FAQs for 5 Year Programs

What Are They?
A slightly modified curriculum that combines most of the normal coursework for a bachelor’s degree with the required credit hours for a master’s degree, resulting in both degrees being awarded at the end of the 5th year. They go by several monikers: 5th year, 3+2, articulated, dual or fast-track programs.

Why Encourage Students to Enter a 5 year Path to Obtain Both BS and Masters Degrees?
The students in these programs will be exceptionally well qualified to enter
1. A professional career in their field
2. A career in secondary education
3. A doctoral program in their discipline

What are the admission requirements for transitioning into the graduate courses?
Only students with at least an overall 3.25 GPA are considered (or higher if desired by the department). The same admission requirements will be required as for any other students applying to the graduate program, including taking the GRE, application, letters, etc. They must have completed at least 96 hours of their undergraduate degree to be eligible to apply, so interested students would apply during the spring of their junior year. The department may specify a residency requirement from the undergraduate courses. Must also have 9-12 hours of stacked undergraduate/graduate courses in the 120 hours for the BS which partially account for the fewer hours required at the graduate level, and the undergraduate 3+2 students in the stacked classes must complete the graduate level assignments.

What classification will the students have when they start taking graduate classes?
In order to facilitate ease of staff support, registration and to keep financial aid simplified the students will stay at U4 status until they have completed 120 credit hours. Some departments have switched them at 108 credits, but evidently it causes more difficulties for the students.
Are the students eligible for graduate assistantships?
Yes, during their 5th year. Whether any such support is available will be determined by the department.

What is the approval process?
The undergraduate portion has to be approved through the undergraduate committee (UCC) and the graduate portion has to be approved through the graduate committee (GC) process. This is usually done in tandem so they reach Faculty Senate at the same time. Since it involves degree programs that are already approved it probably does not have to go further. There is some lack of consistency in the messages on this, but there is documentation of this much.