

POLICY TITLE:

Accelerated Program Policy

POLICY:

Accelerated programs are defined as programs in which a student earns both an undergraduate and graduate degree in an officially integrated manner. Such programs may share a limited number of graduate credits between the degrees. For master's programs with 40 or fewer credits, a maximum of twelve (12) semester credit hours of shared, graduate-level credits may be applied to both the undergraduate and graduate degrees; for master's programs with more than 40 credits, a maximum of eighteen (18) shared graduate-level semester credit hours may be applied to both the undergraduate and graduate degrees.

Admission to Program and Enrollment in Shared-Credit Coursework:

To apply for admission to an accelerated program, a student must have completed at least 60 semester hours at the undergraduate college level, at least 12 hours of which must have been taken at NEIU. Only students who have a cumulative undergraduate GPA of at least 3.0 will be considered for acceptance into an accelerated program. Furthermore, the cumulative GPA for classes taken at NEIU must be at least 3.0. In addition, students must meet all program-specific admission criteria for both the undergraduate program and the graduate program to which they are applying.

Students must be admitted to an accelerated program prior to enrollment in any graduate coursework that will count as shared credits. Students must hold second-semester junior standing, having completed at least 72 semester credit hours, before enrolling in shared graduate-level courses.

To remain in an accelerated program, students must abide by the following policies:

- Maintain a cumulative undergraduate GPA of at least 3.0. Students whose cumulative undergraduate GPA falls below 3.0 will have one semester to restore their GPA to at least 3.0.
- Earn at least a "B" in all graduate-level courses taken for shared credit.
- Receive a conferred undergraduate degree within four (4) semesters of the start of graduate-level courses.

Failure to satisfy the above policies will result in a student's dismissal from the accelerated program. If undergraduate students are dismissed from an accelerated program, or if they choose to leave the program, they will be returned to the standard undergraduate program. Once a student is dismissed from or leaves an accelerated program, they cannot be readmitted to that program. Once the undergraduate degree is conferred, graduate retention and dismissal policies will apply.

Status and Catalog Year:

Students will maintain undergraduate status until the bachelor's degree is awarded. The undergraduate catalog year will be determined by the first term of enrollment at the University. While classified as an undergraduate, students will pay undergraduate tuition rates for all coursework, be eligible for undergraduate financial aid, and abide by all undergraduate academic policies, except for the additional academic requirements specified for accelerated programs.

Initial enrollment in shared credits for the accelerated program will set the graduate catalog year. Upon the conferral of the bachelor's degree, the student's official status will be changed to graduate status and all graduate tuition, financial aid, and academic policies, including graduate retention and dismissal, will apply.



APPROVAL DATE:

April 21, 2022 – FCAA Meeting

EFFECTIVE DATE:

Fall 2022

PUBLICATON SITES: *(web, catalog, handbook, etc.)*

COMMITTEE OR FCAA CHAIR SIGNATURE:

PROVOST SIGNATURE:

5/27/2022