New Program Proposal

BS/MS Dual Degree Program in Computer Science
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Integrated BS/MS Degree in Computer Science

The Integrated BS/MS ("2+3") dual degree program involves dual credit for qualified undergraduate Computer Science students. It allows the students to concurrently earn credit for some graduate courses while working on their undergraduate degree, reducing the total hours needed for the subsequent MS degree by up to 12 credit hours.

Entry Requirements

Undergraduate majors can apply for provisional admission to this program if:

1. They have completed at least 60 credit hours of coursework.
2. Their overall GPA is 3.0 or higher.
3. Non-CS majors must at the same time become CS majors.

Upon acceptance to the program in the provisional status, the student continues to work toward his/her undergraduate degree in computer science.

After completion of a minimum of 90 hours and no more than 30 hours away from the undergraduate degree, a provisionally admitted student applies for formal admission to the graduate program. At this point, the student must meet the entry requirements for admission to the M.S. degree in Computer Science.

Degree Requirements

After acceptance into the program, the student continues to complete his/her undergraduate degree. The student is reclassified as a graduate student from the next semester and must pay graduate fees. The student will be assigned a graduate adviser to help optimize the transition to the graduate program. The student continues taking the undergraduate courses but is also allowed to take courses reserved for graduate students. The student completes all the courses to fulfill the requirements to complete his/her M.S. degree in Computer Science – but must also complete the undergraduate requirements. Up to 12 credit hours can be counted towards both the undergraduate and graduate degrees, substantially reducing the hours needed to complete the graduate program by itself.

A student may file for and receive the undergraduate degree at any time when all the requirements are completed, before or in the same semester in which the Master's degree is completed. A student must still complete all the requirements to get a B.S. degree, regardless of whether the student files for the degree or not. A student may choose to finish the studies just with a B.S.

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Sign-offs from other departments affected by this proposal

None

Rationale	The new integrated degree program will allow the Computer Science majors with a strong record to apply for and gain early admission into the MS degree program in Computer Science. It will allow the admitted students to earn graduate credit concurrently while still working on their undergraduate degree. The integrated program will appeal to strong students, motivate undergraduate students to do better, and potentially increase enrollment in both our undergraduate and graduate programs.