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 for admission in the Fall semester after a May graduation. For students who will finish their undergraduate degree in December, rather than the next May, Co-Terminal Applications are due in the spring of their junior year (after the completion of 90 credits).

The application is a two-part process – you must apply first to the BCBP program, and if approved by the BCBP Program, 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.

Co-Terminal Masters requirements
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 with their BS (typically after their 4th year) and may walk with their B.S. class at graduation.
- Co-terminal students are not allowed to be a graduate RA or TAs during their fifth year, but may be graduate RAs during the summer prior to starting their graduate program (if a faculty member is willing to support them).

Student Requirements to Apply for Co-Terminal BCBP Masters
- GPA of 3.2 or above
- 90 credits of coursework completed (AP, transfer and courses in progress count)
- Complete the Co-Terminal Application form from the Office of Graduate Education.
    - https://info.rpi.edu/sites/default/files/Co-Terminal%20Application.pdf
    - 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. The Graduate Program Director's signature is not required at this time. She/he will sign it if the application is accepted by the Biology Department.
- Complete a Plan of Study (POS)
    - https://info.rpi.edu/sites/default/files/Graduate%20Plan%20of%20Study.pdf
    - See above for information on course requirements
    - Graduate advisor's signature must be on the form. The Graduate Program Director will sign it if the application is accepted by the Biology Department.
- Complete the 4th and 5th year planner (last page of application form)
    - Must have at least 128 credits applied to BS, and at least 30 for MS.
    - Student must take a minimum of 12 credits of courses each semester.
    - Student may take both BS and MS courses during their fourth year, **but may not take courses to be applied to their B.S. during their fifth year.**
- Submit a copy of their CAPP or Degree works 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 Biology Department office 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 or project advisor.
3. Both the graduate advisor and undergraduate advisor must sign the application form.
4. Student submits complete application (see above) to the Biology Department by the Oct. 1 or April 1 deadline.
5. Applications are reviewed and if deemed acceptable, the applications will be signed by the BCBP Graduate Program Director and applications are sent to the Office of Graduate Education 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: https://info.rpi.edu/co-terminal-program/co-terminal-application for additional information about the Co-Terminal program. Note that the BCBP program has additional requirements not listed by the Office of Graduate Education.

Requirements for an M.S. in Biochemistry & Biophysics
(applies to both co-terminal* and regular M.S. degrees)
The Master's Degree in BCBP consists of 30 credits. Students can pursue either (A) a thesis-based Masters, (B) a course-based Masters, or (C) Masters with Professional Project-based Masters (preferred option) with the following requirements:

A. Thesis-based Master's degree
TOTAL of 30 credits, with 21-26 credits of coursework, and a 4-9 credit MS thesis with the following requirements:
1. The MS thesis is typically a laboratory research project undertaken with a faculty mentor. An MS thesis must be approved by an MS thesis committee and must be submitted to the Office of Graduate Education following all the MS thesis rules.
2. Students cannot repeat a course at the graduate level that was already taken at undergraduate level.
3. Of the 30 credits, 15 or more (including the thesis) must be at the 6000 level, with the rest at 4000 or above.
4. Of the 30 credits, 15 or more must have the BIOL or BCBP, CHEM OR PHYS prefix.
5. Of the 30 credits, 8 or more must come from BCBP modules.

B. Course-based Masters (30 credits)
TOTAL of 30 credits of coursework, with the following requirements:
1. Students cannot repeat a course at the graduate level that was already taken at the undergraduate level.
1. Of the 30 credits, 15 or more must be at the 6000 level, with the rest at 4000 or above.
2. Of the 30 credits, 15 or more must have the BIOL or BCBP, CHEM OR PHYS prefix.
3. Of the 30 credits, 8 or more must come from BCBP modules.

C. Masters with Professional Project (preferred plan) (30 credits)
TOTAL of 30 credits, with 21-28 credits of coursework, and a 2-9 credit professional project with the following requirements:
1. At least 21 credits of coursework (with at least 11 credits at 6000 level)
2. Professional project (2-9 credits)
3. Of the 30 credits of coursework + professional project, 15 or more (including the project) must be at the 6000 level, with the rest at 4000 or above.
4. Of the 30 credits, 15 or more must have the BIOL or BCBP, CHEM OR PHYS prefix
5. Students cannot repeat a course at the graduate level that was already taken at the undergraduate level.
6. Of the 30 credits, 8 or more must come from BCBP modules.

BCBP modules:
BCBP-6870 Protein Structure Determination
BCBP-6420 Molecular Modeling
BCBP-6800 Methods in Biophysics
BCBP-6965 Systems Biology
BCBP-6310 Genetic Engineering