



# WPI

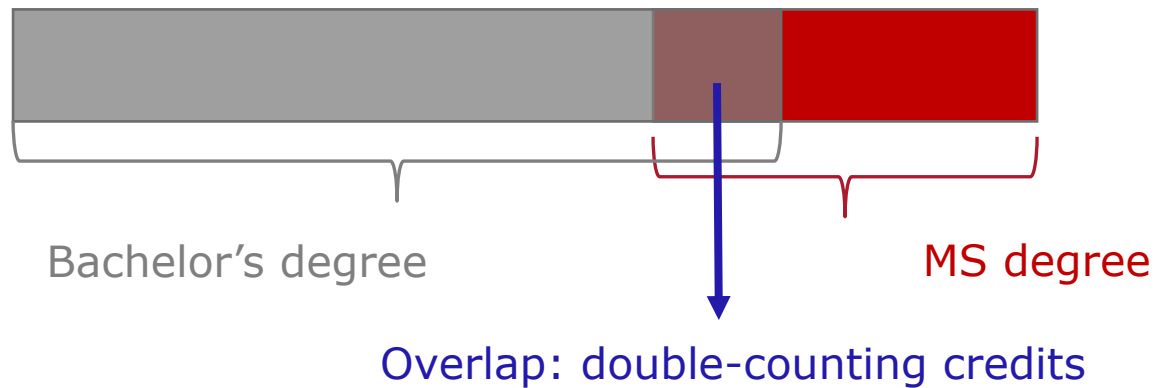
## **Collaborative Accelerated Master's Programs Framework between WPI and Other Institutions**

CGSR Motions for Discussion  
Jan. 2024 Faculty Meeting

# Inspiration & Model for Framework

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- Same idea of WPI internal BS/MS Programs:

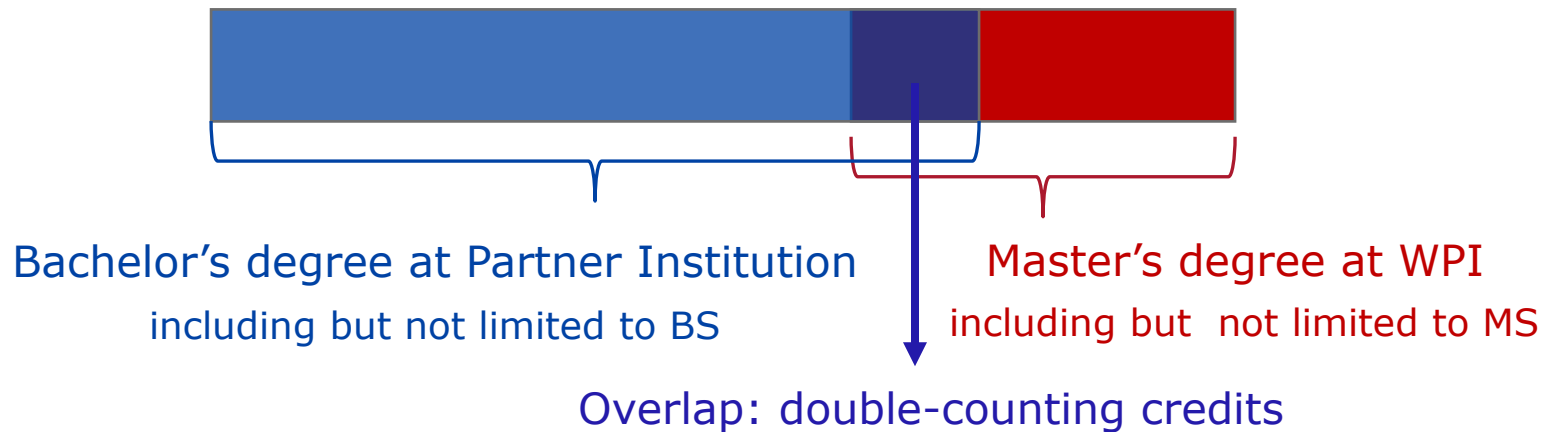


- WPI has well-established rules for this double-counting

# General Framework

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- Collaborative Accelerated Master's Programs Framework



- Course-counting rules:
  - ❖ up to 2 eligible senior undergrad courses from Partner Inst.
  - All internal WPI rules apply:
    - credit-counting rules and limits same as internal BS/MS program
    - WPI rules and limits on graduate credit transfers apply
    - ...

