SIMULTANEOUS AWARD OF THE BACHELOR’S AND MASTER’S DEGREES

A Yale College undergraduate of extraordinary ability may, with the permission of the department, Yale College, and the Graduate School, undertake graduate work that will qualify the student at the end of senior year for the simultaneous award of the bachelor’s and master’s degrees. Each department decides whether or not it wishes to permit this arrangement. If a department currently does not offer this option but wishes to participate in the program, the department may send a proposal to the Committee on the Simultaneous Award of the Bachelor’s and Master’s Degrees. For more information, contact the Director of Academic and Educational Affairs (joel.silverman@yale.edu).

The general regulations and requirements for the program are published under Special Arrangements in the Academic Regulations in the YCPS. The application to the program is available here. A student is expected to consult carefully with both the DUS and the DGS of the department before applying. The student then applies for the simultaneous award through the DUS who, after securing the necessary approval from the department, forwards the application to the Committee on the Simultaneous Award of the Bachelor’s and Master’s Degrees through the Yale College Dean’s Office. Alternatively, the DUS may forward the application and letter by email to the Director of Academic and Educational Affairs. (joel.silverman@yale.edu) The deadline for students to submit an application to the DUS is the last day of classes in their fifth term of enrollment, ordinarily the end of the fall term of the junior year.

Students should delineate their plans to complete all the general requirements of the program, as well as any requirements specific to the department. Two regulations should be kept particularly in mind:

1. Students must complete at least eight graduate-level courses (either in the Graduate School or, if approved by the DGS, in one of the professional schools). Normally, these credits must be in addition to the number of courses required for the undergraduate major. While some participating departments may allow up to two overlapping term courses to apply to the requirements of the bachelor’s and master’s degree, and while candidates for the simultaneous degree are not prohibited from completing a second major (or a certificate), students may not apply two overlapping term courses toward the completion of both the simultaneous degree and toward completion of the two majors (or certificate); only one such overlap is permitted.

2. For all students in the program, graduate work must not be entirely concentrated in the final two terms. Students in the program must take at least six term courses outside the major during their last four terms at Yale, and must take at least two of those six courses during their last two terms of enrollment.

The Committee on the Simultaneous Award of the Bachelor’s and Master’s Degrees ordinarily reviews applications once all final grades for the term have been submitted. Students are officially recognized as candidates for two degrees only after approval by both the department and the committee. Simultaneous-award candidates must petition the Graduate School for the award of the master’s degree by the deadline published in the Graduate School bulletin.