

Wartburg/WIU Integrated Baccalaureate and Master's Degree Agreement

This Memorandum of Understanding affirms Western Illinois University's and Wartburg College's desire to collaborate to foster a strategic educational partnership that will provide both institutions with an opportunity to work together.

Under this partnership Western Illinois University and Wartburg College will deliberately seek collaborative opportunities to coordinate programs that respond to the identified educational needs within the Western Illinois/Eastern Iowa region.

Integrated Baccalaureate and Master's Degree Programs

An integrated baccalaureate and master's degree program provides the opportunity for outstanding undergraduates to earn both degrees in five years. Typically, a baccalaureate degree requires four years to complete and a master's degree requires an additional two years. However, the integrated degree programs are intended to be accomplished over a period of five years. In addition to earning both degrees a year early, the integrated programs may include additional opportunities to participate in a variety of experiential educational activities such as a master's project or thesis.

The requirements for the baccalaureate and master's components of the integrated program will remain the same as for the existing baccalaureate and master's programs. However, some advanced coursework (referred to as bridge courses and will carry a "B" designator following the course number) completed while the student is at the baccalaureate level at Wartburg College. These are Wartburg College courses and are approved and monitored by the college's Educational Policies Committee. Courses with the B-suffix will also be used to satisfy requirements for the master's degree at WIU as determined by the university's Graduate Council.

All policies/regulations related to undergraduate or graduate degree programs apply to the integrated degree programs except as specifically differentiated.

Admission to Integrated Baccalaureate and Master's Degree Programs

For the purposes of calculating credit equivalencies, the parties will use a conversion where 1 Wartburg Course Credit is equivalent to 3.5 semester hours. Wartburg College undergraduate students may apply for admission to an integrated program after completing the equivalent of 60 semester hours of undergraduate coursework (17.1 Wartburg credits). Integrated degree applicants must meet the cumulative grade point average and the grade point average for their major as specified by their integrated degree program. Admission must be granted by the School of Graduate Studies before a student will be allowed to enroll in bridge courses. Students may begin taking bridge courses after the completion of the equivalent of 90 semester hours (or 25.71 Wartburg credits).

Academic Requirements

Students must have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.25 and a minimum of 3.25 grade point average in the major prior to enrolling in bridge courses.

The work required for the integrated baccalaureate and master's degree program must be completed within six consecutive calendar years from the time of first enrollment in courses which are part of the integrated program.

Upon completion of all requirements of the baccalaureate degree, such degree will be awarded by Wartburg College. Subsequently, after completing the requirements of the master's degree (including the bridge courses), such degree will be awarded to the student by WIU.

Grades of A or B must be earned in courses taken with the "B" designator.

Students in this program are not eligible for assistantship positions until the baccalaureate degree has been conferred.

Students must complete three bridge courses during their senior year at Wartburg College.

Students in an integrated program that do not complete the required bridge ("B") courses prior to completion of their baccalaureate degree will be removed from the integrated program.

Registration for Bridge ("B") Courses

Once students are accepted in the integrated degree program by WIU and are classified as having senior standing at Wartburg College, they become eligible to enroll in bridge ("B") courses. Student must submit the appropriate form to Wartburg College personnel to receive bridge credit.


To implement this agreement, all trustees, administrators, and faculties of Western Illinois University and Wartburg College accepting this concept do declare that a Wartburg College undergraduate student who has completed a bachelor's degree in History and has completed three bridge credit courses is guaranteed admission as a graduate student in the Master of Art degree program in Museum Studies at WIU.

The following stipulations for this academic agreement shall apply:

1. All course work for the degree shall be collegiate level curriculum and rigor.
2. Applicants shall have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.25 on a 4.0 scale or have a 3.25 major GPA to be initially admitted as calculated using Wartburg credits and any credit earned from other institutions.
3. Applicants must submit the online School of Graduate Studies application, pay the \$30 application fee, submit all official transcripts and department admission documents to include 3 letters of recommendation, statement of goals, and resume to be eligible for admission consideration. Accepted students must submit a final degree transcript from Wartburg College upon completion of the bachelor's degree.
4. This commitment is subject to review periodically as catalogs and program requirements change.
5. Faculty who teach bridge courses at Wartburg College must obtain WIU Temporary Graduate Faculty Status (http://wiu.edu/graduate_studies/faculty_and_staff_resources/forms/tempgradfac.pdf).

This Memorandum of Understanding will remain in effect following its adoption by both parties. It shall thereafter be renewed automatically for 12-months beginning every January 1 unless either party gives a 30-day written notice of termination or request to change.

This agreement is signified by the respective authorized signatures below on May 10, 2016.



President, Wartburg College



President, Western Illinois University