Agreement for an Intercollegiate Dual Degree Program
Between University of Wisconsin-Madison College of Engineering
and University of Wisconsin – La Crosse

This document states the terms of an agreement between the College of Engineering, University of Wisconsin-Madison (CoE) and University of Wisconsin – La Crosse (UW-La Crosse).

Beginning with the fall semester of the 2018-2019 academic year, a dual degree program leading to a baccalaureate (BS) degree in physics or mathematics or chemistry or computer science from UW-La Crosse and a BS degree in a branch of engineering from CoE will be available to eligible students. This dual degree program will require approximately three years of attendance at UW-La Crosse followed by approximately two years of attendance at the CoE.

Eligible dual degree candidates include Wisconsin residents who first enrolled at UW-La Crosse as freshmen. Eligible dual degree candidates do not include students who entered UW-La Crosse as transfer students or those who have since transferred from UW-La Crosse to another institution.

Eligible dual degree candidates will be exempt from the 80 credit limit, which states that students who have earned more than 80 semesters credits at the time of application are not eligible to apply for transfer admission to the CoE. The College of Engineering’s undergraduate programs do not accept second degree candidates under any circumstances, so dual degree candidates are not eligible to pursue an undergraduate degree in the CoE after completing all degree requirements at any other institution.

Eligible students who express interest in the dual degree program may apply for entrance into the CoE portion of the program a maximum of two times. Dual degree candidates must meet UW-Madison’s minimum requirements for admission consideration, including successful completion of two units of a single foreign language; complete Communication Part A; and earn direct equivalents to meet current General College Requirements and College of Engineering degree requirements: MATH 221-222, CHEM 103-104 or CHEM 109, PHYSICS 201/207 or EMA 201. At UW-La Crosse, students must meet or exceed the Core GPA (comprised of physics, mathematics, computer science, and chemistry coursework required by the CoE program) and Overall GPA Benchmarks for Progression that are effective at the time of their application, as listed on the College of Engineering website. The application requires the positive recommendation of the chair of the respective UW-La Crosse department (Physics, Mathematics & Statistics, Chemistry & Biochemistry, or Computer Science), or designee, attesting to their ability to finish the program at CoE.

Admission to the CoE is very competitive and selective, especially to engineering programs with high student demand and limited capacity. Admission to the CoE is not guaranteed. Qualified dual degree applicants will be considered for admission to their intended engineering program by the UW-Madison Office of Admissions and Recruitment in a comprehensive and holistic review process. Dual degree candidates who are not selected for admission to their first choice major in the CoE will not be offered a second choice option in the CoE. The Office of Admissions may consider these students for admission to the second choice major outside of the College of Engineering that they had indicated on their application for transfer admission to UW-Madison. However, accepting admission to a major outside of the CoE will void the dual degree agreement.
In the initial years of work taken at UW-La Crosse, students must complete appropriate courses in chemistry, computer science, mathematics, and physics for the intended degrees at both schools. Students must complete a minimum of 80 semester credits, major requirements, and courses that count towards the UW-La Crosse general education requirements. Students will be advised of UW-Madison’s liberal studies requirements as they choose general education courses at UW-La Crosse. Credit, but not grades, for these courses passed with a grade of C or better, will be transferred to the UW-Madison transcript as credit for appropriate courses, even though they may not be required by the CoE engineering curriculum selected by the student.

During the years spent at CoE, students will complete the requirements specified by the curriculum effective at the time of their admission to their engineering degree program. The CoE automatically graduates students when they finish degree requirements. The coursework completed at CoE will be transferred to UW-La Crosse and applied to the requirements for the UW-La Crosse Bachelor of Science degree in one of these majors: physics, mathematics, chemistry, or computer science, and UW-La Crosse will waive the 24 credit senior residency rule.

Changes in curricula, at both institutions, will be addressed as they occur. Students will be eligible to participate in commencement ceremonies at both UW-Madison and UW-La Crosse. Students must graduate from both institutions concurrently. It is their responsibility to notify the Registrar of UW-La Crosse of their intent to graduate and to supply them with an official copy of their UW-Madison transcript.

Students are subject to the UW System Excess Credit Policy. This would likely be assessed by UW-Madison, as the students will most likely be attending UW-Madison at the time excess credits are taken, if applicable.

When transferring to UW-Madison from UW-La Crosse, the student will be expected to follow standard UW-Madison procedures to submit applications for admission, housing, and financial aid. These applications and materials must be submitted in accordance with published deadlines.

Recruitment of students for this program will be the responsibility of UW-La Crosse with the cooperation of the CoE.

This agreement constitutes a declaration of intent and is subject to renegotiation as conditions change and experience dictates. The dual degree agreement will be automatically deactivated if no students transfer from UW-La Crosse to the UW-Madison College of Engineering within 10 years.

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