



Creating Dual Degree Bachelor's/Master's Programs in an Honors College

Elizabeth Raisanen, Ph.D.

Director of Advising & Strategic Partnerships, Instructor of Literature

Robert D. Clark Honors College, University of Oregon

raisanen@uoregon.edu

Topics

- Benefits of accelerated bachelor's/master's programs
- Case study: CHC's **3+3: Six Years to a Law Degree** program
- Other dual degree programs in process in the CHC
- Best practices for creating your own dual degree programs in an honors setting
- Assessment of dual degree programs



**Why create accelerated programs
for honors students?**



Why create accelerated programs for honors students?

- A more challenging curriculum at an earlier stage
- Potential overlap between undergraduate and graduate research and theses/capstone projects
- Accelerated programs allow students to save time and money
- Creation of pipelines and pathways to graduate programs
- Excellent recruitment tools



3+3: Six Years to a Law Degree

Case Study: CHC's 3+3: Six Years to a Law Degree

- Launched in Fall 2016
- 2 students matriculated into UO Law School via 3+3 in Fall 2017 (inaugural class)
- 1 student matriculated in Fall 2018
- 3 students have applied for admissions for Fall 2019



3+3 Program Structure

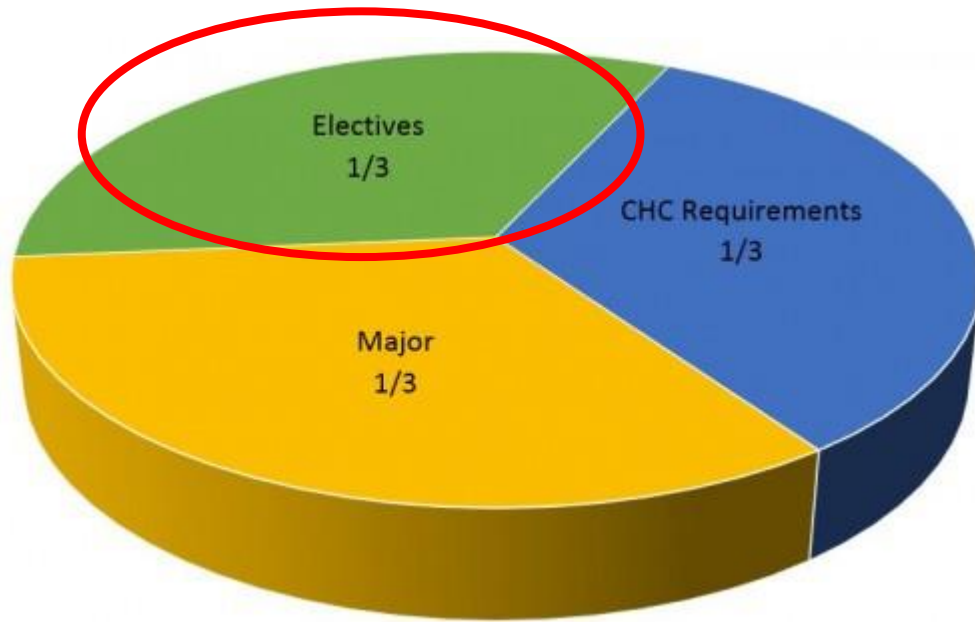
- Opt in/opt out at any time
- Students must finish major requirements and general education (CHC) requirements by the end of year 3
- During year 3, the student applies to UO's Law School
- If accepted, the student matriculates as a law student in year 4 (without bachelor's degree)



3+3 Program Structure (continued)

- Up to 48 quarter-system credits can be transferred backward from the law school to satisfy any outstanding undergraduate elective credit needed





3+3 Program Structure (continued)

- The **CHC thesis** satisfies the law school's writing requirement
- Thesis should be on a law-related topic
- One of the three thesis committee members will be a law school faculty member



3+3 Program Structure (continued)

- Bachelor's degree awarded in year 4, 5, or 6 (depending on when thesis is defended)
- J.D. awarded at the end of year 6



**Additional dual degree
partnerships in process**



Development of other accelerated degree programs in partnership with...

