BACKGROUND:

The College of Engineering has a unique five-year BS/MS combined degree program that culminates with the student receiving both the Bachelors and Masters degrees at the same time. There is no clear academic point of demarcation as to when the student ceases to be an undergraduate student and becomes a graduate student. Many financial aid programs, including those offered by the University and the federal and state governments are restricted to coursework required to complete an undergraduate degree.

Students are eligible for undergraduate aid only as long as they are undergraduates. Students enrolled in combined BS/MS degree programs are permitted undergraduate federal, state and University aid for a maximum of four academic years or to the point at which the number of graduate hours in a term exceeds the number of undergraduate hours, which ever comes first. During that time frame the student's undergraduate enrollment status will be determined using only undergraduate level courses in which the student enrolls. Graduate level courses in which the student enrolls during such semesters will not be used to determine the student's undergraduate enrollment status. Once a student is considered at the graduate level for financial assistance his/her status is considered graduate for all subsequent semesters.

Engineering students with in the BS/MS program can take a maximum of six (6) graduate credits/semester in their senior year for a maximum of twelve (12) graduate credits without being charged extra as long as they are full time undergraduate students during this period.

Students should register for the courses that are going to be used towards their MS degree as "G" credits and not as "U" credits.

DO'S

- Take at least 12 undergraduate credits/semester in the senior year. This qualifies you for the opportunity to take 6 graduate credits/semester at no additional cost.
- Graduate credits can be taken only in the senior year (based on the number of credits earned towards the BS or 4th year, which ever comes first).
- The maximum number of graduate credits allowed per semester is six (6).
- The maximum number of graduate credits the student can take at no additional cost is twelve (12).
- The UM Graduate School "Application for Undergraduate to Take Graduate Course" form should be filled out and all the signatures obtained before registering for graduate credits.
• The student can change his/her status to "GRADUATE", or your status might be determined to be "GRADUATE" for financial aid purposes during or at the completion of the senior year. This will make the student eligible for graduate financial aid (for US citizens or permanent residents).

**DONT'S**

• The student cannot be a full time undergraduate (taking 12 or more undergraduate credits) and a full time graduate (taking 9 or more graduate credits) at the same time
• Once a student's status changes to Graduate (in their 5th year or after they have taken a full load of graduate credits) it cannot revert back to Undergraduate status
• An undergraduate student cannot take Graduate credits in any other year except in the SENIOR year
• An undergraduate student cannot take more than six (6) graduate credits/semester in the senior year
• The student should avoid taking any undergraduate credits after the student's status has changed to Graduate