

Accelerated Degree Program Guidelines For Bachelor's/Master's Accelerated Degree Programs (4+1)

The following are guidelines for the development of an accelerated degree program. Use the [4+1 Accelerated Program Proposal](#) to request a new or amend an existing accelerated program.

Background

The accelerated bachelor's and master's (4+1) degree program is designed to provide 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. Such proposals must be approved by the Graduate College.

Each proposal must include the following:

- A rationale for and a description of the proposed program
- Administration of the program including an overseeing faculty director
- Designated point of contact for advising student participants in the 4+1 program
- Clearly defined 4+1 candidate criteria
- 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

Program Standards

- Students must meet all admission criteria established by the academic unit and the Graduate College in order to be admitted to the master's program.
- Students must submit their graduate admission application and pay the application fee for the term they plan to start the graduate program.
- At least 75 credit hours of applicable undergraduate coursework must be completed before students can be approved to pursue the accelerated degree program.
- Units should provide candidate criteria for undergraduate students who may be eligible for the accelerated degree program.
- It is required that academic advisors use the [Accelerated Application Tracking Tool](#) for tracking 4+1 students.
- A written statement detailing the satisfactory academic progress requirements to remain in the accelerated degree program must appear in all recruiting and 4+1 program materials provided by the academic unit in addition to the master's program handbook.
- The academic unit must designate a faculty director responsible for coordinating the 4+1 program, including overseeing the student eligibility process.

- The academic unit must specify how the accelerated program will provide academic advising with a specific advisor dedicated to 4+1 students or knowledgeable of the 4+1 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. Undergraduate students approved as candidates for accelerated programs will be eligible to enroll in specific graduate-level courses per department approval. However, **they will not be eligible for certain opportunities designated for graduate students only, including teaching and research assistantships and related health insurance, financial aid, or graduate award programs until the undergraduate degree is completed.**
- All recruiting and 4+1 program 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 posted to the student's transcript.
- Administration of the accelerated program must include an annual 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 in the master's program handbook.

Degree Requirements

- Students in the accelerated degree program must meet all degree requirements of 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.
- Accelerated bachelor's/master's programs may use a maximum of 12 shared credit hours between the bachelor's and master's program. Please note that only six credit hours of 400-level coursework can be applied to the master's degree program, and only if the master's allows 400-level courses on the plan of study.

Program Monitoring

- The academic unit should outline a plan for monitoring the program's success after three years. Consider enrollment numbers, alumni student surveys, alumni employment data, completion rate, etc.

- 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 College for approval using the [proposal to establish an accelerated bachelor's/master's \(4+1\) degree program](#).

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