

Accelerated Program Workshop November 1 or 2, 2022

What do we mean by “Accelerated Programs”?

The policy language states that *“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.”*

What does this mean for current programs?

Accelerated programs are collaborations between an undergraduate program and graduate program and appear as a concentration in the undergraduate program. This concentration consists of courses from the graduate program that undergrads complete for their bachelor’s degree, and whose credits count towards their master’s degree. Shared credits are limited and based on the number of credits in the graduate program. For example, if the grad program requires 40 or fewer credits, up to 12 credits may be shared. If the graduate program requires more than 40 credits, up to 18 credits may be shared.

Shared courses can come from the disciplinary major or designated electives or the undergrad plan can be modified to “make room” for the grad credits. Here are three examples:

- Community Health majors in the accelerated concentration that leads into the Master of Public Health program take 18 credits of foundational courses in public health at the 400-level rather than at the 300-level.
- English majors who apply to the accelerated concentration that leads to the Master of Arts in Teaching-Secondary program will likely have four designated courses from the College of Education that will be part of their 120+ undergrad credits (and will count toward their 40+ “upper division” credits), but will not substitute for specific English major content.
- Earth Science majors in the accelerated concentration that leads to the Master of Arts in Teaching-Secondary program may take a slightly different science sequence to make room for the 4 College of Ed courses to count as electives.

Bottom line: It is incumbent upon the undergraduate and graduate programs to collaborate to determine the appropriate curricular sequence for the undergraduate concentration.

What governance is necessary for an Accelerated Program to be approved?

The undergraduate program must file a Program Modification request through the CIM system. In the spaces for “Current Programs and Enrollments in the Department(s) involved,” proposal authors need to list BOTH the undergraduate and graduate programs to be part of the accelerated offering. See the sample CIM form for language.

The Modification will make its way through the Program/Department and College Curriculum Committees and the College Dean(s). It will also be routed through GCAC on its way to FCAA.

The University will assign a Concentration Code to each approved Accelerated Program. This code will be used to identify the student's degree path and track progress toward graduation from the undergraduate program.

How does a student apply for the Accelerated Program?

Students must apply to both the undergraduate and graduate sides of their Accelerated Program. On the undergraduate side, that process may be as simple as meeting with the undergraduate program advisor to verify that they have met the GPA and credit requirements, and then completing the Major Declaration form. At the same time, the student completes the online application to the Graduate Program, and the graduate advisor reviews the application based on program requirements.

When and how does admission into the master's program occur?

Current (DRAFT!) thinking is that the graduate program acceptance would be marked "contingent." This would indicate that the student is fully accepted into the master's program *once the bachelor's degree has been awarded*. Upon conferral of the bachelor's degree, the student's code and program would automatically change to the one associated with the master's program. The student would not have to take any additional steps for the system to recognize them as a graduate student. Interim Registrar Rahshida Walker is working with Steven Pajak and others to set up these processes.

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