Section 10

Combined BS/MS Program

10.1 Combined BS/MS Program

The BS/MS program allows exceptional Ohio State undergraduate students to apply up to 12 semester credit hours from their undergraduate studies towards a Master of Science (MS) degree. Students will have an opportunity to work towards two degrees simultaneously and graduate with a BS/MS in less time than required for separate degrees, but at the graduate tuition rate. This allows students to be more efficient during their tenure at Ohio State and creates a potential advantage for them in the marketplace. Students interested in this path should discuss their goals with BME undergraduate advisors, as it generally is not recommended for those interested in pursuing a PhD as it eliminates funding opportunities.

10.2 Who Can Apply

Only students who have earned at least 90 semester credit hours and have a 3.5 GPA or better in all previous undergraduate courses taken may apply.

10.3 When to Apply

Applicants must submit a graduate application and the required supplemental documents to the BME Graduate Studies office before spring of their junior year – before completion of the BS degree, and before pursuit of graduate-level courses. Note that only graduate-level courses taken while enrolled as a combined degree student will count toward the MS requirements for the BS/MS program. Courses taken before this time will not count.
10.4 How to Apply

**Step One**

Set up a meeting with Graduate Studies Chair, Samir Ghadiali (Ghadiali.1@osu.edu). Students must bring a copy of their advising report to this meeting.

**Step Two**

Once you decide that the BS/MS is right for you (after meeting with the Graduate Studies Chair) please contact the Graduate Studies Coordinator with your intentions to apply, and start planning and gathering the following items to file with the BME Graduate Studies Office:

1. Statement of Purpose (including why you are interested in the BS/MS program). This may be attached to your electronic graduate application (re: **Step Three** below)
2. 2-3 letters of recommendation (preferably from your professors or a research supervisor). These may be handled as a part of your electronic graduate application.
3. 1- to 2-page résumé. This may be attached to your electronic graduate application.
4. Copy of your Ohio State Advising report, initialed by your undergraduate advisor
5. Combined Degree Form ([http://engineering.osu.edu/bsms](http://engineering.osu.edu/bsms)) completed as well as is possible, including *at least* all courses necessary to complete the BS degree and initialed by the undergraduate advisor.

**NOTE:** Unlike PhD applicants, *Ohio State engineering students applying to the BS/MS are NOT required to submit GRE scores.*

**Step Three**

Apply online at [http://gradadmissions.osu.edu/apply_online.htm](http://gradadmissions.osu.edu/apply_online.htm).

**IMPORTANT:** Please state “BS/MS” in the field marked “Specialization if any”.

There is an application fee of ~$40.
The items 1, 2, and 3 above may be submitted via the online application process.

The items 4 and 5 above should be submitted directly to the BME Graduate Studies Office to ensure that your undergraduate plans and requirements all are in order and being met.

**10.5 How the BS/MS Program Works**

Students can take up to 12 semester credits worth of classes that can be counted toward both their BS and MS degrees. It is recommended that students earn a non-thesis MS degree unless a senior honors thesis project easily can be extended into an MS thesis project. In order to receive graduate credit, the courses must be reviewed by the official BS/MS Advisor (Samir Ghadiali) and approved by the Biomedical Engineering Graduate Studies Committee (BMEGSC). UG-level courses generally do not count for graduate credit; however, requests can be included on the Combined Degree Form for evaluation by the BMEGSC.

BS/MS students will pay tuition at the graduate-level, but will reduce the amount of time taken to earn undergraduate and graduate degrees.

The double counting courses must be taken at The Ohio State University after acceptance into the BS/MS Program.

In order to be eligible for graduate credit, the courses must meet the following requirements: Students must achieve a score of B+ or better for the course; Courses must be taken at Ohio State, and be at the graduate level.

**10.6 Advising for BS/MS Students**
Once enrolled in the BS/MS Program, students are encouraged to work with individual faculty members on projects and independent studies and these faculty members will serve as Research Advisors. Students need to select an advisor by the end of their first semester of enrollment in graduate study. Furthermore, each student must find a faculty advisor for the MS degree program and are expected to have chosen who their faculty advisor will be by the time they receive the BS degree. Undergraduate and Graduate Studies Chairs may be able to help in this regard.

Students are urged to consult College of Engineering and Graduate School rules on Combined Degree programs, which can be found at http://engineering.osu.edu/bsms.

Using the Combined Degree Form as a starting point, students should work to identify the 12 semester credit-hours’ worth of courses they wish to double-count. Again, this can be found at http://engineering.osu.edu/bsms or on the BME website.

Before enrollment in a combined BS/MS program, and again in the term you graduate with your BS degree, students must submit this form to Cheryl Yeack in the College of Engineering. All BS/MS paperwork must be approved by the Biomedical Engineering Graduate Studies Committee Chair before it can be submitted.

10.7 Summary of MS Program Requirements

Upon receiving their undergraduate degrees, students enrolled in the BS/MS program must meet all of the requirements as detailed in the Master of Science Degree Program section of this handbook.
Following receipt of the baccalaureate degree, the student must meet the requirements of the MS program as specified by the BMEGSC.

The first step is to meet with the BS/MS Advisor (Graduate Studies Chair) for assistance identifying an MS Advisory Committee. This Committee is comprised of two faculty: one main MS advisor (i.e., a graduate faculty member in BME) and one assisting committee member (with graduate faculty status at Ohio State).

The MS Committee – with input from the BS/MS Advisor and Graduate Studies Chair – will advise students with regard to graduate course selection and program formation, as well as the Non-thesis MS Culminating Experience: a 12-hour culminating experience involving the application of biomedical engineering that could involve an internship or practicum in an industrial setting, a mentored patient-contact experience, a community service experience, or some similar experience, followed by a written Master’s Exam consisting of a 1000-1500 word written document explaining the experience and its relevance to the field. An oral presentation discussing the experience may also be included.

A BMEGSC-reviewed Program of Study must be on file with the Graduate Studies Office before the end of the second term of enrollment in the MS program; however, it is recommended that BS/MS students formulate a plan sooner to ensure that the Combined Degree Form (which must be submitted to the College of Engineering and Graduate School within the first term of BS/MS enrollment) is relevant. The Program should include the description of the Master’s Exam experience.

For more information, please consult the following BME Non-thesis MS Requirements detailed in this Handbook. (Note: Students interested in completing a thesis would, with permission of the BS/MS Advisor and
10.8 Note on University Fellowship Eligibility

In the event that a BS/MS student unexpectedly decides to go on for a PhD degree, he/she may be eligible to compete in the University Fellowship program. Students in the combined BS/MS program are eligible for nomination for only Distinguished University Fellowship awards: multi-year awards that provide support for one year early in the graduate program and support for the final dissertation year.

Students who wish to apply for these prestigious fellowships are advised to contact the Graduate Studies Coordinator to talk about:

- Revising personal statements and research goals accordingly
- Plans to take the GRE at an appropriate time.