

**Background:**

Policy 1121 in the Academic Manual governs “Blended Programs,” programs that combine a bachelor’s and master’s degree into a single integrated whole. These programs are often referred to as “4+1” programs. This policy was enacted via Academic Senate report AS 2857-190-AP and revised via Senate report AP-004-234.

Since the enactment of these policies, nine programs have initiated proposals to implement blended programs, with the first going live in Fall 2025. As these programs were built and workflow established for launch, representatives from the Offices of Financial Aid, the Registrar, Student Success, Graduate Studies, and Undergraduate Studies ask to make a simple revision to the Blended Program proposal.

**Proposal:**

The current policy restricts student applications into a blended program until they had completed 90 units of their degree. This proposal lowers the threshold to 75 units. Doing so better ensures that:

1. Students can plan their coursework appropriately and complete their blended program on time
2. Graduate coordinators have additional time to review applications
3. Campus staff can code student records accordingly

We propose this change because, as departments developed roadmaps for the first batch of blended programs, it became clear that a student may need to begin their blended coursework at 90 units and should already know whether they have been accepted into the graduate program before they begin registering for their courses. This also allows graduate coordinators to review applications and campus offices to get students’ data in order in advance of their starting blended program coursework.

This policy revision does not change departmental authority or decision-making regarding applications into the program. It simply shifts the application window earlier.

**Additional considerations:**

- 75 units was chosen to ensure that students have completed at least one term of upper division coursework before applications and that transfer students complete a term before applications.
- The GPA calculation was revised to be commensurate with the earlier application eligibility, reviewing the last three terms of a students’ more advanced coursework in the field rather than their early-career GE credits. This determination was made through a review of coursework listed on department roadmaps.

This policy update is being piloted in AY 2025-26 with the approval of the department and college dean for the one approved program.

**Consultants:**

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## POLICY ON BLENDED PROGRAMS

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### 1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to implement the CSU Chancellor's Office Policy AA- 2012-01 and guide the development of Blended Programs at Cal Poly Pomona.

The CSU Chancellor's Office allows campuses to offer Blended Bachelor's+ Master's Degrees (often referred to 4+1 programs) in which students can obtain both an undergraduate and a graduate degree in a single five-year program. Blended Programs are designed to allow well-qualified students who are currently enrolled in an undergraduate program to obtain two simultaneous degrees in a streamlined manner.

### 2. STRUCTURE

Blended Programs must:

- Have a minimum of 150 units (120 bachelor's+ 30 master's).
- The bachelor's and master's to be blended must exist at CPP before the creation of a Blended program.
- Guarantee that the bachelor's and master's satisfy all CSU and CPP University requirements.
- Comply with all external accreditation agency requirements when applicable.
- Use the same CIP (HEGIS) codes respectively for the existing bachelor's and master's degrees.
- For those programs requiring more than 120 units for graduation, up to a maximum of 12 units at the 4000 and 5000 levels, can double count in the bachelor's and master's degrees with advisor approval.

### 3. IMPLEMENTATION

- Students will be admitted to the University as undergraduate students.
- Students file a "Change Objective" petition to their graduate coordinator or designee in order to add a blended objective.
  - o Students cannot apply for admission to the graduate portion of a blended program until they have completed a minimum of 75 units, maximum 114. However, departments should establish advising programs and roadmaps for students who declare an interest in a blended program so they can begin preparing in advance of 75 units.
  - o To be eligible students must have a minimum 3.0 GPA in their most recent 45 semester units.
  - o Students must have completed all 1000 and 2000 level classes

in their bachelor's program.

- Departments should develop an appeal procedure for "Change of Objective" denials.
- Departments can specify additional admissions requirements to their Blended Programs.
- Departments must guarantee that classes will be offered to allow the timely graduation of Blended students.
- Per Chancellor's Office Memo AA-2012-01, students who cannot complete the graduate portion of the blended program may revert back to just the undergraduate portion of the program. Departments should determine which (if any) graduate courses are suitable substitutes for upper-division undergraduate degree requirements, and make this information available to students and advisors, so that they can substitute courses by petition.