Leadership and Organizational Studies
4 + 1 Program Flow Chart

The Leadership Studies 4+1 option allows qualified undergraduate students (in any major) to complete a bachelor’s degree and a Master of Arts in Leadership Studies degree in five years. Students pursuing this option focus on bachelor degree requirements during the first three years, a mix of bachelor and graduate requirements in the fourth year, and then exclusively graduate requirements in the fifth year.

Students may use up to 12 credits of graduate courses for both the undergraduate and graduate degrees (using four required graduate level courses to fulfill general elective credits needed for bachelor’s degree). **NOTE: Students cannot take graduate courses until AFTER they’ve been admitted to the master’s program.**

Who Should Consider LOS 4+1?

The LOS 4+1 option is designed for students who wish to add a mastery of leadership skills to whatever undergraduate degree they are pursuing and to do both degrees in as little as five years. Candidates for this option should ideally be guided by a 4+1 advisor while they have at least 12 credits of general electives left to meet so that 12 credits of graduate courses may be counted toward both degrees.

**How it Works**

1. **Student applies to and is accepted in an undergraduate degree program.**

2. **During first semester as undergraduate, student should complete the “Declaration of Concentration” form for “LOS 4+1” with their advisor. Note: this form simply indicates your interest in completing LOS 4+1 and does not guarantee acceptance to the Master of Arts in Leadership Studies (MLS).**

3. **Once student enters their junior year and has completed at least 54 required credits, he/she should formally apply to the Master’s in Leadership Studies (MLS) program. The application process includes an interview and writing sample. Information on how to apply can be found at: usm.maine.edu/leadership/wyawtkaa**

4. **If student is not admitted to the MLS program, they will not be allowed to take graduate-level course work and will instead finish the listed requirements for their undergraduate degree.**

5. **-OR-**

6. **If student is admitted to the MLS program and has completed at least 84 required credits, they can then take the four graduate-level courses during their senior year: LOS 500, LOS 501, LOS 512, and LOS 550, as an undergraduate student.**

7. **Upon successful completion of the undergraduate degree, student is matriculated into the graduate MLS program and finishes the requirements of that degree.**