/or minors from the same academic unit or related fields, justification should be provided to address how students will be prepared to succeed in a graduate-level coursework field unrelated to their undergraduate major.
- While students may begin taking graduate-level coursework as undergraduates, no courses may be double-counted towards both a student's undergraduate and graduate degree requirements. Students must be advised and monitored to ensure that they successfully complete both undergraduate and graduate degree requirements. In order to count graduate coursework taken as an undergraduate toward graduate degree requirements, students must complete a [General Petition](#) and request a letter from the program attesting that the courses were not used to satisfy undergraduate degree requirements. UCI undergraduate students can count a maximum of two courses taken during their undergraduate studies toward their graduate degree; these courses must be approved for graduate credit by the Graduate Division. The General Petition must be reviewed as explained on the form and submitted to the Graduate Division for review and approval.
- Students in 4+1 programs are required to meet the same minimum requirements for [undergraduate](#) and [master's degrees](#).

- 4+1 programs may include courses in which both undergraduate and graduate students are enrolled. Proposers of such programs should address how these different populations will be served and whether there will be different expectations for each group of students. Mixing undergraduate and Ph.D. students in the same courses is strongly discouraged. Thoughts should be given to potential issues created by mixing undergraduate and graduate students in coursework. For example, might a graduate student be enrolled in a course with undergraduates whom he or she is TAing in another course? How will the program ensure that the course levels up to graduate standards, and not to undergraduate expectations and outcomes?
- When 4+1 program proposals reach systemwide review, they are sent to external reviewers in the field, as are all graduate programs proposals. Therefore, proposers should keep in mind that admissions and degree requirements should be consistent with similar, top-tier programs in their respective field.