Steps to Participate in the Dual Status Program

Dual Student Status. AOE seniors who have an overall GPA of at least 3.3 may be eligible for Dual Status during the final semester of their undergraduate degree program. To obtain this status, students must submit an application to the AOE graduate program and an Accelerated Undergraduate/Graduate Degree and Course Designation Form (for obtaining Dual Status). The department reviews the student's application to the graduate program and, if admission is recommended, indicates on the Admission Analysis form that the student will be accepted for Dual Status for the final semester of the undergraduate degree. This acceptance must occur prior to the final semester of the undergraduate degree program. Graduate coursework taken during the semester of dual registration may only be designated for use in the graduate degree when it is not used to meet bachelor's degree requirements (i.e., each course taken during the final semester is specified as being for either the bachelor's or the master's degree).

For more information on Virginia Tech's graduate programs, including the Dual Status program, see the Graduate Catalog: http://graduateschool.vt.edu/graduate_catalog/

Policies governing the AOE Department's Dual Status Program:

Participants must be accepted into the AOE Department's Dual Status Program prior to the final semester of the undergraduate program. The AOE Department offers the following graduate degree options to Dual Status students:

- MS (thesis or non-thesis option) in Aerospace Engineering
- MS (thesis or non-thesis option) in Ocean Engineering
- Direct-PhD in Aerospace Engineering

The following restrictions apply to courses that are to be counted toward the graduate degree under the AOE Dual Status Program:

- Courses must be taken during the final semester of the undergraduate degree program.
- No more than 12 credit hours taken during the final undergraduate semester may be counted toward the graduate degree.
- No more than 6 credit hours of 4XXX level course work may be counted toward the graduate degree only; the balance must be graduate level (5XXX or 6XXX) course work.
- Courses that are explicitly required by the undergraduate degree program may not be counted toward a graduate degree.
- The final course grade must be a "B" or higher.

Courses that are counted toward an MS degree under the Dual Status program may subsequently be counted toward a PhD in Aerospace Engineering, provided the student is accepted into the AOE PhD Program.

Application process for the AOE Department's Dual Status Program:

1. A student must have a minimum GPA of 3.3 to qualify. The applicant must apply for admission to the Master's or Direct-PhD degree program using the Graduate School's online application system (www.graduateschool.vt.edu). The application deadline for Fall semester admission is December 30th and the application deadline for Spring semester admission is September 1st. *In applying for admission to the Master's or Direct-PhD degree program, the student should select the start date to be the semester following the one in which the Bachelor's degree will be awarded.* Application requirements include:

    - A current transcript, showing a minimum GPA of 3.3 (overall)
    - A statement of career objectives
    - A curriculum vita or resume
    - Three letters of recommendation

2. Once the application for admission has been submitted, the student must also complete the Accelerated Undergraduate/Graduate Degree and Course Designation Form, selecting Dual Status. The form is available at:
    http://graduateschool.vt.edu/forms/index.html

    The student must indicate on this form:
    - the **term** in which s/he wishes to obtain Dual Status (typically Spring semester of the student's senior year) and
    - **which** courses will be counted toward a graduate degree.

    This form will be reviewed and signed by the Department Head and the Graduate Program Coordinator. These signatures indicate the department's approval for the student's admission into the Concurrent Undergraduate/Graduate Status Program.

    An Advisory Committee Chair will be assigned by the AOE Graduate Program Director at the time of admission, based on information provided in the student's application.

3. After the Accelerated Undergraduate/Graduate Degree and Course Designation Form has been signed, the department Graduate Program Coordinator will go to the Online Admission Analysis Form in HokieSpa and formally recommend acceptance to the Graduate School for the student into the Master's degree program.

4. Once the decision has been made by the department using the Online Admission Analysis Form, the department will send the Accelerated Undergraduate/Graduate Degree and Course Designation Form to the Graduate School for review and processing. Upon receipt of this form, Graduate School staff will change the student's application type to "Dual Status Program." The term will be changed to the term in which the student has indicated s/he will begin counting courses toward a graduate degree.