

# HOW TO EARN COMBINED UNDERGRADUATE/GRADUATE PROGRAMS

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Accelerated master's degree programs are designed to allow highly qualified students to earn both baccalaureate and master's degrees through an integrated program in a cost-effective, academically rigorous and timely manner. Requirements for your major are found in the accelerated programs list (<http://catalog.uaf.edu/accelerated-programs/accelerated-programs-list/>) section.

## Benefits to Student

- Undergraduate and graduate courses may be chosen with greater flexibility;
- Graduate credit courses may be taken anytime after entering the accelerated degree program;
- Work on a thesis project or research may begin upon acceptance to the accelerated degree program;
- Time to completion potentially may be reduced; and
- Continuity with facilities, faculty and colleagues is maintained

## Admission Requirements

Minimum admissions requirements for an accelerated Master's degree program include:

- Current admission into a baccalaureate degree program;
- A 3.0 cumulative GPA;
- Completing 24 credits in the undergraduate major program requirements; and
- Junior standing

Individual degree programs or departments may establish different admission criteria while meeting these minimum requirements (i.e. a higher GPA, standing, etc.).

## Degree Requirements

An accelerated master's program has a minimum of 138 credits. All general requirements for baccalaureate degrees (e.g., general education, ethics, degree-specific requirements) are maintained, but departments can have different choices of major requirements for a baccalaureate degree and an accelerated master's degree. Minors are allowed but not required for either the accelerated Master of Science and the accelerated Master of Arts. To maintain the rigor of the master's degree, the accelerated degree must include a specific baccalaureate section and master's section that indicate which transcript the credits will be listed on. At least 30 credits must be listed in the master's portion of the degree, with a minimum of 21 credits at the 600 level, and students in accelerated programs will still be expected to fill out a Graduate Study Plan and complete other requirements associated with master's degrees.

## After Admission

After admission to the graduate degree program, undergraduate students may be eligible for research or teaching assistantships positions. Students must maintain a cumulative GPA established by the accelerated master's degree program, or a minimum of 3.0 while in the accelerated degree program. Students accepted into an accelerated master's degree

program must complete all degree requirements within seven years from admission to the program and comply with all other graduate school policies and requirements. A student may decide to transfer back to the baccalaureate program. In this situation, they can graduate with the baccalaureate degree if they satisfy all the baccalaureate degree requirements (which may be different from requirements in the accelerated master's program). Departments proposing accelerated master's degree programs must indicate potential paths for students to graduate with a baccalaureate degree via this route. If a student graduates by this route, they have left the accelerated program, and cannot later apply for the master's degree based upon the accelerated program degree requirements. However, coursework not used for baccalaureate graduation requirements can apply toward the completion of a normal Master's program requirements.

A student who graduates from the accelerated master's program will receive both their baccalaureate and master's degrees in the same semester.