

# Degree Types and Diploma Information

## Accelerated/Combined Degree Programs

NDSU offers accelerated programs of study in a variety of academic disciplines. These programs provide an opportunity for highly-qualified students to earn both a bachelor's degree and master's degree in a cost-effective, high-quality and timely manner. Students may complete a combined undergraduate and graduate program (outline below) or apply to a master's program in a different department to create an undergraduate to graduate educational pathway that best suits their professional aspirations. The following disciplines are currently available as a combined accelerated program where requirements for each degree have been agreed upon by the faculty:

Undergraduate Program	Graduate Program
B.S. in Agribusiness	M.S. in Agribusiness & Applied Economics
B.S. in Agricultural Economics	M.S. in Agribusiness & Applied Economics
B.S.A.B.En. in Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering	M.S. in Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering
B.S. or B.A. in Biological Sciences	M.S. in Biology
B.S.C.E. in Civil Engineering or B.S.Con.E. in Construction Engineering	M.S.CVE in Civil Engineering
Minor in Coatings & Polymeric Materials*	M.S. in Coatings & Polymeric Materials
B.S.Cpr.E. in Computer Engineering	M.S. or M.Engr. in Electrical & Computer Engineering
B.S. in Computer Science	M.S. in Computer Science
B.S. or B.A. in Criminal Justice	M.S. in Criminal Justice
B.S. in Dietetics	M.P.H. in Public Health
B.S. in Dietetics	M.S. Health, Nutrition and Exercise Science - Exercise Science & Nutrition option
B.S. or B.A. in Economics	M.S. in Agribusiness & Applied Economics
B.S.E.E. in Electrical Engineering	M.S. or M. Engr. in Electrical & Computer Engineering
B.S. Food Science	M.S. in Cereal Science
B.S. in Human Development & Family Science	M.S. in Human Development & Family Science
B.S.M.E. in Mechanical Engineering	M.S. in Mechanical Engineering
B.S. or B.A. in Physics	M.S. in Physics

\*The minor in Coatings & Polymeric Materials may be earned by students as part of their primary degree program.

## Guidelines for Accelerated/Combined Bachelors to Masters Programs

The following guidelines set the minimal expectations for combined/accelerated students and programs. Academic departments may set more stringent standards.

- Student must complete at least 60 credits at the undergraduate level prior to conditional admission to the College of Graduate and Interdisciplinary Studies (<https://www.ndsu.edu/gradschool/>).
- Student must have a cumulative undergraduate cumulative grade point average (CGPA) of 3.50 to be eligible for conditional graduate admission to an accelerated/combined program.
- Interested and eligible students must submit a Combined/Accelerated Program Degree Program Declaration Form (<https://powerforms.docusign.net/b40bdfd4-58b2-46bb-8fb3-3a890efd93de/?env=na3&acct=1ceb9a57-b6a3-4df7-b655-d64cf8f1c2d7>) to the director of the graduate program of choice. The graduate program director will evaluate the student's proposed set of graduate classes to determine whether the student will be able to complete them as part of an accelerated program.
- Next, the student's undergraduate major or minor department chairperson/head will evaluate and approve the substitution of the graduate level courses into the undergraduate program as noted in the chart below. A maximum of 15 graduate student credits may be applied to the undergraduate degree.

UGRD Credits to be Satisfied by GRAD coursework	Academic Unit Approving the Course Substitution
Open Electives	UGRD Academic Major
Optional Minor	UGRD Academic Minor
Required Minor	UGRD Academic Minor
Major	UGRD Academic Major

- After receiving the necessary approvals noted above, the student will submit the declaration form to the Graduate School and formally apply for admission to the graduate program.

- All admissions to the Graduate College will be conditional. The minimum condition is completion of the bachelor's degree prior to full standing in the master's program, and the student must maintain a 3.00 CGPA in their graduate classes. Other conditions related to academic performance may be added by the academic unit or Graduate School.
- No undergraduate course may be counted toward a master's degree.
- Students entering the master's degree with a bachelor's degree in hand may not use courses earned as part of the bachelor's program for master's requirements, even if those courses were graduate level courses.
- Students must meet all requirements that would ordinarily be expected of those enrolled in the master's program.

## Procedures

1. Students complete and submit a Combined/Accelerated Degree Program Declaration Form (<https://powerforms.docusign.net/b40bdfd4-58b2-46bb-8fb3-3a890efd93de/?env=na3&acct=1ceb9a57-b6a3-4df7-b655-d64cf8f1c2d7>) to the graduate department for approval to a combined/accelerated program of study. If signed by the department, students are informed of the Graduate School application process by the Department Program Director.
2. Students must apply for graduate admission to the intended master's degree program. The Graduate School will route the declaration form to the Office of Registration and Records via imaging workflow.
3. Students will be active in both undergraduate and graduate careers. Both programs will include an 'accelerated' sub-plan in Campus Connection when possible and depending on the program. Students will register for graduate courses on their graduate career. A maximum of 15 graduate credits may count toward the undergraduate degree. Graduate courses will not be considered for undergraduate Dean's List (<https://bulletin.ndsu.edu/academic-policies/undergraduate-policies/scholastic-standing/#deanslisttext>) or undergraduate Graduation with Honor (<https://bulletin.ndsu.edu/academic-policies/undergraduate-policies/degree-and-graduation/#graduationwithhonortext>) calculations. Enrollment verification will be conducted at the dual-career/combined level.
4. Graduate tuition will be assessed for graduate credits approved for double-counting toward requirements for both undergraduate and graduate programs of study. Double-counted graduate credits count toward totals for financial aid, but are not covered under the tuition cap. Mandatory student fees, however, are capped at 12 credits, regardless of program. If funding permits, students may be supported as teaching or research assistants, thereby qualifying for a tuition waiver on graduate tuition.
5. In order for Student Financial Services to review financial aid eligibility, the graduate courses counting towards the undergraduate major must be detailed in the *Combined/Accelerated Degree Program Declaration Form*.
6. Graduate courses to be utilized on an undergraduate curriculum will require a substitution form to fulfill undergraduate requirements. Forms will be submitted by the undergraduate academic department of the student's major to the Office of Registration and Records.
7. Students must complete all baccalaureate degree requirements at least one semester prior to the term in which the graduate degree is to be conferred. *NOTE: Enrollment should not need to be monitored since students are registering on respective GRAD and UGRD career and applying for graduation for their respective career.*
8. Before receipt of baccalaureate degree, the graduate courses/credits included on the *Combined/Accelerated Degree Program Declaration Form* (up to 15 credits) will be transferred onto the undergraduate record by the Office of Registration and Records. These courses/credits will be included in the undergraduate degree and credit totals. The courses will not be detailed on the undergraduate record, but rather appear as NDSU transfer credit from the Graduate School. A transcript note will be applied after the transfer cumulative strip that reads: "Coursework displayed on the graduate record and applied to the undergraduate degree requirements as part of an approved accelerated/combined plan of study".