

Academic Programs and Planning (APP) Committee  
Feedback and Response Form

Thank you for your submission of the proposal titled BS in Health Science/MBA in Health Administration and Leadership accelerated dual degree program.

The APP committee reviewed the proposal on December 14, 2023 and requests the proposal authors use this form to respond to the following questions and or suggestions. Please submit your responses by January 11, 2024 to be considered in the next APP meeting.

Committee Suggestion/Clarification	Author Response
<p>In order for students to graduate within 5 years with both degrees, they have to take summer classes and also take 5 courses in one semester, including two graduate courses. It is a big jump from taking four undergraduate courses every semester (at 4 credits each) to then taking five courses in one semester at the same time the student is experiencing two graduate level courses for the first time. Typically, graduate students take 9 credits per semester to maintain a full load. Thus, six graduate credits and 12 undergraduate credits at the same time sounds like there is not enough time in the day to study to complete that coursework. Please clarify how the academic load in year four is a reasonable expectation.</p>	<p>Thank you for this question. It has allowed us to take a second look at the curriculum, and therefore make some improvements to it.</p> <p>This question raises two issues: 1) summer courses and 2) “5 courses in one semester”. I will address both independently.</p> <p>The MBA-HAL program is structured so two courses are taken every summer. The curriculum of this accelerated dual degree makes use of that already established structure.</p> <p>Regarding the coursework required in the fourth year, we recognize it will be demanding, but we are confident the student will be able to handle it. However, the courses in the fourth year have been moved around so the workload is more evenly distributed. The more demanding undergraduate courses (i.e., GIS, HLTH 4200, and FINA 3110) are now together in the Spring semester with only one graduate course (15 credits), and in the</p>

	<p>Fall semester two potentially low-stakes undergraduate courses (depending on what the student chooses) are together with 3 graduate courses.</p> <p>Finally, students will also have the option to take one or more courses in previous summer sessions to alleviate the workload of future semesters or choose to graduate in 5 years and one semester.</p>
<p>The language of the proposal does not make clear that students have to formally apply to the master's degree. As written, students could simply declare the accelerated track, with automatic acceptance if they meet all of the requirements prior to starting their senior year. Please clarify whether or not the graduate school application process is needed.</p>	<p>Thank you for your question. This gave us the opportunity to clarify the process with Graduate Admissions, which is helpful for everyone involved.</p> <p>The process for matriculation into the MBA-HAL is as follows: When dual degree students apply for graduation from their bachelor's degree (spring of year 4), they apply to the MBA-HAL using the "<a href="#">Direct Entry</a>" application option. Working with preceptors, the MBA-HAL chair will provide Graduate Admissions with a list of students who meet the requirements for the dual degree to avoid any missteps in the process. The MBA-HAL chair will review the Direct Entry applications, and assuming the students meet the requirements laid out in the proposal, they will be admitted into the program to start the graduate portion in summer of year 4. To ensure a smooth transition, the MBA-HAL chair can also pre-register dual degree students for the summer class(es) to ensure they stay on track.</p>
<p>Given that summer classes are required in two summers, it is not going to be obvious to many that this option would actually lead to cost savings on the part of the typical student. Do the math to show that the cost differential between</p>	<p>Thank you for this question. When we researched this question, we were pleasantly surprised by the findings.</p> <p>Because of the undergraduate tuition flat rate, students in this accelerated dual degree program will save a minimum of \$11,004</p>

<p>undergraduate and graduate tuition does mean that the student saves by going this route.</p>	<p>(\$917 per graduate credit) with the graduate course taken in the senior year.</p> <p>Cutting one year from the graduate program also saves students money in transportation and food when attending classes; it also allows students to seek a job as an MBA or get a raise in their current work sooner, therefore increasing their earnings sooner.</p> <p>Finally, we would like the committee to know that if the student takes at least 6 credits in the summer, they are eligible for financial aid.</p>
<p>By “maintain a GPA” do you mean maintain the minimum of 3.2 GPA for undergraduate classes and 3.0 (B) for graduate classes? Please clarify on p.2.</p>	<p>Thank you for this question. It gave us the opportunity to review this section of the proposal and realized that the inconsistency in GPA requirements was confusing. A minimum of a 3.0 GPA is now required for both the undergraduate and graduate portions of the program.</p> <p>The relevant text was edited in the proposal to clarify this issue: <i>Once enrolled, to maintain accepted status in the accelerated dual degree program, all students must maintain a minimum 3.0 GPA and earn a of a “C” for all BSHS core and cognate courses, and a grade of B or better in all graduate courses.</i></p>
<p>Is it possible to complete this program without the use of summer term required courses? A way to do so should, if at all possible, be presented as a curricular option even if it means students will need to take 20 undergraduate credits in some semesters.</p>	<p>Thank you for this question and the opportunity to explain why this program is structured in this way.</p> <p>The curriculum of the MBA-Hal program is already structure to require two summers, and two regular academic years (you can review the curriculum of the MBA-HAL program <a href="#">here</a>). The curricular sheet for this accelerated dual degree program cuts one academic year from the MBA-HAL program and keeps one academic year and the two summers.</p>

On p. 5, the table for fifth year fall/spring says 12 crds but only 3 classes at 3 credits per semester are listed

Thank you for pointing out this mistake. It has been fixed.