

Policy Recommendations For Programs that Confer an Accelerated Bachelors/Masters Degree

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I. Guiding principles for establishing new policy on accelerated degrees that confer an accelerated Bachelors/Master's degree.

- 1) Provide uniformity in the management of all programs.
- 2) Provide program structure to ensure that the Bachelors degree is conferred in a timely manner when all undergraduate degree requirements have been met.
- 3) Provide defined program structure and timelines so that no undergraduate courses are once the student has reached graduate status.
- 4) Provide an optimal program structure so that undergraduate students receive the financial aid that they are qualified for the duration of their undergraduate studies.
- 5) Increase the number of hours that can be shared between the bachelors and masters degrees so that the programs are more alternative and competitive with other programs across the state and Nation.

II. Current policy/guidelines

- 1) Graduate Council has approved guidelines for program development, but there is flexibility in the management, structure and sequence of degree conferral at the program level.
- 2) Programs have a choice of conferring degrees simultaneously or sequentially.
- 3) Students are allowed to take up to 50% of graduate courses when in undergraduate status even though only 6 hrs can be shared.
- 4) Only 6 hrs of graduate credit can be shared between the graduate and undergraduate degree. Other Universities allow 9-12 credits to be shared making the programs much more desirable to top students.

III. Proposed Policy/Guidelines for the Development and Administration of Accelerated Programs that Confer a Bachelors and Masters Degree

A) Accelerated Program requirements

1. Programs must develop a clear plan for advising and tracking of students that includes advising students about the financial aid implications of conversion into the accelerated program with referral to the Office of Financial Aid for advice.
2. Programs must establish the number of graduate credits that will be shared between the bachelor's and master's degrees. **No more than 12 hours of graduate credit can be shared with the bachelor's degree.**
3. No more than 12 hours of graduate credit taken while in undergraduate status can be applied to the master's degree.

4. Programs must work with a prospective student to develop an **Graduate Degree Action Plan** that details:
 - a. The graduate courses to be taken while in undergraduate status
 - b. The semester in which they will be taken
 - c. The courses to be taken while in graduate status to complete the degree
 - d. The projected date for conferring of the degree.
5. Programs must establish a minimum undergraduate GPA requirement of at least 3.0 for students to be admitted to an accelerated program.
6. Programs must establish a minimum grade/GPA for all graduate coursework to be shared that is at least a B/3.0.
7. Programs must be structured so that students do not take any graduate courses until the second semester of their junior year.
8. Programs must be structured so that students take no more than 3 graduate hrs in any semester except the final semester of their senior year.
9. The bachelor's degree must be conferred in the semester that students complete all of the degree requirements for the degree.
10. To remain in the accelerated program, a student admitted to graduate status must enroll in graduate courses within one semester of the conferring of the bachelor's degree (Fall graduation – Spring enrollment; summer graduation – Fall enrollment; Spring graduation – Fall enrollment).

B) Proposed Accelerated Program Time Lines and Processing

- 1) Following completion of the students second year (or 60 hrs) they will submit an **Accelerated Program Interest Form** that must be signed by the Graduate Program, College and Graduate School. To complete this form, the student will work with an advisor to complete the **Graduate Degree Action Plan** and this will serve as an approval for the student to begin taking the first graduate courses no earlier than the second semester of their junior year (as determined by the Program). The submission of this form will also allow the student to be re-coded in Banner for tracking purposes. The form will include:
 - a. Current bachelors degree program
 - b. Projected accelerated degree program
 - c. Undergraduate hours completed, major GPA and total GPA
 - d. Expected completion date for the bachelors degree
 - e. Action plan that contains a list of 9-12 graduate credits to be shared with the bachelor's degree (as determined by program) as well as the semester they will be taken.
 - f. List of all graduate courses to be taken to complete the master's degree.
 - g. Date of expected GRE/GMAT exam (*if required by the program*).
 - h. Projected date of completion of the master's degree
- 2) Students with an approved Interest Form must submit and **Accelerated Degree Application** to the Graduate School by the time they reach 90 hrs (end of junior year).
- 3) Programs will review the applications and approve the admission, pending successful completion of the approved graduate courses with established GPA requirements. Students can take no more than 12 hrs of graduate credit and must complete the

requirement of the bachelor's degree within one year of being admitted to the accelerated program.

