

UCCS Graduate School
Policy for
Accelerated Master's Programs

The accelerated master's degree program allows high achieving students to pursue existing Bachelor's and Master's degrees concurrently; that is it is expected that a student will move from the undergraduate to the graduate program with no break. The program is normally a 5 – 6 year program for currently enrolled full time UCCS students and allows students to take graduate level courses which will count towards graduation requirements for both their Bachelor's and Master's degrees.

Program Approval: To apply for approval for a program, the department must develop a proposal which describes the program requirements, the program curriculum, number of credit hours that can account for both degrees (including restrictions on courses which may be taken as an undergraduate), which bachelor degree programs are eligible, provides a justification for the program, describes any anticipated expected costs increases and describes the process for how students will be tracked to ensure they are meeting program criteria and how student success will be informed about changes in degree status. The department must receive approval from 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 30% of the total number of master degree credit hours (e.g., for a 30 credit hour degree program, no more than 9 credit hours can be counted towards both the undergraduate and graduate degrees). No more than 30% of 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.

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 Accelerated Master's Program
- Any MAPS deficiencies must be completed prior to admission to the accelerated master's degree program;
- Meet all departmental standards and requirements (which may include higher standards than those listed above and/or additional criteria).
- The student must continually enrolled (Fall and Spring semesters) from undergraduate to graduate degree for courses to double count towards both degrees.

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

- Students must maintain at least a 3.0 GPA throughout the program.
- 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 degree program 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 program 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 the accelerated program may appeal the decision following the normal student appeals process for graduate students.