

Guidelines for Accelerated Pathway Dual Degree Program Creation

- Accelerated pathway programs should be designed for academically high-achieving undergraduate students. Students applying to enter an accelerated pathway program should meet certain minimum academic criteria established by the college. Those criteria should be included in the accelerated pathway proposal.
- The proposal and all materials must clarify that students are not guaranteed admission to the master's degree program if they are allowed to take graduate courses in the final undergraduate year as part of an accelerated pathway; they must complete the full graduate application as required of all other graduate applicants, and be admitted to the master's degree program accordingly.
- The number of graduate hours which can be taken during the final undergraduate year must be specified in the proposal, and should not exceed **12**. (No more than 9 graduate hours should be taken in any given semester by an undergraduate student.)
- The number of graduate hours which are remaining to be taken as master's students after the completion of the undergraduate degree should not be less than **24**.
- The proposal should clearly state exactly which graduate courses are eligible to be taken during the final undergraduate year and counted as undergraduate electives toward graduation.
- Before the student is conferred their undergraduate degree, they can only enroll in graduate courses which are listed as part of their accelerated pathway degree plan and counted toward the undergraduate degree plan.
- Any courses taken solely for credit toward the master's degree plan must be taken after the student has been conferred a bachelor's degree.

Attached is information on existing dual degrees and current proposals. This is to show that the proposed credit hour metrics would continue the existing pattern and precedent in accelerated pathway programs.

Once these guidelines are implemented, the Graduate School staff will review incoming proposals for compliance and notify originating departments if revisions are needed. If a program still wants a proposal which exceeds these guidelines to be considered as a special circumstance, a revision to the Notification Memo will be requested to indicate such a request to both the GPSC and, if approved, the Provost.


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