



Graduate School Accelerated Bachelor's to Master's Degree Program	
Responsible Official: Provost	Responsible Office: Graduate School, College of Graduate and Continuing Studies

Policy Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide requirements for East Tennessee State University's Accelerated Bachelor's to Master's Degree Program.

Policy Statement

High performing undergraduate students may complete both the bachelor's and master's degrees at an accelerated pace. Students may apply as many as twelve (12) credits of graduate-level coursework toward both of their degrees.

I. Eligibility for Accelerated Bachelor's to Master's program.

In order to be eligible for consideration into the accelerated Bachelor's to Master's program, students must have:

- A. a minimum ETSU undergraduate GPA of 3.25 (individual programs may impose higher GPA requirements); and
- B. earned 75 credits in their undergraduate programs, including credits earned from dual enrollment or advanced placement; and
- C. applied and been accepted to the accelerated program (including acceptance into the graduate program) prior to earning the undergraduate degree.

Undergraduate transfer students must complete one year (2 full-time semesters) at ETSU prior to requesting admission to the accelerated program.

II. Admission to Accelerated Bachelor's to Master's Program.

Admission to an accelerated program is contingent upon meeting requirements of the respective programs and the Graduate School. Permission to develop a proposed Plan of Study for the accelerated program does not guarantee admission to the graduate program.

After a student has met all minimum requirements for eligibility listed in Section I above, the student can seek admission to the Graduate School.

III. Plan of Study.

The student must develop a Plan of Study with the undergraduate advisor and graduate program coordinator. A copy of the plan will be provided to the Dean of the Graduate School (or designee) for review.

The Plan of Study for both degrees must include:

- A. The list of graduate credits (up to 12 credits) that will apply toward both degrees.
- B. The courses that will be taken after matriculating into the master's program.
- C. Permission to pursue the degree program from the undergraduate advisor and the graduate program coordinator.
- D. The rationale for substitution for each graduate course that will be applied toward the undergraduate degree. The rationale can be based on an analysis of course objectives, competencies, or other objective measures.
- E. Target dates for graduation. It is expected that most students will earn the bachelor's degree en route to the master's degree, but some programs may require simultaneous awarding of both degrees. This must be specified in the plan.

In general, students applying to the Accelerated Bachelor's to Master's Degree Program will not be required to take a standardized admissions test; however, a graduate program may elect to require a test in some cases. This must be reflected in the Plan of Study.

To make a modification to the agreed-upon plan of study, the student must request the modification through the same mechanism that the student used when outlining the original request. Both the undergraduate advisor and the graduate coordinator will be involved and the changes must be approved by the Dean (or designee) of the Graduate School.

IV. Classification and Tuition Rates.

Students accepted into the Accelerated Bachelor's to Master's Degree program will be classified as undergraduate students during the first year in the program and tuition will be billed at the undergraduate rate for all courses. This is the year when they are taking both undergraduate and graduate (up to 12 credits) courses.

For all subsequent terms, students will be classified as graduate students and will be billed at the graduate rate for all courses.

V. Academic Good Standing Requirements.

- A. Students must receive a grade of B or better in the courses to be applied toward both the bachelor's and master's degrees.
- B. No more than 12 credits of graduate work may be counted towards the requirements of both degrees.
- C. If a student's cumulative undergraduate and graduate GPA falls below the required program minimum, the individual will need program and graduate school approval to continue in the accelerated program. Written approval from the program for the student to continue must be sent to the Graduate School and will be included in the student's undergraduate and graduate record.

VI. Matriculation Limits.

Because of the nature of the Accelerated Bachelor's to Master's Program, students must meet the timeline specified in the Plan of Study for completion of both degrees. The graduate degree Matriculation Limits will apply and Matriculation Limits start from the date of the first course taken that will apply toward the master's degree. Although it is unlikely, a student may complete the ABM earlier than the Plan of Study indicated.

In a rare instance of significant impediment, a revised Plan of Study may be approved. A revised plan for completion must be submitted and approved by the graduate program coordinator and the Dean (or designee) of the Graduate School.

VII. Withdrawal.

A student who wishes to withdraw from the Accelerated Bachelor's to Master's Program may do so by notifying the appropriate undergraduate and graduate coordinators in writing, copying the Dean of the Graduate School. Staff in the College of Graduate and Continuing Studies will work with the ETSU Office of the Registrar to amend the student's records. Students who withdraw from the Accelerated Bachelor's to Master's program are still eligible to complete the degree requirements for the undergraduate degree.

A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from the accelerated program may not subsequently count courses for both degrees; the student may count eligible courses toward one degree only.

VIII. Graduate Tuition Scholarships and Graduate Assistantships.

Students in the Accelerated Bachelor's to Master's program are not eligible for Graduate Tuition Scholarships. Once students are classified as graduate students, they may be considered for a Graduate Assistantship (GA).

Authority: Focus Act, Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-8-203, et. seq.

Defined Terms

A defined term has a special meaning within the context of this policy

Matriculation Limits	Time limit as defined by the Graduate School Policy on Graduate Degree and Certificate Requirements.
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Policy History

Effective Date

Initial: 01/06/2020

Revised: 06/30/2021

Procedures

The procedures for applying to the Accelerated Bachelor's to Master's Degree Program are as follows:

I. Procedure for Developing Plan of Study.

A student should schedule a meeting with the appropriate graduate program coordinator and undergraduate advisor to create a Plan of Study proposal. Once the accelerated program proposal is agreed upon by the student, undergraduate advisor, and graduate coordinator, the graduate program coordinator adds the Plan of Study memo to the student's file.

II. Procedure for Applying to Accelerated Bachelor's to Master's Degree Program.

The procedure for a student to apply to the Accelerated Bachelor's to Master's Degree Program is as follows:

- A. Complete an application for admission to the College of Graduate and Continuing Studies; and
- B. Pay applicable fees.

III. Procedure for Review of Application.

After a prospective student has: (1) submitted a completed application and petition; (2) paid the application fee; and (3) developed the Plan of Study as required by this policy, a Graduate Specialist reviews the application and required documentation to confirm the minimum requirements are met. The program admission committee reviews the documents and makes a recommendation to the Dean of the Graduate School or the designee. Notification of admission or denial follows the same procedures as the Graduate School Admissions Policy. This notification includes that an award of the graduate degree will be contingent upon meeting the stated accelerated program requirements. Copies of this letter will be sent to the graduate program coordinator and the undergraduate advisor.

Procedure History

Effective Date

Initial: 01/06/2020

Revised: 06/30/2021

Related Form(s)

[Request to Enroll in Accelerated Bachelor's to Master's Degree](#)

Scope and Applicability

Primary: Academic

Secondary: