

**FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY SIGNATURE  
PAGE PROPOSAL FOR A COMBINED  
BACHELOR'S/MASTER'S PATHWAY**

COLLEGE NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DEPARTMENT NAME (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

BACHELOR'S DEGREE: (incl. C.I.P. Code and Degree Type): \_\_\_\_\_

MASTER'S DEGREE: (incl. C.I.P. Code and Degree Type): \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF COMBINED PATHWAY: \_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT PERSON: \_\_\_\_\_

COMBINED PATHWAY DIRECTOR (print name and email):  
\_\_\_\_\_

**APPROVALS:**

Department/School Curriculum Committee	Date
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Department Chair/Director	Date
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College Curriculum Committee	Date
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Academic Dean	Date
UPC (Dean of Undergraduate Studies)	Date
Dean of The Graduate School (or designee)	Date
VP for Faculty Development and Advancement	Date
Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs	Date

\*If the composition of the combined pathway includes two degree programs from two separate departments or colleges, then please attach two separate signature pages showing the approvals from the different units.

Prior to routing the combined pathway proposal to the Undergraduate Policy Committee (UPC) for signatures, it should be submitted to Mr. James Beck in The Graduate School ([jpbeck@fsu.edu](mailto:jpbeck@fsu.edu)) and Dr. Amy Guerette in the Office of Faculty Development and Advancement ([aguerette@fsu.edu](mailto:aguerette@fsu.edu)) for review.

## **COMBINED PATHWAY PROPOSAL**

Combined Bachelor's/Master's Pathways provide academically talented students an opportunity to complete a bachelor's and a master's degree program. These partially-structured pathways allow for up to 12 graduate credit hours to be shared with, or double-counted toward, an undergraduate degree program, as long as that double-counting is considered appropriate by the faculty curriculum committees and academic administrators reflected on the proposal signature page.

### **PROPOSAL**

Proposals should be written in narrative format and must include the following:

Purpose and Justification of establishing the Combined Pathway:

- Units must establish both intellectual and pedagogical reasons for developing the combined pathway, which creates a partially structured path combining two degree programs.
- If the undergraduate and graduate degree programs that are part of the pathway are in different C.I.P. codes, the justification must address the rationale for combining the two different degree programs in detail and must include a second set of signatures from the department and/or college offering the second degree program.
- Proposals must describe the professional/employment benefits that would accrue to combined pathway graduates.

Admission Criteria and Operating Procedures:

- The proposal must clearly describe the admission requirements and specify the timing of admission to the combined pathway.
- Admission criteria must be designed to ensure that only academically talented and motivated students who are able to master graduate work are admitted to the combined pathway.
- Units operating combined pathways are responsible for coding all admitted students in a timely manner, in accordance with Registrar's Office procedures.
- The proposal must describe the advising process for students enrolled in the combined pathway, including how students will be monitored to ensure that they have applied to the graduate degree program at the appropriate time.

## Curriculum:

- Outline the proposed pathway, including the required and elective courses for both the undergraduate and graduate degree programs.
- The proposal must identify and justify, both intellectually and pedagogically, specific courses designated as “shared credits.”
- A program can only designate and allow up to 12 graduate-level hours of “shared credits.”
- Students must earn a 3.0 (B or higher) in the “shared credits” in order for the graduate-level courses to be internally transferred over from the undergraduate to graduate career. Expected course grades must be indicated in this section.
- The proposal must indicate and acknowledge that if a student is admitted into a combined pathway and leaves or opts to pursue a different degree program (not part of the approved combined pathway) that the “shared credits” will no longer apply.
- Complete and attach the “Shared Credits Worksheet.” Shared credits are defined as graduate-level courses in the graduate degree program that can be counted toward completion of the undergraduate degree program within the combined pathway.

## **ADDITIONAL NOTES:**

- FSU students normally apply to participate in a combined pathway in their junior or senior year but may apply as early as the second semester of their sophomore year. Students should make formal application for admission to graduate school during the last semester of their senior year, although some departments may have an earlier deadline.
- Students in a combined pathway must meet the standards, as outlined in the *Undergraduate Bulletin*, for undergraduates to take graduate coursework. Specifically, they must have earned a minimum 3.0 FSU GPA and carry no more than 15 credit hours per semester. As long as students have been admitted to the combined pathway, they will be considered pre-approved by the instructor and the dean when requesting graduate course registration from the Registrar’s Office.
- The unit must indicate what grades are to be earned in the graduate-level courses taken at the undergraduate-level that can be shared towards the student’s graduate degree program. For instance, the unit should indicate a

specific average (of not less than 3.0) and specify the expected letter grades (A, A-, B+, B) in graduate-level coursework (5000 level or above) to be taken and received at the undergraduate level.

- Graduate-level courses that are designated as “shared credits” should be at the 5000-level or above. Directed Individual Study (DIS), internships, or courses given credit-by-examination are not eligible. The “shared credits” will be designated as applicable to the graduate degree program after the student receives the bachelor’s degree and matriculates in the graduate degree program.
- Additional, implementation steps will be provided from the Office of Faculty Development and Advancement after the combined pathway has been formally approved by all parties.

# Combined Bachelor's/Master's Pathway

Bachelor's Degree  
Program Courses

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Credits from  
Bachelor's Degree: \_\_\_\_\_

Master's Degree  
Program Courses

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

**Credits from  
Master's Degree:** \_\_\_\_\_

Graduate Courses  
taken as an Undergraduate

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

Total Shared Credits:

\_\_\_\_\_ *limit 12 credits*

Total Combined Pathway Credit Hours: \_\_\_\_\_