

Guidelines for Accelerated Master's Programs

The following are guidelines for the development of an accelerated master's program. Use the Proposal for Accelerated Master's Program form as the template to request a new accelerated program. Submit the completed and signed proposal to the Graduate School at gradsch@uoregon.edu.

Overview

The accelerated master's program is designed to allow academic units to provide its selected highest quality students with the opportunity to link advanced undergraduate coursework with graduate coursework and degree completion. This provides students with the opportunity to get a head start on the master's degree while completing the bachelor's degree. All proposals for Accelerated Master's Programs are subject to review and approval by both the Undergraduate and Graduate Councils.

Each proposal must include the following:

- A rationale for and a description of the proposed program
- A plan for administration of the program
- Clearly defined admissions criteria
- Specific requirements for each degree
- Standards and procedures for monitoring student progress to degree completion
- Standards and procedures for monitoring the program's quality over time

Admission Standards

- Students must be classified as Juniors or Seniors in order to apply for acceptance to the accelerated master's program, and must be classified as Seniors before taking graduate coursework in the program.
- Students will not be classified as master's students until the term after the bachelor's degree is conferred.
- The admission standards for the accelerated degree should not be lower than the admissions criteria of the Graduate School and the academic unit for the master's degree, with the exception that programs may waive GRE or other standardized test requirements for students who meet defined requirements (e.g., students who meet or exceed a GPA threshold defined by the program). Programs may choose to have more stringent criteria for AMP applicants.
- A written statement detailing the satisfactory academic progress requirements to remain in the accelerated degree program must appear in all recruiting and

admission materials provided by the academic unit.

- The academic unit must designate a faculty member responsible for coordinating the admissions process.

Monitoring Student Status

- The academic unit must specify how a student's academic progress in the program will be monitored and reported. A student will be considered an undergraduate until all undergraduate degree requirements have been completed, at which time they will be officially admitted as a master's student. Undergraduate students enrolled in the accelerated programs will be eligible to enroll in graduate level courses and seminars. However, **they will not be eligible for most graduate student benefits, including Graduate Employee appointments, graduate-level financial aid, and graduate scholarships and awards, until the undergraduate degree is completed.**
- While classified as undergraduates, even if taking graduate classes, students will be subject to all undergraduate policies, including Academic Standing rules for undergraduate students.
- All recruiting and admission materials provided by the academic unit should include a written statement indicating that students will be considered undergraduates until all undergraduate requirements have been met and the bachelor's degree has been conferred.
- The academic unit must specify how the accelerated program will provide academic advising. Administration of the accelerated program must include plans for term-by-term review of each student's academic progress in meeting both bachelor's and master's degree requirements.
- The academic unit must clearly outline satisfactory academic progress guidelines, including specific timelines, as well as the consequences of not meeting these requirements.
- Undergraduate students who have been accepted to an accelerated master's program must complete all of their bachelor's degree requirements and graduate within 12 months of the first day of the quarter in which they begin taking graduate courses as part of the accelerated program. Students who fail to do so will undergo a progress review and may be dismissed from the accelerated program.
- A student who is admitted to an accelerated master's program and subsequently decides not to continue into the master's program may still count up to 16 graduate credits earned as an undergraduate toward the bachelor's degree, but they may not use those graduate credits toward a UO graduate degree should they decide to return to the UO at a later date.

Degree Requirements

- An accelerated master's program must reflect completion of all degree requirements of both the bachelor's and master's programs.
- When a thesis is required for the master's degree, the undergraduate honors thesis may not be substituted for the master's thesis. However, the academic unit may elect to allow the undergraduate thesis to serve as a foundation for the master's thesis.
- Students in an accelerated master's program may take a maximum of 16 graduate credits while classified as an undergraduate. Accelerated master's programs may allow some or all of these 16 graduate credits to count toward both the bachelor's and master's degree requirements.
- 400-level courses will not be allowed to count toward minimum master's degree requirements, even by petition and even if the associated 500-level course would have been accepted toward master's degree requirements. In the case of a student who has already taken a 400-level course and the corresponding 500-level course is required for the master's degree, the student may be required to take the 500-level course. Once accepted to an accelerated master's program, the designated AMP coordinator for the program should work closely with students to ensure registration in the appropriate graduate-level courses.

Program Monitoring

- The academic unit should outline a plan for monitoring the program's success after three years.
- For official university reporting purposes, students will be considered as undergraduates until the bachelor's degree is awarded.

Proposal Submission Procedures

- Accelerated degree program proposals should be submitted to the Graduate School for approval using the proposal to establish an accelerated master's program form.
- The form includes the following sections required for the proposal:
 - A program description
 - A rationale for why the program is needed
 - Admissions requirements
 - Degree requirements
 - A sample plan of study for both the undergraduate and graduate portions of the program

- Departmental policies and procedures for monitoring student progress, including satisfactory academic progress guidelines and procedures
- A plan for monitoring the quality and success of the program.