# Rationale: *Win – win - win*

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- **Win for Students:**
  - Ability to pursue a master's degree at WPI in an accelerated manner and in a way that is synergistic with their bachelor's degree
- **Win for WPI:**
  - Attract strong students from our partner institutions into our graduate programs
  - One of WPI's strategic goals: growth and strengthening of our graduate programs
  - Strengthen existing collaborations with partners
- **Win for the Partner Institution:**
  - Provide pathways for their students
  - Strengthen existing collaborations with WPI

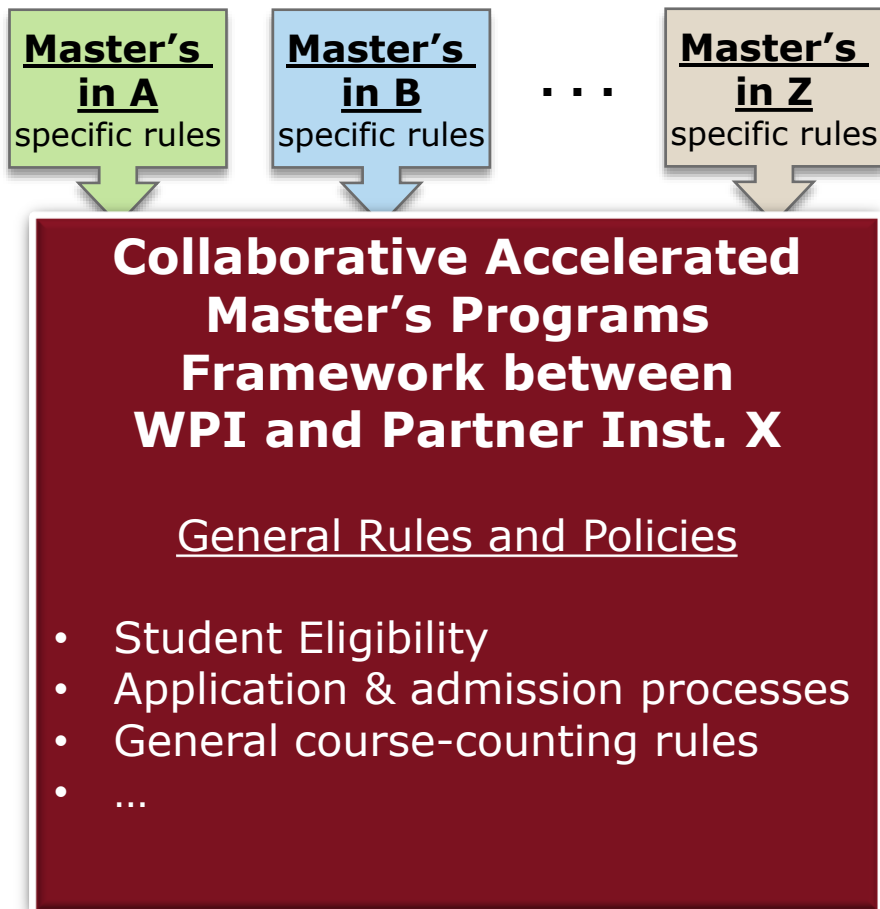
# Collaborations under Development

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- **With Assumption University:** (Motion 2)
  - In Neuroscience, reviewed & approved by CGSR (Motion 3)
  - Planned: Global Health, MME, Cybersecurity
- **With Holy Cross:**
  - In the works: CS, DS, MME, ECE
- **With Framingham State University:**
  - In the works: Neuroscience, DS, Medicinal Chemistry
- **With Utica University:**
  - In the works: engineering
- **With Smith College:**
  - starting conversations about Neuro, Math, Bio, BCB, CS

# Template for these Collaborations

Any **WPI Dept./Program that confers a master's degree in Y** may opt-in to participate in the collaboration with a specific partner



