

Effective: January 2020

Academic Policy
ACCELERATED BACHELOR'S TO MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAMS AND
EARLY/DUAL ADMISSION TO FIRST PROFESSIONAL MASTER'S DEGREE
PROGRAM POLICY

Approved:
November 19, 2019, Faculty Senate
December 4, 2019, Dean's Council

I. Introduction:

The purpose of this policy is to communicate the instructions, processes, and standards regarding the establishment of accelerated bachelor's to master's degree programs and early admission to first master's degree program at Millersville University.

II. Definitions

Accelerated Program: Bachelors' to master's program which permits qualified undergraduate students with at least junior standing to take graduate coursework that will apply to both degrees based on the individual program curriculum,

Early/ Dual Admission: Bachelor's to master's program which permits qualified undergraduate students to enter Millersville University with provisional admission to a first professional master's degree program and to take graduate coursework that will apply to both degrees, based on the individual program curriculum.

III. Admission Procedures

Accelerated Program: A student may be provisionally accepted into the respective graduate program in accordance with the graduate admission policy and formally admitted upon completion of his/her undergraduate degree, so long as all other program admission requirements have been met.

Early/Dual Admission: A student may be provisionally accepted into the respective graduate program at the point of admission to the university or at any time during his/her undergraduate studies. The student may be fully admitted to the graduate program upon completion of the undergraduate requirements and any benchmarks set out in the early/grad dual admission programs, but not later than the beginning of the fifth full-time year of enrollment in the prospective

course of study. All other graduate program admission requirements must be met.

IV. Standards for Accelerated Programs and Early/Dual Admission

- A. Students must satisfy the requirements and expectations (student learning outcomes) of both degree programs.
- B. Programs should be constructed to ensure that the degree requirements at both the undergraduate and graduate levels adhere to the academic standards set for the independent degree programs.
- C. A student must have attained at least junior standing and have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 before taking graduate courses in the intended graduate program. If the intended graduate program requires a higher GPA, the student must meet the higher GPA before taking graduate courses. *In addition, the GPA calculation for students in accelerated programs will fall under the policies related to Undergraduate and Graduate Studies.
- D. Each participating program must develop a specific curriculum plan for the accelerated or early/dual admission program. If the policy changes the requirements of the undergraduate or graduate program, the new program must be approved through the appropriate curricular approval process.
- E. All prerequisites for the intended graduate courses must be satisfied prior to taking those graduate courses.
- F. Undergraduate credits may not be applied to satisfy the requirements for the graduate degree.
- G. Up to 40% of the graduate program credits (rounded to the nearest whole number) may be applied to satisfy the requirements for the undergraduate degree. Each program will identify the specific number of credits based on the specific curriculum degree plan.
- H. The total number of credits required for both the undergraduate and graduate degrees would be reduced by the number of graduate credits used to satisfy requirements for the undergraduate degree. For example, when completing both an undergraduate degree requiring 120 credits and a graduate degree program requiring 30 credits could be accomplished with a combined total of 138 credits.
- I. In accordance with PASSHE Board of Governors Policy 1990-06-A: Academic Degrees, at least 42 credits of advanced coursework are required for a baccalaureate degree and at least 50% of coursework (excluding thesis, research, or internship hours) to complete a master's degree must be identified as primarily directed at graduate students with the majority of students obtaining graduate credits.

- J. Students may be eligible for undergraduate or graduate financial aid, in accordance with federal regulations. Students in the accelerated program will pay undergraduate tuition for all courses that are counting toward the undergraduate degree.
- I. Implementation
January 1, 2020