

Joint Degree Programs

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The University offers a number of joint degrees to students in the College. Interested students should meet with their advisers to discuss these programs.

Joint Bachelor's/Master's Programs. Joint BA-MA/MS programs permit qualified students to enter upon a course of graduate study while also completing their work in the College. Any department may decide to offer a joint program to those students accepted by the faculty. Departments and majors offering joint degrees include this information in the descriptions of undergraduate programs. Students in joint programs complete at least forty-eight courses instead of the forty-two courses required for a BA degree. Applicants must have completed a significant portion of their undergraduate program before they can apply to master's level programs. Generally this means that students are admitted to candidacy for the master's degree during their fourth year in the College. During this year of graduate work, students will be billed for tuition at the graduate rate. Students should consult their College advisers, as well as the appropriate program chairman or program coordinator, for detailed information about these options.

Joint MA Degree in Social Service Administration. The School of Social Service Administration (SSA) offers students an opportunity to begin their professional training while still in the College. Qualified students who wish to pursue a joint MA degree in Social Service Administration should consult with the BA/MA adviser in the College and with the director of admissions at SSA early in their third year. They are expected to have a GPA of 3.25 or higher and to have completed their general education requirements. To be admitted to the joint program, students must have no more than two courses remaining in their College major program. Those two courses may be taken in the autumn and winter quarters of the fourth year.

Students should be aware that they will be taking nine courses in their fourth year: four SSA core courses; three additional SSA courses, which must fulfill content requirements within the SSA core curriculum; and two electives. These electives may be counted toward the College major with the approval of the director of undergraduate studies in the major. Students will also work in a field placement.

BA/MA students enter joint residence status during the three quarters prior to the anticipated date of College graduation, during which time they will be charged tuition at SSA's graduate rates.

Professional Option Program in Medicine. The University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine's Professional Option Program in Medicine permits undergraduate students who have demonstrated outstanding potential for success in medicine to begin medical school during their fourth year in the College. This is a highly competitive, merit-award program.

Because of the accelerated nature of the curriculum, applicants must have outstanding academic credentials as evidenced by a combination of GPA and MCAT scores that place them among the top nationwide candidates for medical school (i.e., GPA typically in the range of 3.7, and MCAT scores typically not less than 33 with no individual section score less than 8). Eligible students also have a clear understanding of their motivation for medicine; evidence of analytical thinking, effective communication skills, leadership, and engagement in the various communities in which they participate; and compelling reasons to attend Pritzker.

Candidates will apply to this program during their third year in the College. Eligible students must have completed thirty-three credits (of the forty-two required for a degree in the College) by the end of their third year. These thirty-three credits must include all fifteen general education requirements and one-half of the requirements for their major.

Through this program, students will, upon completion of the first year of medical school at Pritzker, be allowed to use credit from their medical school courses to fulfill the remaining nine credits for the undergraduate degree. At the successful conclusion of their first year of medical school, students completing their degree in this fashion will receive the Bachelor of Arts in Professional Option: Medicine.

Interested students should schedule an appointment with a health professions adviser early in their second year. Consult the Office of Admissions at the Pritzker School of Medicine (pritzkeradmissions@bsd.uchicago.edu) for details.

Professional Option Program in Public Policy Studies. The Irving B. Harris Graduate School of Public Policy Studies offers a program to undergraduate students interested in early completion of an advanced professional degree. Students must submit applications to the Office of the Dean of Students in the Harris School (1155 E. 60th St.) in Autumn Quarter of their third year. To be eligible, students must have completed thirty-three credits (of the forty-two required for a degree in the College) by the end of their third year. Completed credit must include fifteen general education courses, one-half of the requirements for a College major, and one-half of the required number of electives. At the end of their fourth year, having completed the first-year program of at least nine courses in the professional school, the student is awarded a BA in Professional Option-Public Policy Studies. Before beginning the application process with the Harris School for this professional option program, students must meet with Ron Gorny, the BA/MA adviser. Students should make this appointment early in their second year so that all College requirements can be met. For an appointment, call the College Advisers' Reception Desk at 702.8615.