Degree unites science, business

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A College of Science master’s program meshing business and science for a tailor-made degree specially designed for the needs of the scientific industry graduated its ninth student last semester.

The Professional Master’s Degree program was developed in response to industry leaders’ interest in hiring highly educated scientists in sciences.

The program, which currently has 26 students and 9 graduates, allows students to choose from three tracks applied and industrial physics, applied biosciences and mathematical sciences. Each track consists of five parts: science courses, business courses, lectures from industry professionals, internships and final projects.

The business courses include foundations of business for scientists, which covers marketing, accounting and business ethics, among others, and project management, which includes processes and applications geared toward the science and industry sector.

The colloquia feature professionals from organizations and businesses like Los Alamos National Laboratory, Intel Corporation and IBM.

Leaders from different companies also visit recession to recruit students and tell them about the career options available to them.

The program helps its graduates obtain jobs in various fields like consulting, commerce, patent and regulatory affairs, research management and technology transfer, which is how a idea or innovation goes from an individual, company or university to the public, said Levine.

She explained this program is a professional program, which carries the credibility and reputation as a doctorate program.

The Sloan Foundation funded the program through a national initiative in 1997. Alfred Pritchard Sloan, Jr., then president and CEO of General Motors, established the foundation in 1934. Students choose between doing a master’s thesis and a report based on their internship experience as a final project.

Levine describes the program and the idea of combining science and business as a “revolutionary approach to graduate students in science.”