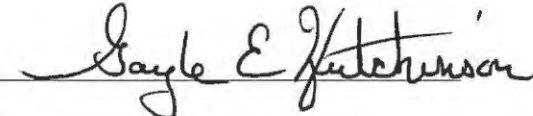




**Executive Memorandum 23-005**

**April 11, 2023**

**From:** Gayle E. Hutchinson, President 

**Subject:** Blended Bachelor’s and Master’s Degree Programs

Upon the recommendation of the Academic Senate and with the concurrence of the Provost, I approve the Policy on Blended Bachelor’s and Master’s Degree Programs.

<b>Policy Title:</b>	EM 23-005: Policy on Blended Bachelor’s and Master’s Degree Programs
<b>Contact:</b>	Academic Affairs
<b>Supersedes:</b>	
<b>Revision:</b>	
<b>Enabling Legislation or Executive Order:</b>	<a href="#">AA2012-01</a>

**Policy Title: Policy on Blended Bachelor’s and Master’s Degree Programs**

**Definition and Scope**

A blended bachelor’s and master’s degree program combines an existing Chico State bachelor’s degree with an existing Chico State master’s degree; the blended program allows up to twelve units of the graduate program units to be double-counted at the undergraduate level, for a minimum of 138 units to receive both degrees. Students who complete a blended program will receive both a bachelor’s and master’s degree.

Blended programs must:

1. Be comprised of a minimum of 138 semester units; and
2. Satisfy all degree requirements for the respective bachelor’s and master’s degrees; and
3. Comply with all requirements of the CSU and of Chico State; and
4. Be reviewed by the Chancellor’s Office (CO) in accordance with CSU requirements; and
5. Be approved by the President of the university through an Executive Memorandum.

Blended programs may include a self-support component, but if so, they must:

1. Clearly identify when the student completes the state support bachelor's degree (if applicable); and
2. Begin to charge self-support tuition only for those graduate units that do not count towards the state support bachelor's degree; and

3. Clearly notify the students of the differences between the state and self-support programs including, at minimum, the tuition/cost differences and the financial aid impacts.

### **Application to Blended Programs**

Students interested in applying to a blended program must:

1. Be enrolled in a bachelor's degree program at Chico State; and
2. Meet the minimum Grade Point Average of the existing master's degree entrance requirements for all bachelor's course work completed at the time of the application to the blended program or show promise to reach this level as determined by the program(s); and
3. Must maintain the minimum Grade Point Average of the existing master's degree entrance requirement at the time of transitioning from bachelor's to graduate course work or show promise to reach this level as determined by the program(s).

Once admitted to the blended program, students shall not be required to apply for admission to the graduate master's program.

### **Awarding of Degrees**

Upon completion of 120 semester units and with the completion of all requirements for the Bachelor's degree, students in blended programs will be awarded the Bachelor's degree. Upon completion of the requirements for the Master's degree, students will be awarded the Master's degree.

### **Reentry into the Blended Program**

If a student completes the bachelor's portion of the program and separates from the university without completing the master's degree, and later wishes to return to complete the master's degree, they must formally apply for graduate admission through the typical Graduate School application process. With the approval of their master's degree academic department, students may count up to 12 units of graduate courses completed during their blended bachelor's/master's program towards their master's degree. Such courses cannot exceed seven years since completion, unless approved for validation by both the academic program and the Dean of the Graduate School.

### **Process to Establish a Blended Program**

In order to establish a blended program at Chico State, the academic department or departments who propose the program must submit a Blended Program Screening Form to Curriculum Services. This form contains required questions from the CO that must be submitted to them in order to implement the blended program. The form also contains some campus-specific questions aimed to determine whether or not the blended program constitutes a significant change. Should it be determined that the blended program is not a significant change, Curriculum Services will submit the relevant responses to the CO. Should it be determined that the blended program is a significant change, it will be submitted to the EPPC and Academic Senate for review before it is submitted to the CO. In all circumstances, blended programs are subject to the President or designee's approval.