Accelerated Programs
Accelerated Programs allow academically qualified students to complete an undergraduate Bachelor’s degree and a graduate master’s degree on an accelerated timeline, graduating sooner than in traditional programs.
Benefits

BENEFITS STUDENTS

- Two degrees, shortened timeframe
- Potentially reduced cost for advanced degree
MARKETABILITY

- Potential increased marketability of student post-graduation
- Potential increased marketability for program
Benefits

**BENEFITS PROGRAM**

- Increased visibility
- Decreased undergraduate time-to-degree
- Increased undergraduate/graduate enrollment and graduate degree production
Guidelines

- Approved by Undergraduate Council
- Approved by Graduate Council
- Provide best practices and requirements for development of a new Accelerated Program
APPLICATION INFORMATION

Completion of a minimum of 15 hours in the undergraduate major

Accelerated Program Application:
  - faculty nomination
  - student self-nomination
Guidelines

PROGRAM OF STUDY

Programs must complete

✓ Program of Study
✓ A plan for academic advising
✓ A plan for tracking of students, including notation of potential financial aid impact
typically*, up to twelve (12) hours of graduate credit may be shared between the graduate and undergraduate degree.

more shared credits may be offered with graduate council and graduate school approval
GPA - Undergraduate

Students must have taken a minimum of 15 hours in the undergraduate major and have:

Undergraduate GPA:
3.33 overall
3.50 in the major
GPA - Graduate

Minimum of a “B” (3.00) in each graduate course.

Consequences for not obtaining at least a “B” in each graduate course must be noted in the specific Accelerated Program requirements.
Graduate Standing

Programs will notify the Graduate School to officially convert the student to graduate standing, after the student has been certified for the undergraduate degree.

NOTE: IMPACT ON FINANCIAL AID and how to assist the student.
Guidelines

Financial Aid

As accelerated degrees require both undergraduate and graduate courses, students enrolled in these degrees must be aware of the financial consequences. . . .
Financial Aid

1) Graduate credit hours cost approximately twice as much as undergraduate credit hours; and
2) If students are receiving various scholarships, such as Bright Futures, those only reward a specific amount per credit hour.

Therefore, there may be an additional financial burden in taking the graduate courses required in an accelerated-degree program. Bright Futures, however, does allow students who graduate in seven or fewer semesters to apply the scholarship to one semester of graduate work, although only at the undergraduate rate and only for up to 15 hours.
Converting to Graduate Status

“Students enrolled in accelerated degrees will be converted from undergraduate to graduate status once they have completed the necessary requirements or their equivalents for their respective majors. This should usually occur at some point during their fourth year.”

—wording approved by Registrar
Degree Conferral

- simultaneously or sequentially, BUT

- Recommended that undergraduate degrees are to be conferred in a timely manner as soon as undergraduate requirements are fulfilled.
Conferring of Bachelor’s Degrees

“In most cases, students will receive their Bachelor’s degrees the semester that they have completed the undergraduate requirements of their respective majors. Some programs may opt to grant both the Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees simultaneously.”

-wording approved by Registrar
Academic Requirements

Following the Guidelines, Programs must specify:

- Undergraduate Requirements
- Graduate Requirements
- List of Shared Courses/Requirements
Accelerated Program Development Form

- Word Document on the website
- Provides basic demographic information (e.g. Programs, Degrees, etc.)
- Undergraduate and Graduate Requirements
- List of Shared Courses/Requirements
- Equates to Catalog Copy
Routine Curriculum Process

- Department (or equivalent)
- School (or College) Curriculum Committees
- College
- Undergraduate Council
- Graduate Council
Curriculum Processing Timelines

- **College**
  
- **Undergraduate Council**
  [http://www.ugs.usf.edu/ugc/sch.htm](http://www.ugs.usf.edu/ugc/sch.htm)

- **Graduate Council**
Marketing & Recruiting

Marketing

- Accelerated Program Information Center Website
- Accelerated Program Brochure in Development
Recruiting

- Program Recruitment of high-achievers for “nomination” by faculty
- Undergraduate Studies and Graduate School Recruitment Efforts
Assessment &
Post-Graduation

Assessment

- Student Tracking
- Assessment of Program Effectiveness
- Post-Graduation Tracking
Website

Accelerated Program Information Center

www.grad.usf.edu/accelerated.php

Located here...
Resources

Undergraduate Studies:
Cynthia Brown-Hernandez  cynthiab@usf.edu

Graduate School:
Carol Hines-Cobb  cdh@usf.edu
Thank you! 

Thank you for joining us today.