

**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.