Template

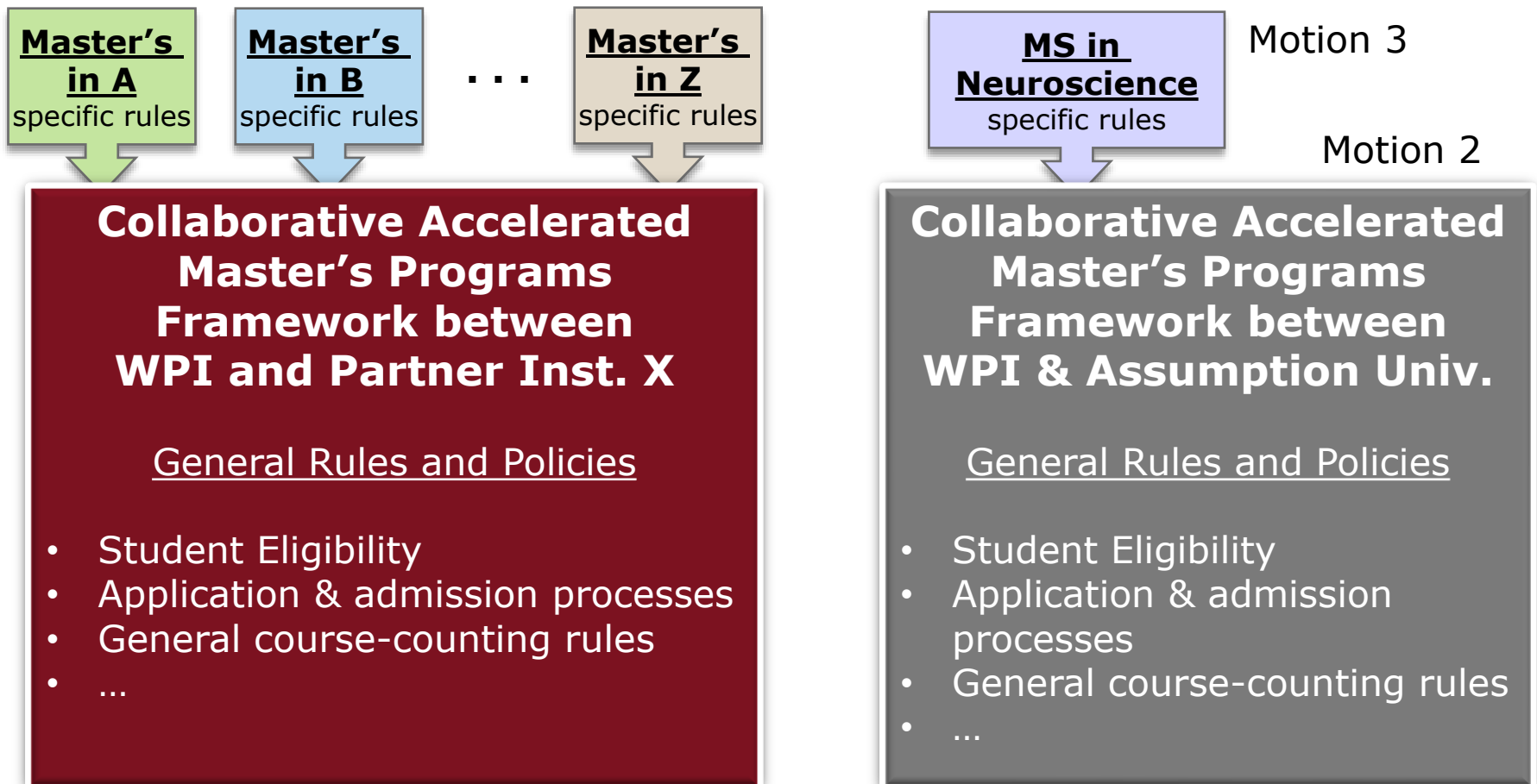
Template for **Program Y's** participation in a Collaborative Framework is provided in Motion 1

**Program Y can add its own (possibly stricter) requirements & rules**

Template for a Collaborative Framework is provided in Motion 1

# Sample Instantiation of the Template

Any **WPI Dept./Program that confers a master's degree in Y** may opt-in to participate in the collaboration with **Assumption University**