- **School of Planning, Public Policy, and Management**
 - Masters of Public Administration (3+2)
 - Masters of Community and Regional Planning (3+2)
 - Masters of Nonprofit Management (3+2)
- **Graduate School**
 - Masters in Independent Studies (4+1)
- **College of Education**
 - M.S. in Prevention Science (3+2)
 - MEd in Prevention Science (3+1)
- **Knight Campus for Accelerating Scientific Impact**
 - Masters Industrial Internship Program (3+1)
 - Masters in Bioinformatics (3+1)



Second phase program rollouts:

- **School of Journalism and Communication**

- Masters in Advertising and Brand Responsibility
- Masters in Journalism
- Masters in Multimedia Journalism
- Masters in Strategic Communication
- Masters in Media Studies

- **College of Business**

- Masters in Finance
- Masters in Accounting
- MBA

- **Law School**

- Masters in Conflict Resolution

- **School of Music and Dance**

- **College of Design**



Best practices for dual degree program development



What is needed to make dual degree programs possible?

- Strong partnerships across campus
- Cooperation and communication between academic and administrative units
- Creativity
- Flexibility
- Strong advising infrastructure



Best practices for developing dual degree programs

- Meet with stakeholders in the **academic departments and graduate school**
 - Who are the key people in the graduate program (deans, department heads, program directors, faculty) that need to be consulted in the development of your program?
 - Who are the equivalent people that should be consulted in the graduate school?

Best practices (continued)

- Meet with key **administrative stakeholders** early in the process
 - **Financial Aid Office**—if a student can't find a way to pay for a program, it is not viable
 - **Registrar's Office**—find out about university policies and procedures (which are ironclad, and which are flexible?)

Best practices (continued)

- Consider the creation of a **guaranteed admissions** pathway for each program
 - Makes programs more attractive to students
 - Helps graduate programs retain high-achieving students for their graduate work
 - Each graduate/professional program should set their own parameters for guaranteed admissions



Best practices (continued)

- Map out **workable degree paths** as part of your proposal
 - How will the student finish their undergraduate requirements (honors, major, etc.) and their advanced degree on an accelerated timeline?



Sample Six-Year Plan for 3 + 3 Program: CHC, Political Science, & UO Law School Curricula

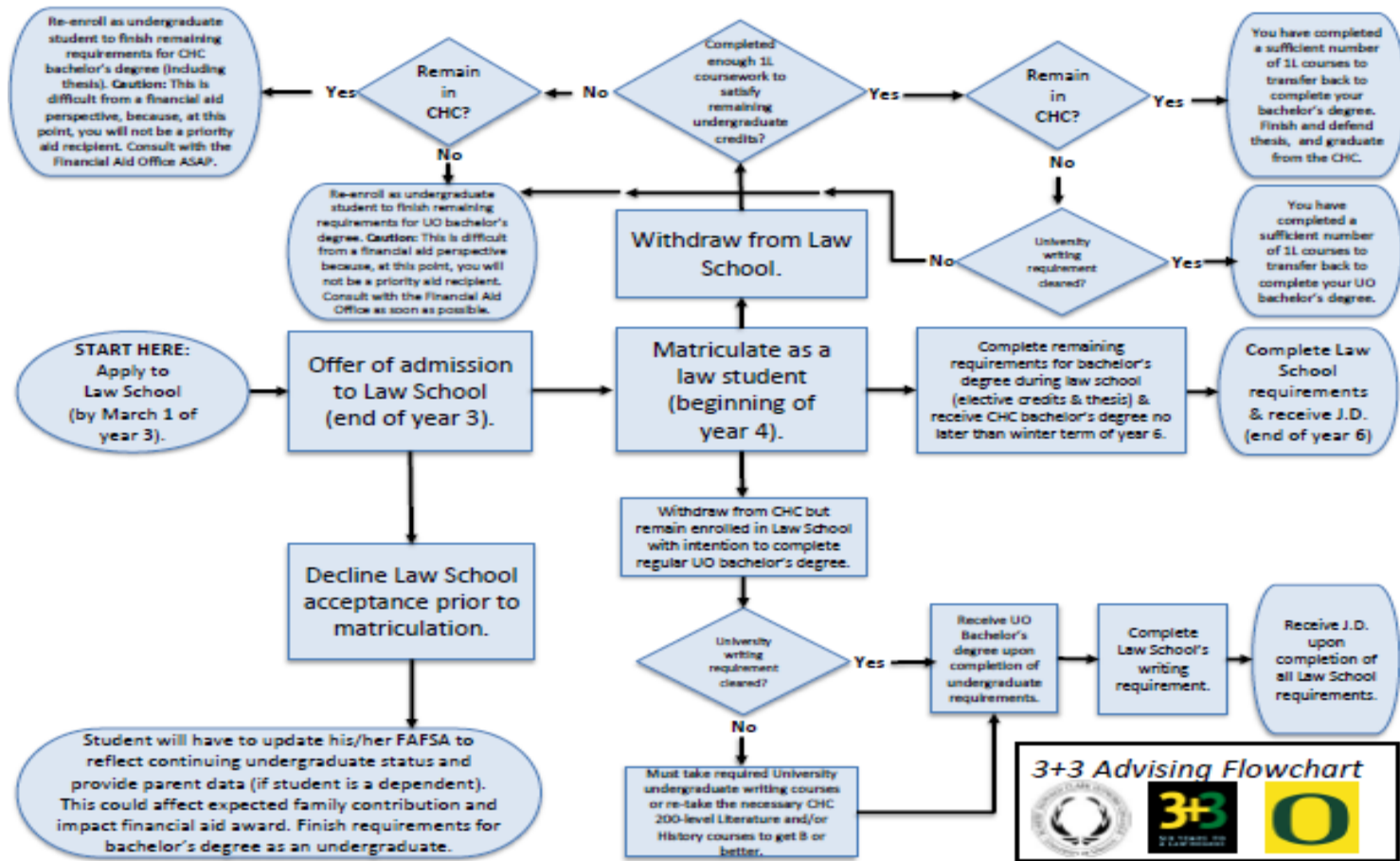
FIRST YEAR = 52 Credits			WINTER (17 cr.)			SPRING (17 cr.)		
<u>FALL (18 cr.)</u>			<u>POLITICAL SCIENCE</u>			<u>SCIENCE & MATH</u>		
PS 104 – Problems in US Politics (4 cr.)			PS 204 – Intro to Comparative Politics (4 cr.)			MATH 243 – Probability & Stats (4 cr.)	HC 209 – HC Science (4 cr.)	
MATH 111 – College Algebra (4 cr.)			MATH 112 – Elementary Functions (4 cr.)			<u>HONORS COLLEGE</u>		
HC 231 – HC History (4 cr.)			HC 232 – HC History (4 cr.)			HC 233 – HC History Research (4 cr.)		
HC 199 – CHIP (1 cr.)						<u>LANGUAGE</u>		
GER 101 – First-Year German (5 cr.)			GER 102 – First-Year German (5 cr.)			GER 103 – First-Year German (5 cr.)		