- 4) Students will be officially converted to graduate standing following completion of all of the bachelor's degree requirements and the confirmation of the bachelor's degree.
- 5) Students will have one calendar year to complete the remaining requirements for the master's degree.

C) Example of projected course loads and time lines

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Student Classification	UG	UG	UG	UG	GR
Credits Fall	15 UG	15 UG	15 UG	3 GR 12 UG	9-12 ch GR
Credits Spring	15 UG	15 UG	*3 GR 12-15 UG	6 GR 9 UG	9-12 ch GR
Credits Summer	*UG	*UG	*UG or **3 GR	n	***variable
Total Grad Credits			3	9	18-24
Processing		Student submits intent form and work plan in the summer semester	Student submits GR application during the Spring semester	Student admitted to the accelerated program in the Fall semester	Students admitted to GR status pending successful progress in graduate courses
Graduation				Bachelors conferred	Master's conferred

* If approved by Program at this stage of the students studies

** Only if not taken in Spring and at the approval of the Program

*** If needed to complete the masters in one academic year

IV. Current Programs

Green = Active w/enrolment Blue = Active w/o enrollment Red = INACTIVE PROGRAM

Current Programs that confer Bachelors and Masters Degrees

Program	Degree Description	Shared Credits	Attribute	SP09 GR Enrollments
Chemistry (INACTIVE)	BA/MA (3 plus 2 – awards simultaneous degrees)	?	MCBM	0
Mathematics	BA/MA (3 plus 2 – awards simultaneous degrees)	20	MMBM	0
Rehabilitation & Mental Health Counseling	BA/MA (3 plus 2 a accelerates to the MA)	?	MREF	1
Speech-Language Pathology (INACTIVE)	BA/MA (3 plus 2 accelerates to the MA)	?	MSPF	0
Special Education, Varying Exceptionalities	BS/MA (3 plus 2 – awards simultaneous degrees)	6	MAVE	0
Engineering	(3 plus 2 may be mapped to any Engineering program - awards simultaneous degree)	6	MEGG	51

Accelerated Programs that do not confer a Bachelors

Program	Degree Description	Shared Credits	Attribute	SP09 GR Enrollments
Nursing	BS/MS (UG with an AS in Nursing progressing toward the MS in Nursing – awards simultaneous degrees)	?	MNAS	81 (14)
Public Health	Concentrations in Public Health Education admits UG students at 90 hours, PHC, and accelerates to the master degree	?	MMPH	2
Architecture	AA/MARC (2 plus 3 accelerated to the M.Arc. degree)	?	MARC	19

Joint Accelerated Degrees

College	Program Descriptions	Degree descriptions	Shared credits	Attribute	SP09 GR Enrollments
CAS COED	Interdisciplinary Natural Science Science Education	BA/MAT (3 plus 2 accelerates to the MAT)	6	MTIN	0
CAS COED	Interdisciplinary Social Science Social Science Education	BA/MAT (3 plus 2 accelerates to the MAT)	6	MTIS	0
CAS COED	Foreign Language-French Foreign Language Education	BA/MAT (3 plus 2 accelerates to the MAT)	6	MTFR	0
CAS COED	Foreign Language-Spanish Foreign Language Education	BA/MAT (3 plus 2 accelerates to the MAT)	6	MTSP	0
CAS and COBA (INACTIVE)	May be mapped to most UG departments in AS	BA/BS/MBA (3 plus 2 awards a BA or BS & MBA simultaneously)	?	MBUS	0
COBA and Honors College (INACTIVE)		BA/MBA	?		0

SPRING 2009 TOTAL ENROLLMENT (5A)

154