

Proposed BSc/MSc Integrated Degrees Program

Faculty of Science, McGill University

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During the 2008-09 academic year the Faculty is planning to establish a number integrated BSc/Masters programs, starting with the BSc/MSc. The purpose of this document is to outline a proposed structure and to identify tasks that should be done by the departments and tasks to be done by individual departments.

The aim of the integrated BSc/MSc is to define a path where strong McGill undergraduates can leverage their excellent undergraduate training and enter a streamlined MSc program.

1 Overall functioning of the integrated program

- In the winter term of U2, BSc undergrads would apply for entrance into the integrated BSc/MSc program. Applications will go directly to departments and will be formally approved by GPSO.
- Before July of their U2 year, applicants would be notified of the decision on their application. Acceptance offers would be conditional upon successful completion of the B.Sc. degree with certain conditions on their GPA and program. For example, for units which currently expect more than three courses for the M.Sc., one could imagine that a condition of the B.Sc. program be that it include a certain number of 500-level courses (or with special permission 600-level courses).
- During the U3 year, all integrated students would be tracked by their department. The department could support different activities for these students, including: special advising to ensure they select the correct U3 courses, help in getting matched with research groups, advice on applying for NSERC/FQRNT/external scholarships, inclusion in department seminar series and so on. The Faculty could also provide some services to these students through OURS. For example, a special seminar on Science writing might be organized.
- At the end of U3 students in the integrated program would be given the choice of starting their M.Sc. studies either in May or in September. In some cases it may be advantageous for the student to hold an NSERC USRA summer fellowship, so they would not register as a M.Sc. student until September. In either case, students should be involved in a research at McGill during the summer.
- In the Fall term of their M.Sc. 1 year students would complete their course requirements. The expected course load for integrated students would be three graduate courses. Normally these would be completed in the first term, but there may be some cases where it is reasonable to delay one course to the Winter term.

- In the Winter and Summer terms the student would complete their M.Sc. thesis, with the aim to be ready to graduate at the end of summer.
- During the M.Sc. year students would be given advice on applying for Ph.D. programs, most usually at another institution.

2 TODO activities

- *LJH TODO*: Define an acceptable application process with GPSO, including deadlines, fee, forms to use.
- *Dept TODO*: Confirm that your department will participate in the integrated BSc/MSc program.
- *Dept TODO*: Define the general criteria used by your department to admit students into the integrated BSc/MSc program.

Here is one possibility. *Students should have a CGPA of at least 3.3 at the end of their U2 year, must have completed a significant part of their major, must be able to satisfy the undergraduate requirements of the integrated program during their U3 year, and must have potential for research as indicated by the reference letters and research statement.*

- *Dept TODO*: Define how your department would like to handle the integration. Effectively, you must decide what program must be completed by the end of U3 and what program must be completed for the course work of the MSc. At most three courses should be required during the MSc. Additional courses involving departmental seminars could be in addition to these three courses.

Here is one possibility. *Students must complete at least 3 credits of research plus 9 credits of courses at the 500-level or above during their BSc studies and complete an additional 9 credits of graduate courses during their MSc studies.*

- *Dept. TODO*: Identify the departmental activities you plan to provide for integrated students in their U3 year. This need not be fully developed, but it would be useful to have a list of possible activities when showing the benefits of this integrated program.
- *OURS TODO*: Identify possible Faculty-level activities for integrated students.

3 Timeline

- Departments, OURS and LJH will report back on the TODO items above for the October 28th meeting. A short document or e-mail should be sent to lisa.stanischewski@mcgill.ca by October 21st.
- Departmental proposals will be discussed at the October 28th meeting. These will not yet be the formal proposals.
- Right after the October 28th AC meeting, LJH will put the different department proposals together and extract out all the common parts. LJH and gang will help put together the official paperwork, along with help from the departments.

- Official paperwork will be considered at the November 18th AC meeting, at which time the proposals will need to have been approved by the normal departmental processes. If everything looks ok, documents will be come to the Dec. 2nd Faculty of Science meeting and then on to SCTP.