SECOND YEAR = 48 Credits			WINTER (16 cr.)			SPRING (16 cr.)		
<u>FALL (16 cr.)</u>			<u>POLITICAL SCIENCE</u>			<u>POLITICAL SCIENCE</u>		
PS 205 – Intro to International Relations (4 cr.)			PS 377 – Gods and Governments (IC) (4 cr.)			PS 378 – Games in Government (4 cr.)	PS 470 – Constitutional Law (4 cr.)	
PS 440 – Causes & Prevention of War (writing intensive) (4 cr.)			PS 431 – Political Theory: Renaissance (4 cr.)			<u>HONORS COLLEGE</u>		
HC 221 – HC Literature (4 cr.)			HC 222 – HC Literature (4 cr.)			HC 421 – Colloquium (Arts & Letters) (4 cr.)		
						<u>LANGUAGE</u>		
GER 201 – Second-Year German (4 cr.)			GER 202 – Second-Year German (4 cr.)			GER 203 – Second-Year German (4 cr.)		

THIRD YEAR = 61 Credits			WINTER (16 cr.)			SPRING (18 cr.)		
<u>FALL (17 cr.)</u>			<u>POLITICAL SCIENCE</u>			<u>POLITICAL SCIENCE</u>		
PS 352 – Political Parties and Elections (4 cr.)			PS 449 – Racial Politics in the US (AC) (4 cr.)			PS 348 – Women and Politics (4 cr.)		
PS 433 – Marxism and Radical Thought (4 cr.)			HC 431 – Colloquium (Social Science) (4 cr.)			<u>HONORS COLLEGE</u>		
HC 441 – Colloquium (Science) (4 cr.)						HC 400 – Colloquium (Elective) (4 cr.)		
HC 405 – Thesis Orientation (1 cr.)						HC 477 – Thesis Prospectus (2 cr.)		
						<u>ELECTIVE</u>		
XX XXX – Elective (4 cr.)			XX XXX – Elective (4 cr.)			XX XXX – Elective (4 cr.)		
			XX XXX – Elective (4 cr.)			XX XXX – Elective (4 cr.)		

