Considerations for Stacked Undergraduate and Graduate Courses
Graduate Division
Prepared by the AAA Committee of Graduate Council
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Definition of a Stacked Undergraduate with Graduate Course
An undergraduate course and a graduate course offered together, meeting at the same time and place with the same content and instructor(s), but with different learning outcomes, readings/assignments, and grading rubric.

Purpose
To offer a combined course that enhances the educational experience of both undergraduate and graduate students interacting with each other.

Criteria and Restrictions
Any existing graduate and undergraduate courses may be stacked, with the following restrictions:

- The undergraduate course in the stacking must be upper division (300 or 400) but not directed reading (499). The graduate course may not be exam prep (500), directed research/reading (699), or thesis/dissertation research (700, 800).
- The pre-existing course titles in the catalog may differ from one another, and each course can be offered separately without stacking in any given semester.
- Course content must overlap significantly.
- The undergraduate and graduate students meet together for class (or online) most if not all of the time.
- Two different syllabi should be produced, one for the undergraduates and one for the graduate students.
- The graduate syllabus should explain the rationale for the combined graduate and undergraduate mix, and should indicate the common aspects as well as the different expectations for graduate level work.
- Graduate students must interact with undergraduates in such a way as to benefit both.
- Graduate students may make presentations, bring in additional materials, and collaborate with undergraduates on projects.
- This is NOT a substitute for a graduate teaching assistantship. The graduate students remain students and should not be grading the undergraduates, even if the content of the course is pedagogical in nature or involves mentoring.
- Departments may either allow or prohibit students who take the undergraduate course to later take the graduate course.
- Undergraduates may be allowed to enroll in the graduate level course according to the department’s procedure and criteria, for example as part of a BAM pathway program or Honors program. However, they would need to fulfill the requirements of the graduate syllabus.
• In terms of faculty workload, counts as one course, rather than two. Combined enrollments should meet the minimum threshold for an undergraduate course in that department or college.

• Approval is given at the department level in conjunction with their college procedures. Graduate Division in this document offers suggested guidelines for approval.

• New graduate course proposals that indicate a course may be stacked with an undergraduate one should supply both syllabi, with the understanding that the graduate course proposal should “stand alone” as well.