Undergraduate Degrees

DEGREE PROGRAMS

BACHELOR OF ARTS (A.B.), BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (B.S.)

Stanford University confers the degree of Bachelor of Arts (A.B.) or the degree of Bachelor of Science (B.S.) on those candidates who have been recommended by the Committee on Academic Appraisal and Achievement (C-AAA), who have applied in advance for conferral of the degree, and who have fulfilled the following requirements:

1. A minimum of 180 units of allowable University work. (As described below, units above the allowable limits for activity courses and for courses taken on a satisfactory/no credit basis cannot be counted towards the 180 minimum.)
2. The Writing, General Education, and Language Requirements (see below).
3. Curricular requirements of at least one major department or program and the recommendation of the department(s). (Descriptions of curricular and special degree requirements are included in each department’s section of this bulletin.)
4. A minimum of 90 units (including the last 15) at Stanford. In special cases, students who have earned at least 135 units in resident work and who have completed the Writing, General Education, and Language Requirements, as well as all major requirements, may petition for a waiver of the last 15 units-in-residence requirement.

Stanford confers the Bachelor of Science degree on candidates who fulfill these requirements in the School of Earth Sciences, in the School of Engineering, or in the departments of Applied Physics, Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Mathematics, or Physics in the School of Humanities and Sciences. The University also awards B.S. degrees to candidates in the Program in Science, Technology, and Society; in the Program in Mathematical and Computational Science; in the Program in Symbolic Systems; and, when appropriate, in the Program for Individually Designed Majors. Candidates who fulfill these requirements in other schools or departments receive the Bachelor of Arts degree.

Students who complete the requirements for two or more majors which ordinarily would lead to the same degree (A.B. or B.S.) should review “The Major” section of this bulletin to ensure that they have an understanding of the requirements for multiple or secondary majors.

BACHELOR OF ARTS AND SCIENCE (B.A.S.)

The University confers the degree of Bachelor of Arts and Science (B.A.S.) on candidates who have completed, with no overlapping courses, the curricular requirements of two majors which ordinarily would lead to different bachelor’s degrees (that is, a Bachelor of Arts degree and a Bachelor of Science). These students must have applied in advance for graduation with the B.A.S. degree instead of the A.B. or B.S. degree, been recommended by the C-AAA, and have fulfilled requirements 1, 2, and 4 above in addition to the requirements for multiple majors.

Students who cannot meet the requirements for both majors without overlapping courses are not eligible for the B.A.S., but may apply to have a secondary major recorded on their transcripts. (See “The Major” section below.)

DUAL BACHELOR’S DEGREES (CONCURRENT A.B. AND B.S.)

A Stanford undergraduate may work concurrently toward both an A.B. and a B.S. degree. To qualify for both degrees, a student must complete:

1. A minimum of 225 units of University work. (As described below, units above the allowable limits for activity courses and for courses taken on a satisfactory/no credit basis cannot be counted towards the 225 minimum.)
3. The curricular requirements of two majors (one of which leads to a Bachelor of Arts degree and the other to a Bachelor of Science degree).
4. A minimum of 135 units (including the last 15) at Stanford. In special cases, as described above, students may petition for waiver of the last 15 units-in-residence requirement.

A student interested in dual bachelors’ degrees should file a statement of intention with the Registrar’s Office no later than two quarters in advance of completing the program. The statement should be submitted on a standard petition form along with recommendations of appropriate representatives from the two departments whose major requirements the student is expecting to fulfill.

Students who do not meet the higher unit and residence requirements of the dual degree option may be eligible instead for the B.A.S. degree as described above.

SECOND BACHELOR’S DEGREE

Stanford does not award a second Bachelor of Arts degree to an individual who already holds a Bachelor of Arts, nor a Bachelor of Science degree to an individual who already holds a Bachelor of Science degree. However, the holder of a Bachelor of Arts degree from Stanford may apply to the Subcommittee for Exceptions to Academic Policy for admission to candidacy for a Bachelor of Science degree, and the holder of a Bachelor of Science degree from Stanford may apply for candidacy for a Bachelor of Arts degree. A recommendation of the major department for the second bachelor’s degree must accompany the application.

Generally, a student may not apply for a second bachelor’s degree after having been a graduate student, although a student may submit a petition for exception. The Office of the Registrar’s Academic Standing section in the Old Union, room 141, reviews these petitions. A student approved for this program may register as an undergraduate and is subject to the usual rules and regulations affecting undergraduates. Requirements for a second Stanford bachelor’s degree are the same as those described above for dual bachelor’s degrees.

COTERMINAL BACHELOR’S AND MASTER’S DEGREES

The coterminal degree program allows undergraduates to study for a master’s degree while completing their bachelor’s degree(s) in the same or a different department. Undergraduates with strong academic records may apply for admission to a coterminal master’s program as early as the eighth quarter (or upon completion of 105 units) but no later than early in the 11th quarter of undergraduate study, and at least four quarters in advance of the anticipated date of conferral of the master’s degree. Units completed during summer quarters, as well as undergraduate transfer credit, are also counted towards quarters of undergraduate study. Students who wish to apply for a master’s program after these deadlines must apply through the regular graduate admissions process.

To apply for admission to a coterminal master’s program, students must submit to the prospective graduate department the following: coterminal application, statement of purpose, preliminary program proposal, two letters of recommendation from Stanford professors, and a current Stanford transcript. Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores or other requirements may be specified by the prospective department.

For coterminal students, the quarter following completion of 180 units (or 225 units for dual undergraduate degree students) is identified as the first graduate quarter. Beginning with this quarter, coterminal students are subject to graduate student policies and procedures, as described in the “Graduate Degrees” section of this bulletin. These policies include continuous registration or leave of absence for quarters not enrolled (rather than the stopping out procedure for undergraduates) and minimal progress guidelines.

In the first graduate quarter, a coterminal student is assigned an adviser in the master’s department for assistance in planning a program of study to meet the requirements for the master’s degree. The plan is outlined on the Program Proposal for a Master’s Degree, which is approved
by the master’s department by the end of the first graduate quarter. Au-
thorizations for master’s programs expire three calendar years from the 
first graduate quarter. An extension requires review of academic perform-
ance by the department.

The specific University residency, unit requirement, and additional 
policies for a bachelor’s/master’s program are described under Residency 
and Unit Requirements in Coterminal Programs in the “Graduate De-
grees” section of this bulletin.

Conferral of each degree is applied for separately by the deadlines 
given in the University Time Schedule. The master’s degree must be 
conferred simultaneously with, or after, the bachelor’s degree.