Department of Information Studies
College of Computing and Information

B.A./M.S.I.S. or B.S./M.S.I.S. COMBINED DEGREE PROGRAMS

The combined B.A./M.S.I.S. or B.S./M.S.I.S. program in information studies provides a unique opportunity for capable, highly motivated students to pursue any undergraduate liberal arts major while at the same time beginning their professional preparation for a career in information science. The emphasis of the program is on the planning, provision and administration of information systems and services. M.S.I.S. concentrations include Archives and Records Administration, Information Management and Policy, Information Systems and Technology, Library and Information Services, and Library and Information Services/School Media (leads to NYS certification for School Library Media Specialist).

Students may be admitted to the combined program at the beginning of their junior year or after successful completion of 56 credits. A carefully designed program can enable the student to earn the B.A./B.S. and M.S.I.S. within 10 semesters. A cumulative grade point average of 3.20 or higher and three supportive letters of recommendation are required. The Graduate Record Exam is not required for admission.

B.A./M.S.I.S. or B.S./M.S.I.S. Degree Requirements

In qualifying for the baccalaureate, students will meet all University and department requirements, including existing major and minor requirements, general education requirements, minimum liberal arts and sciences requirements, and residency requirements. Students in the combined program may complete a minor in information science and policy including the courses listed below. Students who are Information Studies majors will combine undergraduate and graduate courses to fulfill major requirements, and will choose a different area for their minor. However, please note that undergraduate students do not have to major or minor in Information Studies in order to enter the combined program.

ICSI 105
IINF 201
IIST 523
IIST 601
IIST 602
One additional IIST courses at 500 level or above

A minimum of 150 credits is required to fulfill both undergraduate and graduate degree requirements (up to 12 graduate credits may be used to fulfill requirements at both levels). A minimum of 120 credits is needed for the B.A. or B.S. After the semester in which they complete 120 credits or 12 graduate credits, students are considered graduate students for the purposes of tuition and eligibility for graduate assistantships, fellowships, and loans. Students apply for the undergraduate degree when all B.A. or B.S. requirements are met, and then continue with full graduate status.
CLAIRIFICATION TO STUDENTS IN COMBINED BACHELOR'S/MASTER'S PROGRAMS

As noted above, “Students are considered undergraduates until they have accumulated 120 credits, satisfied all degree requirements and been awarded the baccalaureate degree.”

However, although students who have failed to satisfy “all degree requirements” will not be granted the baccalaureate degree until all undergraduate requirements are met, please be aware that for determining such matters as whether students pay undergraduate or graduate tuition, the following policy applies:

“Although admitted to an integrated degree program, students will be considered as undergraduate students for purposes of tuition, financial aid, and head count identification until completion of 12 credits of graduate work or until qualified to receive the bachelor’s degree. In the semester in which a student enrolls in the 13th credit of graduate course work, he or she will be considered a graduate student for purposes of tuition, headcount identification, and eligibility for graduate assistantships, fellowships, and loans whether or not the student has completed the degree.

Students’ progress through the combined program will be reviewed in the Office of the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education to ensure timely completion of the undergraduate degree. Academic advisors of bachelor’s-master’s programs and students themselves should also attend to course enrollment choices that lead to timely completion of undergraduate requirements.” (Accepted by University Senate, March 9, 2009)

Students interested in further information regarding the combined programs should contact the appropriate program’s department chair* or the Office of the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education, LC 30 (518-442-3950).

http://www.albany.edu/undergraduate_bulletin/joint_degree.html

*The Information Studies Department contact person is Daphne Jorgensen, Assistant to the Chair, DR116 (518-442-5110).