FOURTH, FIFTH, SIXTH YEARS (Law School—Semesters)	
<u>FALL (cr.)</u>	<u>SPRING (cr.)</u>
Law School Classes as determined by UO Law School*	Law School Classes as determined by UO Law School*
*First-year law school classes during first and second years can be transferred backward to satisfy remaining UO elective credits.	<u>HONORS COLLEGE</u> Finish writing and defend CHC thesis during fourth or fifth year *Bachelor's degree is awarded*





3+3 Advising Flowchart



Best practices (continued)

- Involve **academic advisors** in program development and implementation
 - Advisors can help with the creation of degree paths
 - They will be able to tell you if a program is feasible or not from an academic planning standpoint
 - They will need to be involved with advising students through the programs, including the creation of program-specific advising resources



Robert D. Clark Honors College & UO School of Law: 3+3 Accelerated Degree Program

What Is It?

The 3+3 Program will enable highly talented and motivated CHC students interested in a legal career to complete both a Bachelor's degree and Juris Doctor at the University of Oregon in six years, rather than the usual seven.

No application form or prior commitment is required for CHC students to participate in the Program. If a CHC student decides partway through their undergraduate studies that the Program is no longer right for them, they may simply continue on with undergraduate coursework and graduate in four years with a Bachelor's degree.

Benefits of the 3+3 Program:

- Save a year's tuition and living expenses associated with undergraduate education
- Get a jump on starting a professional career
- Avoid the time, effort, and expense of applying to multiple law schools

How Does It Work?

3 Years to a Bachelor's Degree:

Students participating in the Program will spend their first three years enrolled in undergraduate courses fulfilling their Clark Honors College general education requirements as well as the requirements of their chosen major(s) and minor(s). Participating students will complete all CHC requirements and all major requirements by the end of their junior year, except for one elective colloquium and their thesis defense.

Although students with any major or combination of majors are allowed to participate in the 3+3 Program, some undergraduate majors require coursework that cannot be completed in three years of study and are, therefore, incompatible with the Program. Students interested in pursuing the 3+3 Program are strongly encouraged to discuss their academic plans with their CHC academic advisor as early as possible to ensure that they will be able to complete the required coursework for their chosen major in three years.

Apply to Law School:

Students must take the LSAT and apply for admission to the Law School during their junior year. The Law School will waive application fees for students applying for admission through the 3+3 Program. All CHC students who meet the following criteria will be guaranteed admission to the Law School:

- The student has achieved an LSAT score that is at least one point above the median LSAT score for the prior year's entering class at the Law School
- At the time of application, the student has a cumulative undergraduate GPA of at least 3.5, and maintains that minimum prior to beginning Law School courses
- The student has completed a minimum of 136.5 undergraduate credits at the time of matriculation into Law School
- The student has no criminal arrests or convictions that would make them otherwise ineligible for admission to the Bar upon graduation from the Law School.

Year 4 – Dual Enrollment:

In the fourth year, participating students will be admitted as Law School students and will begin Law School courses. Some students may also complete their CHC thesis during the first year of Law School. This timing will give the student an entire calendar year, including the summer after their junior year, to write the thesis. If, due to the rigorous nature of the first-year Law curriculum, a student does not complete their Clark Honors College thesis in the fourth year, they will have until winter (undergraduate) term of the sixth year of the Program to successfully complete and defend their thesis. The thesis will also be used to fulfill the Law School's writing requirement. The student's Primary Thesis Advisor will be a professor in his/her undergraduate major, and a Law School faculty member will serve as the student's second reader. The student will also need a CHC representative on the thesis committee.

Up to 48 quarter credits of coursework completed during the first year of Law School can be transferred back to count toward the Bachelor's degree as elective credits, which, when combined with previously completed undergraduate coursework, will fulfill all requirements for completion of a Bachelor's degree. Upon successful defense of the thesis, the student will be awarded their Bachelor's degree and will be eligible to participate in CHC graduation ceremonies.

Years 5 and 6 – Law Student:

Participating students complete the degree requirements necessary to graduate with a Juris Doctor.

