Deadline: October 15, 2014, 4pm.
Late applications will not be accepted.

Five Year Bachelor’s-Master’s Program in IEOR - ORMS

Introduction

The Department of Industrial Engineering and Operations Research (IEOR) is implementing a five-year combined Bachelor’s-Master's program for IEOR and Operations Research and Management Science (ORMS) undergraduates to broaden their educational experiences at Berkeley.

The five-year Bachelor’s-Master’s program is designed for a small number of students with outstanding performance to allow the students to obtain both degrees in five years. The IEOR Master’s program typically takes three semesters to complete. The five-year Bachelor’s-Master’s program will allow well-prepared students to start taking graduate-level courses in the last semester of their undergraduate program. Admission to this program will be more selective than the standard admission to the MS program.

The combined Bachelor’s-Master’s program has two features that distinguish it from the existing IEOR M.S. program. First, each student in the combined Bachelor’s-Master’s program must complete three courses within his/her selected area of concentration, one of which may be an upper division or graduate course from outside the department that is aligned with his/her concentration. Second, each student in the Five-Year program must complete an individual or small-group project as part of the program via at least 2 units of either Master’s-level independent study units or a Master’s-level project-based course, to gain experience in applying IEOR methodology to real-world problems. Students can fulfill both of these requirements without taking courses or units beyond those required for the Master’s degree by carefully planning their course of study.

Admission Process

The admission process has three steps:

(1) Applicants complete the Departmental Application in the Fall semester of the senior year (including Statement of Purpose, Draft Course of Study Plan, current transcript, two Letters of Recommendation).

(2) The Department Graduate Admissions committee selects a subset of applicants for interviews. Only a subset of those interviewed will be admitted by the Department.

(3) Students admitted by the Department are required to submit an application to the Graduate
Division for the M.S. degree by the advertised deadline in December of their senior year for entry in the fall semester of the following academic year. Graduate Division admission is contingent on maintaining good progress (including a minimum GPA of 3.0, successful receipt of a bachelor’s degree, and incurring no disciplinary actions).

Admission to this program will be highly competitive. Requirements include:

1. Outstanding performance in the current program (preferred minimum cumulative 3.5 GPA in upper division courses at UC Berkeley).
2. A well-written and compelling personal essay explaining the student's rationale for entering such a program.
3. A successful interview in which faculty will assess the student's technical background, life experiences, and ability to communicate orally.
4. Two letters of recommendation from faculty members who know the applicant well and can provide both an evaluation of the student’s technical skills and evidence that he or she can benefit significantly from a program of this kind.
5. A non-binding "draft" course of study plan, demonstrating that the applicant has carefully considered the area of concentration that he/she wishes to pursue.

Application Deadlines and Documents

Tentative Deadlines:

Students apply to the Department during the Fall semester of their junior year and are provisionally admitted to the program based on the criteria above. The Department will render its decision in sufficient time so students can plan their senior year programs to take advantage of the flexibility gained by the program. The admissions schedule is:

- **October-31:** Department application and supporting documents are due
- **First week of November:** Applicant interviews
- **Mid-November:** Admission decisions

IEOR Application Documents:

Required forms and supporting documents for the application are to be submitted in a single envelope to the IEOR department. Incomplete applications will be automatically rejected.

1. Departmental Application
2. Draft Course of Study Plan
3. Statement of Purpose
4. Unofficial Transcripts (Note: If admitted to this program, official transcripts will be required when applying to Graduate Division.)
5. Two Letters of Recommendation. Please see the application form for instructions.
NOTE: For Berkeley students admitted to the five-year program, the normal departmental requirement of the GRE is waived when applying for the Master’s program.

Students selected for the program are required to meet all of the normal requirements for applying for an M.S. degree during their senior year, with the understanding that as long as they maintain good performance in their courses and have incurred no disciplinary actions, their admission recommendation to the Graduate Division should be pro forma.

Requirements for the MS Degree within the 5-Year Program

Course Requirements

In addition to the course requirements that all M.S. students must complete (see http://www.ieor.berkeley.edu/AcademicPrograms/Grad/index.htm for details), each student must complete three courses in his or her area of concentration. Applicants will find it helpful to consider the following areas of concentration when preparing their course of study plan. Potential IEOR courses in each area are listed below. Students should consult their faculty advisors for potential courses in other departments.

Operations Research

IEOR 261, 262B, 263B, 264, 266, 267, 268, 269

Production, Logistics and Service Operations

IEOR 215, 250, 251, 253, 254

Financial Engineering

IEOR 215, 221, 290A, 290R

Plan II capstone

—oral comprehensive exam or master’s project (a project report and oral examination by a committee of two faculty members).
Frequently Asked Questions

How does this program differ from the existing M.S. program?

The combined Bachelor’s/Master’s program is targeted toward students who wish to design a coherent program in an area of concentration, combining IEOR courses with a course(s) outside the department, and to apply their education in a real-world project.

What is the application process and what are the requirements?

The application process consists of three steps: (1) Apply to the IEOR Department during Fall semester of the Senior year; (2) if selected, be interviewed by faculty for admission approval; (3) if accepted, apply to the Graduate Division during the Fall semester of the senior year (deadline is early-December), which will make the final offer of admission if all minimum requirements have been met; the student must remain in good academic standing through the senior year. IEOR admission requirements expect the student to have at least 90 semester units by the end of his/her junior year and a preferred cumulative GPA of 3.5 or better in upper division courses. Please note that an upper division GPA of 3.5 or better is not a guarantee of admission.

I don’t quite meet the GPA requirement of 3.5. Will exceptional applicants be considered with an upper division GPA of less than 3.5?

Chances of admission are not good with an upper division GPA of less than 3.5. However, demonstrated strengths that are consistent with the applicant’s planned course of study could compensate for a slightly lower upper division GPA.

I don't have any research experience. How important is this for my application?

Undergraduate research is definitely a plus, but is not required for the application.

When are participants admitted?

Typically, students will apply and be provisionally admitted by the Department near the end of the Fall semester of the Senior year. Students in the final semester of their undergraduate program are not eligible to apply.

I'd like to take some time off between completing my bachelor's degree and starting the master's degree. Is this possible?

No. This program will not accommodate leaves of absence. Admitted students are expected to transition immediately from the undergrad program to the grad program in order to complete the entire program in five consecutive years. If you wish to take some time off, you are encouraged
I recently graduated from UC Berkeley IEOR/ORMS undergraduate program. Can I apply for this program?

No. Applications will be accepted only from students currently enrolled in our undergraduate degree programs. Other students, including IEOR/ORMS graduates, are encouraged to apply to the regular graduate program.

Can 5th Year Students Receive Assistantship Support?

In principle, the answer is yes, but in practice the answer is very likely to be no. Completing the requirements for the MS program in two semesters beyond completion of the BS requirements will be very challenging and time consuming (unless the student can transfer units from the final semester of his or her undergraduate study that were not counted toward his or her Bachelor’s degree requirements), and the student will not have time to commit to teaching or research. However, if a faculty member wishes to support a 5th year student to complete his or her MS program within two semesters, then that is the decision of the individual professor.

Am I allowed to apply to this program and, if not admitted, apply to the regular M.S./Ph.D. program later?

Yes.

What are the other requirements for the MS degree?

MS degree requirements can be found at

http://www.ieor.berkeley.edu/AcademicPrograms/Grad/index.htm

If you have any other questions, please email gradadm@ieor.berkeley.edu or stop by the Student Services Office located at 4145 Etcheverry Hall.