Information about the BCBP Co-Terminal BS/MS Program for Students

The Office of Graduate Education has determined that students must apply to the co-terminal program no later than the first semester of the senior (fourth) year, although applications may be accepted in the junior year as well (after the completion of 90 credits).

The application is a two-part process – you must apply first to the Biology department, and if approved by the Biology department, your application is sent to the Office of Graduate Education, where it must also gain approval.

For Fall submission, complete applications must be received in the Biology office by October 1.
For Spring submission, complete applications must be received in the Biology office by April 1.

Thesis Requirement

The Master’s thesis needs to be based on original work. Includes a formal written document approved by a thesis committee and submitted to the Graduate School following all the MS thesis rules. Student must register for BCBP 6990 (Master’s Thesis) for 1-2 semesters (4-9 credits).

Course Requirements

- At least half of the 30 credits for the MS degree must be at the 6000 level (may include research and readings).
- No more than 15 credits may be from 4000 level courses.
- At least 15 credits must be BCBP or BIOL or CHEM courses.
- Cannot repeat a course at the graduate level that was already taken at the undergraduate level.
- Students must take a minimum of 12 credits a semester.
- At least 21 credits must be from course work (including readings courses).
- Courses below 4000 level are not allowed.
- Student must complete the usual 128 credits for their BS.
- The Biology Core Courses are meant for Ph.D. students. Permission from Dr. Swank or Dr. Barquera is required to take a Biology Core Course.

Grade Requirements

- Students must maintain an overall average of B (3.0) or higher for their MS courses. They must pass each course with a C- or higher.

Additional Information

- Students must still pay tuition.
- Students can still receive financial aid from RPI.
- Student may get a MS in BCBP and a BS from another major.
- Students graduate their 5th year. However, they may petition, in person, at the registrar to walk with their class.
- Co-terminal students are not allowed to be a graduate RA or TA and receive an RA or TA stipend.

Student Requirements to Apply

- GPA of 3.2 or above
- Completed 90 credits of Coursework (AP, transfer and courses in progress count)

July 2017
• Students are required to apply before Oct. 1st of their senior year (or 4th year).
• Complete the Co-Terminal Application form from the Office of Graduate Education.  
  http://www.rpi.edu/dept/grad/docs/Co-Term%20App.pdf
  o This must be signed by the student’s Undergraduate Advisor and Graduate Advisor(s).  
    Note that the undergraduate and graduate advisors may be the same faculty member or 
    may be different faculty members. Dr. Chunyu Wang’s (Graduate Program Director) 
    signature is not required at this time. He will sign it if the application is accepted by the 
    BCBP graduate program.
• Complete a Plan of Study (POS) (http://www.rpi.edu/dept/grad/docs/pos02.PDF) 
  o See “Course Requirements” above for information on completing the POS  
  o Graduate advisor’s signature must be on the form. Dr. Wang (Graduate Program Director) 
    will sign it if the application is accepted by the BCBP program.
• Complete the 4th and 5th year planner (last page of application form) 
  o Must have at least 128 credits applied to BS, and at least 30 for MS.  
  o Student must take a minimum of 12 credits of courses each semester.  
  o Student may take both BS and MS courses in a single semester
• Submit a copy of their CAPP report.
• Submit a written 1-2 page statement of purpose. This must include how this program will benefit 
  him/her and why he/she should be admitted. The statement will be important for determining 
  acceptance into the program. It should include possible ideas for independent research or a plan 
  for their program project.
• Submit 2 letters of support. One from their graduate advisor and a second from another faculty 
  member. The graduate advisor must state that he/she will be responsible for advising the 
  student and will help the student identify a program project instructor.

General Application Process

1. Student obtains application and information from Jody Malm or downloads application from the 
   graduate office web site.
2. Student identifies a graduate advisor to help develop Plan of Study (POS), and completes the 
   Fourth and Fifth Year Planner. Student should also identify a faculty member to be Master’s 
   thesis advisor.
3. Both the graduate advisor and undergraduate advisor must sign the application form. 
4. Student submits complete application (see above) to JM by Oct. 1st.  
5. Applications are reviewed and if deemed acceptable, the applications will be signed by Dr. 
   Chunyu Wang and applications are sent to the graduate office for approval. Students are notified 
   if they are not accepted.
6. Accepted students receive admission notice from Graduate Admissions Office.

See the Office of Graduate Education web page: 
http://gradoffice.rpi.edu/update.do?catcenterkey=33 for additional information about the Co-
Terminal program. Note that the BCBP program has additional requirements not listed by the 
Office of Graduate Education.