UCCS Graduate School Policy for Accelerated Master's Pathways

The accelerated master's pathway (AMP) allows high achieving students to pursue existing bachelor's and master's degrees concurrently. It is expected that a student in an AMP will move from the undergraduate to the graduate program with no break. The AMP allows UCCS undergraduate students to take graduate level courses which will count towards graduation requirements for both their bachelor's and master's degrees. For currently enrolled full-time UCCS students, the AMP typically enables them to complete both degrees in a total of 5 to 6 years.

Program Approval: To apply for approval for an AMP, the department must complete the AMP Approval Form and develop a proposal which describes the following:

- the AMP requirements,
- the relevant pathway and program curriculum,
- a list of undergraduate degrees that qualify
- number of credit hours that can account for both degrees (including restrictions on courses which may be taken as an undergraduate),
- a justification for the AMP,
- any anticipated expected cost increases, and
- the process for how students will be tracked to ensure they are meeting program criteria.

The department must receive approval from the participating undergraduate program, the college, the graduate school, and the provost. The program approval process must be completed prior to the catalog close for the catalog year the program is expected to start. Programs may not admit students until all approvals are received.

Courses Counting for both Degrees: The number of credit hours to be counted for both degrees cannot exceed 12 credits. No more than 12 graduate level credits can be taken while an undergraduate and count towards the master's degree. If more graduate level credits are taken while an undergraduate student, those courses cannot be used towards the master's degree. Courses offered jointly as 4000/5000 level courses must be taken at the 5000 level. Programs may count undergraduate courses towards the graduate degree following the standard graduate school and program/college rules. All dual counting coursework must be a B or better grade. Credits applied to both degrees may be applied to a doctoral degree with program director approval.

Standards for Admission: Each program will develop admission standards. At a minimum, the following are required:

- A current UCCS student who has completed at least 30 credit hours at UCCS;
- Student must have junior class standing or higher for eligibility to be accepted into the program;
- A cumulative CU GPA of at least 3.00;
- Completion of at least 15 credits hours in the major;
- Student is a declared major in one of the specified bachelor's programs that correspond with their intended AMP;
- Meet all departmental standards and requirements (which may include higher standards than those listed above and/or additional criteria);
- The student must be continually enrolled (Fall and Spring semesters) from undergraduate to

graduate degree for courses to double count towards both degrees.

AMP Retention Criteria: Each program must develop criteria for a student remaining in the AMP. The criteria at a minimum should include:

- Students must maintain at least a 3.0 GPA throughout the pathway.
- If admission to another UCCS Master's or Doctoral program is sought, admission must follow completion of accelerated master's degree.

Tuition and Financial Aid Determination: Students in an accelerated master's pathway will be considered an undergraduate student until all requirements for the undergraduate degree have been met. During status as an undergraduate student, students will be eligible for financial aid following normal requirements and will pay undergraduate tuition rates (for graduate or undergraduate courses). When a student is changed from undergraduate to graduate status, then the student will be considered independent for determining financial aid eligibility and will pay graduate tuition rates (for graduate and undergraduate courses). Students moved to graduate student status are no longer eligible for COF. Students in the accelerated master's pathway may apply for scholarships following the standard processes and will be eligible for undergraduate or graduate scholarships and other aid depending on their classification as an undergraduate or graduate student.

Departmental Authority: The department is required to track students and to inform appropriate offices (e.g., admissions, records, academic advising, graduate school, financial aid) when a student is being admitted to the accelerated master's graduate status as well as when a student is removed from the program due to failing to meet program requirements or if student selects to voluntarily end enrollment in accelerated program. Failure to track students and inform the appropriate offices will disqualify programs from participating in the accelerated degree program.

Student Appeals: Students who are removed from an accelerated master's pathway may appeal the decision following the normal student appeals process for graduate students.

AMP Approval Form

For a new Accelerated Master's Pathway (AMP) to be reviewed, the department must develop a proposal describing the program and complete the following form:

1. Name of Accelerated Master's Pathway: _____
2. Department(s): _____
3. College: _____
   a. Are additional colleges associated with this AMP? ◯ YES ◯ NO

      If yes, list additional colleges: _____
4. Faculty Director/Advisor: _____
   a. Are there additional faculty that will need to review this AMP? ◯ YES ◯ NO

      If yes, list additional faculty: _____
5. Name of faculty/staff processing AMP Intent Applications: _____
6. Preferred Start Date (Semester and Year): _____
7. Please provide a justification for this AMP:

   _____
8. Please list the undergraduate degrees that are eligible for this AMP: _____
9. Please list the number of credit hours that can account for both degrees, including restrictions on courses which may be taken as an undergraduate (no more than 12 credits can double count):
10. Please list the relevant pathway and program curriculum:

11. Admissions requirements:

    a. Minimum cumulative GPA: _____

    b. Additional requirements:

    c. Will the required application materials for AMP students be different than those required for regular admission to the graduate program?

    ◯ YES ◯ NO

    - If yes, please list differences:

12. AMP Retention

    a. AMP retention criteria:

    b. Process for tracking student progress:

13. Please list any expected cost increases:

Required Signatures

Requested by:

Faculty: Name	Signature	Date

Approvals:

Graduate Program Director: Name	Signature	Date
Undergraduate Department Chair: Name	Signature	Date
College Dean: Name	Signature	Date
Additional College Dean (if AMP is Cross-College): Name	Signature	Date
Graduate School Dean: Name	Signature	Date