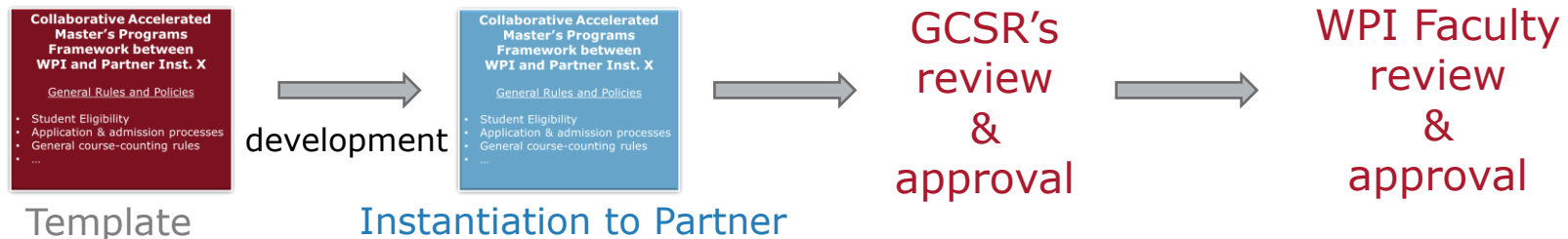


Template

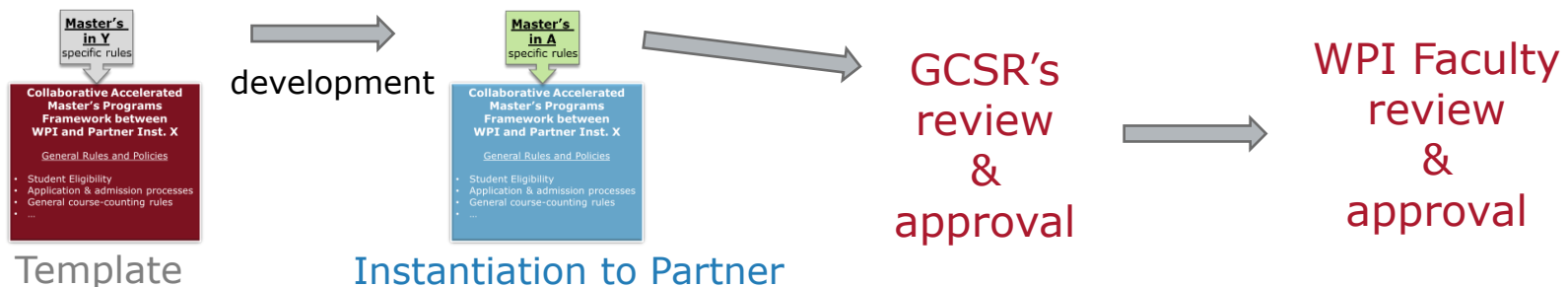
Worcester Polytechnic Institute

# Why having a Template?

- Facilitates development and CGSR's & WPI Faculty's review of similar future collaborations with other partner institutions



- Facilitates development and CGSR's & WPI Faculty's review of WPI master's programs' participation in a Collaborative Framework with X



- Provides consistency and transparency across these collaborations
- Can be adapted/overwritten as needed



# Framework Template: Degree Requirements

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- Students enrolled in a Collaborative Accelerated Master's Program in Y as part of this Collaborative Framework:



Bachelor's degree at Partner Institution X

Master's degree in Y at WPI

must satisfy  
all the requirements of  
their **bachelor's degree at X**

&

must satisfy  
all the requirements of  
their **master's in Y at WPI**

# Framework Template: Applications & Admission

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- Eligibility
  - Students in majors relevant to the master's degree Y or who otherwise have the necessary background
  - Min. overall GPA of 3.0 (exceptions by petition)
- Applications & Admissions: Same as for internal BS/MS
  - Statement of purpose, academic transcript(s), 2 LORs
  - Expected to apply during junior year
  - Becomes a **grad student at WPI** after **graduating with bachelor's from X**
  - "Gap" years allowed between finishing bachelor's and starting master's:
    - Up-to 3 academic years
      - WPI's internal BS/MS gap is 5 years

# Framework Template: Course-Counting Rules



Bachelor's degree at Partner Institution X

Master's degree in Y at WPI

Courses/credits taken by student as an undergrad that may count toward **master's in Y**

- Up to **2 eligible** senior-level, advanced courses from X ← This upper limit ( $\leq 2$ ) imposed by NECHE
  - with a grade of “B-” or better
  - eligible courses determined by **Program Y (Plan of Study)**
- When applicable (e.g., HECCMA schools):
  - **Courses taken at WPI** while **student is an undergrad at X**
    - **Undergrad courses:** typically, same that count for the internal **BS/MS in Y**
    - **Grad courses:** typically, same that count for the **master's program in Y**
- *All WPI rules and limits on credit-counting, double-counting, and credit transfer apply*
- Credit conversion is the same used at WPI: 3 undergrad credits = 2 grad credits
  - **Default: undergrad courses from X** carry 3 undergrad credits at WPI
    - unless otherwise chosen by **Program Y** on a course-by-course basis

# Program Y Participation Template

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Program Y participation in a Collaborative Framework with a specific partner institution X

- Adds information specific to the master's degree in Y and may add and/or overwrite rules in the Collaborative Framework with X:
  - Additional student eligibility criteria (if any)
  - Recommended background, prerequisites, and/or additional guidelines for students who wish to pursue the Y-Program
  - A "Plan of Study Form for the Collaborative Accelerated Master's Program in Y between X and WPI"
    - degree requirements, eligible courses, program-specific limits, ...
  - Endorsement from the faculty in program Y

# Plan of Study: Illustration (Full Plan of Study in Motion 3)



**Assumption  
University**

**Collaborative  
Accelerated Master's  
Program in Neuroscience  
Plan of Study**



**WPI**

See the WPI Graduate Catalog and the Neuroscience webpages for additional information about the Neuroscience MS degree requirements.

**Core Neuroscience Coursework Requirement:** at least 19 graduate credits.

**Neuroscience courses:** at least 9 graduate credits from the list of Eligible Neuroscience Courses

School	Course #	Course Title	Semester	Grad credits	Grade	Double-counted?

**Biology courses:** at least 3 graduate credits from the list of Eligible Biology & Biotechnology Courses

School	Course #	Course Title	Semester	Grad credits	Grade	Double-counted?

**Computer Science courses:** at least 3 graduate credits from the list of Eligible Computer Science Courses

School	Course #	Course Title	Semester	Grad credits	Grade	Double-counted?

**Bioethics course:** at least 1 graduate credit. *For example, BB 551 Research Integrity in the Sciences or ID 500*

## LISTS OF ELIGIBLE COURSES

### Eligible Neuroscience courses:

#### WPI Graduate Courses (3 graduate credits each):

NEU 501 Neuroscience  
NEU 502 Neural Plasticity  
NEU 503 Computational Neuroscience  
NEU 504 Advanced Psychophysiology  
NEU 505 Brain-Computer Interaction

#### Assumption Undergraduate Courses:

BIO415 Principles of Neuroscience (3 graduate credits)

- Students can receive credit towards their M.S. degree for BIO415 or for NEU501, but not for both.

BIO490 Independent Study with Neuroscience Focus (2 graduate credits)

- This ISC may be conducted with Assumption University and/or WPI faculty.

### Eligible Biology and Biotechnology courses:

#### WPI Graduate Courses (3 graduate credits each):

BBT 561 Model Systems: Experimental Approaches and Applications  
BBT 581/ BCB 501 Bioinformatics

#### WPI Undergraduate Courses (2 graduate credits each):

BB/CH 4190. Regulation of Gene Expression  
BB 4260. Synthetic Biology

#### Assumption Undergraduate Courses:

BIO420 Developmental Biology (3 graduate credits)  
BIO430 Comparative Physiology (3 graduate credits)

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# General Template: Administration & Oversight

**Master's  
in Y**  
specific rules

- WPI Y-Program Coordinator:

- Implementation & administration of the accel. master's in Y
- Academic advising of students in this master's program

## **Collaborative Accelerated Master's Programs Framework between WPI and Partner Inst. X**

### General Rules and Policies

- Student Eligibility
- Application & admission processes
- General course-counting rules
- ...

- Collaborative Framework Coordinators:

- One at WPI
- One at X

- Responsibilities:

- Implementation & administration of the framework
- Outreach & promotion of framework
- General academic advising and mentoring of students
- Coordination with stakeholders at each institution

# General Template: Impact & Resources

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- Impact on Degree Requirements:
  - None
- Resources Needed:
  - Incentive for the **WPI Coordinator** of a Collaborative Framework with a partner institution
    - to champion the collaboration and make it successful/fruitful



# Input and Endorsements

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## **WPI:**

- Faculty from several Schools, Department and Programs
- Endorsement from Neuroscience Faculty
- Committee on Graduate Studies and Research (CGSR)
- Secretary of the Faculty, Mark Richman
- Provost, Art Heinricher
- Dean of Graduate Studies, Terri Camesano
- Dean of Arts and Sciences, Jean A. King
- Dean of Engineering, John McNeill
- Dean of The Business School, Debora Jackson
- Dean of The Global School, Mimi Sheller
- Dean of Undergraduate Studies, Arne Gericke
- Assoc. Dean Graduate Studies, Alex Wyglinski
- Registrar, Sarah Miles
- Executive Director of Graduate Recruitment and Admissions, Melissa Terrio
- Associate General Counsel, Amy Fabiano

## **Partner Institutions:**

- Counterparts at partner institutions, including Assumption University and Holy Cross

## **New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE):**

- Senior Vice President of NECHE, Patricia O'Brien, SNDdeN.



Thank you!

Any Questions & Feedback?

# Additional Slides



# Course Registration at WPI

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*For HECCMA (Higher Education Consortium of Central Massachusetts) Schools:*

- Undergraduate students can cross-register for up to 2 courses per academic year at WPI:
  - No additional tuition for undergraduate courses
  - WPI will waive additional tuition for up to 2 graduate courses for students admitted to a collaborative framework while they are still undergrad students at the partner institution