Tuition, Scholarships and Financial Aid

Participating students will pay University undergraduate tuition and fees while enrolled in undergraduate courses, and Law School tuition and fees while enrolled in Law School courses. Internal University of Oregon merit-based scholarships that a CHC student may have received for their undergraduate studies (including, for instance, Summit, Presidential, Apex, and Diversity Excellence Scholarships) may (pending approval from the Financial Aid Office) be extended through the student's fourth year of study when they will be enrolled as a law student but also finishing requirements for their undergraduate degree.

In any case, internal UO scholarships for undergraduate students will not be extended beyond the fourth year of the 3+3 Program, even if a student takes more than four years to complete the Bachelor's degree. Any federal or state financial aid that a CHC student may have received for undergraduate studies will not be transferred to the Law School. Prior to starting courses at the Law School, a participating student may apply and will be considered for scholarships and financial aid by the Law School.



3+3 Information and Advising Checklist for CHC Students



What is 3+3? The 3+3 Program will enable highly talented and motivated CHC students interested in a legal career to complete both a Bachelor's degree and Juris Doctor at the University of Oregon Law School in six years, rather than the usual seven.

How does 3+3 work? Students participating in 3+3 will spend their first three years enrolled in undergraduate courses fulfilling their CHC general education requirements and the requirements of their chosen major(s) and minor(s). In the fourth year, participating students will be admitted as Law School students and will begin Law School courses, which will also fulfill the students' remaining undergraduate electives (up to 48 elective credits). The CHC thesis (w/ primary thesis advisor from major, second reader from Law School, and CHC reader) will fulfill the Law School's writing requirement.

How do I participate in 3+3? No application form or prior commitment is required for CHC students to participate in the Program, although participating students will be required to apply for admission to the Law School in their third year of undergraduate study. Participating students will also have to finish their major, minor, and CHC requirements (minus one elective CHC colloquium and the thesis) by the end of junior year. Discuss the following checklist with your CHC, major, and minor advisors: if you wish to position yourself to apply for 3+3 Law School admission:

First & Second Years

- Notify your CHC, major, and minor advisors *as soon as possible* that you plan to participate in 3+3 and that you will need to finish all CHC general education, major, and minor requirements in 3 years. (Please note that it may be difficult to finish a minor as well as a major in only 3 years.)
- Consult sample course plans in Canvas for examples of how you might finish your CHC and major requirements in 3 years, and then develop your own 3-year-plan with your advisors. Start thinking about possible thesis topics.
- Meet with the Office of Student Financial Aid and Scholarships *as early in the process as possible* to discuss the potential financial aid implications of entering Law School via 3+3.

Third Year—Fall Term

- Meet with advisors to review your Degree Guide to make sure that you are on track to complete your major and CHC requirements (minus one elective colloquium and the thesis defense) by the end of your junior year.
- Continue developing ideas for your thesis project, identify a Primary Thesis Advisor in your major, and prepare to take HC 477H: Thesis Prospectus during winter or spring term. (Please note that while the thesis doesn't have to focus on a legal topic, it will be easier to secure a Law School professor as a second reader if it does.)
- Contact the Law School's admissions office to set up a visit, sit in on a first-year class, tour the Law School, and/or meet with potential Law School faculty members who might serve as second readers on your thesis committee.
- Take the LSAT no later than December of your junior year.
- Meet with the Financial Aid and Scholarships Office again.

Third Year—Winter Term

- Apply to take HC 477H: Thesis Prospectus during spring term (if you aren't already enrolled in it).
- Apply to Law School and complete the FAFSA (if eligible) no later than March 1 (though the earlier, the better).

Third Year—Spring Term

- Take HC 477: Thesis Prospectus class (if you didn't take it during winter term).
- Once you enroll in Law School, remember that you'll need to apply to graduate no later than two terms before the term during which you plan to defend your thesis and receive your undergraduate degree. **Thesis must be defended & undergraduate degree awarded no later than the end of the winter (undergrad) term of the sixth year of the 3+3 Program.**



Assessment

Assessment: 3+3 Program

- 2 students matriculated into UO Law School via 3+3 in Fall 2017 (inaugural class)
 - 1 student left at the end of 1L
 - 1 student is on track to finish bachelor's in Spring 2019 and J.D. in Spring 2020
- 1 student matriculated into Law School via 3+3 in Fall 2018
- 3 students have applied for Fall 2019 admissions



How do we measure success?

- Number of students matriculating/graduating doesn't tell the whole story
- Number of students (and parents) who inquire to explore their options?
- Employment outcomes for those who participate in such programs?
- Qualitative responses from those who have participated in these programs?



Questions?

