

BS(BME)/MS(BME) PROGRAM POLICIES - SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

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- Faculty Approval Date: 2023.06.09 (previous version)
- Effective Date: 2026.05.15

IMPORTANT: This policy only applies to students starting at Drexel University in **Fall 2025-2026 or earlier**.

Students starting **Fall 2026-2027 or later** will follow a revised policy for Accelerated Degree Programs (under development). That policy will be consistent with the changes happening to all Accelerated Degree Programs due to Drexel's Academic Transformation. Please contact the Undergraduate Academic Affairs Committee (UAAC) with any questions or concerns.

PURPOSE AND APPLICATION

The School of Biomedical Engineering, Science and Health Systems wants to minimize confusion regarding the requirements for the combined BS/MS program and plan-of-study.

The School recognizes that the University Catalog is the primary source of all program requirements, and this supplemental information is meant to enhance the student's understanding of those requirements. As the catalog is revised and published each year, it is the responsibility of the UAAC to ensure data fidelity and ultimately, any discrepancies should default to the catalog.

SCHOOL STANDARDS AND REQUIREMENTS FOR ACCELERATED BS/MS PROGRAM

1) Degree Requirements:

- a) **BS requirements:** the BS degree requirements within the BS/MS program must be identical to the standalone BS degree requirements
 - i) The credit hours required by the BS program is defined by the admit year in the table below, please refer to the catalog archive for details about older program requirements

Table 1: Program Credit Hour Requirements / admit year

2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
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188.5	187.5	187.5	186.5	186.5	186.5
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- b) **MS requirements:** the MS degree requirements within the BS/MS program must be identical to the standalone MS degree requirements
 - i) The MS BME program requires a minimum of 45.0 credit hours, please refer to the catalog archive for older program requirements
- c) **Shared credit hours:** GRADUATE course credit hours that count towards **BOTH** the undergraduate and graduate degree requirements.
 - i) Graduate course credit hours can count toward BOTH the BS and MS degree requirements (shared credit) for BS requirements in excess of 180 credit hours. The table below indicates the maximum shared credits for each admit year.

Table 2: Maximum allowable shared credit hours / admit year

2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
8.5	7.5	7.5	6.5	6.5	6.5

- ii) Shared credit hours (Graduate credit hours shared with the UG requirements) must be indicated in the plan-of-study submitted to the Office of Graduate Studies.

2) Student Status

- a) Students who complete their BS Degree concurrently with their MS Degree (Co-Terminal) will be classified as an "Undergraduate" for the entire term of study and will receive both degrees at the same time.
 - i) *Title IV Federal Financial Aid Eligibility allows for maximum 12 terms and requires at*

3) Plan(s) of Study

- a) **5 COP/Co-Terminal** – three (3) – 6-month Co-Op cycles, completes both degrees in 5 years, eligible for 12 terms of undergraduate Federal Financial Aid, classified as undergraduate.
- b) **Financial Aid Compliance** - Title IV Federal Financial Aid Guidelines, Regulations & Eligibility.
 - i) Students can receive up to **12 terms** of Federal Financial Aid to support their undergraduate studies
 - (1) CO-OP Terms do not count as Federal Financial Aid eligible terms
 - ii) To be eligible for **12 terms** of Federal Financial Aid the student must carry a **minimum** of **12 credit hours** required by your undergraduate major program or a formally declared undergraduate minor program per term
 - (1) Plans of study below this requirement (due to transfer, AP credits, or other conditions) will financially impact student's Title IV Federal Financial Aid and Pell Grant Eligibility
 - iii) Students may be asked to meet with Drexel University's DREXEL CENTRAL (Financial Aid Office) to confirm that the Plan of Study is compliant with Title IV Federal Financial Aid Guidelines & Regulations
 - iv) Undergraduate credit hours can include graduate coursework in compliance with other University policies regulating the number of graduate credit hours that can apply toward an undergraduate program (see policy link #4 below).
- c) **Thesis Capstone Option:** students who elect to pursue the thesis capstone option (rather than senior design) should refer to the BS/MS Thesis Option Petition Policy.

4) Grade Point Average Requirements

- a) **Admission** – consistent with University Policy (see policy 1 below) students must have **COMPLETED** at least 90 credit hours and no more than 120 credit hours (as required by the undergraduate program), with a **3.4** cumulative grade point average (GPA) to be accepted.
 - i) **Provisional Admit** – a freshman student can be designated as BSMS **Provisional Admit** but is not officially accepted into the BSMS program until the student meets the ‘admission’ requirement.
- b) **Academic Standing (BS of BS/MS)** – consistent with University Policies (see link below), students must maintain a term and cumulative GPA of 2.0 in Undergraduate Credit hours to remain in the BS program.
 - i) Students dismissed from the BS program are also automatically dismissed from the BS/MS program
- c) **Academic Standing (MS of BS/MS)** – consistent with University Policies (see link below), students must maintain a term and cumulative GPA of 3.0 in Graduate credit hours required by the MS program.
 - i) In addition, if this GPA minimum is not achieved by the end of term 9, the School will dismiss the student from the BS/MS program.
 - (1) Students dismissed from the BS/MS program can remain in the BS program if they maintain the minimum GPA requirements of the BS program (see 4.b above)

5) Thesis Capstone Exit Petition

- a) Students who wish to exit the thesis capstone option must submit a “Thesis Capstone Exit Petition” along with a pre-requisite over-ride request to the Undergraduate Academic Affairs Committee (UAAC) before they can enroll in senior design. The committee will inform students of their decision within approximately 1-2 weeks of receiving the petition.
 - i) If approved, the student will enroll in the remaining senior design sequence.
 - ii) If rejected, the student will need to enroll in the full senior design sequence in order to complete the BS degree requirements (additional terms), which may affect financial aid eligibility.

6) Oversight & Advocacy

- a) Oversight and Coordination is with Drexel University Graduate College.

RELEVANT DOCUMENTS/POLICIES

1) UNIVERSITY STANDARDS & REQUIREMENTS FOR ACCELERATED AND BRIDGE DEGREE PROGRAMS

- a) https://drexel.edu/provost/offices/undergrad-education/accelerated_programs/

2) ACADEMIC STANDING: UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

- a) https://drexel.edu/provost/policies-calendars/policies/academic_standing/

3) ACADEMIC STANDING: GRADUATE STUDENTS

- a) <https://drexel.edu/provost/policies-calendars/policies/graduate-student-academic-standing-policy/>

4) UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS TAKING GRADUATE COURSES

- a) <https://drexel.edu/provost/policies-calendars/policies/undergraduate-students-taking-graduate-courses/>