Accelerated Programs

Accelerated….

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

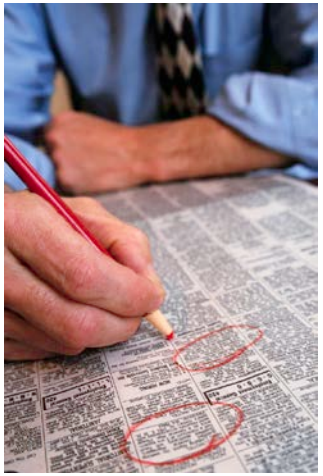
BENEFITS STUDENTS

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

Benefits

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

USF UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA

Guidelines for Departments Developing an Accelerated Program
Bachelor's to Master's Degrees

Proposed Accelerated Programs must meet the **Accelerated Program Requirements**, as well as follow the best practices listed below:

- **Admission:** Following completion of a minimum of 15 hours in the undergraduate major, the student may be considered for acceptance into the Accelerated Program in one of two ways: faculty nomination or student self-nomination. Via submission of the **Accelerated Program Application Form**. Programs will review the applications and approve the nomination. The application requires approval from the Graduate Program, College, and Graduate School.
- **Program of Study:** Programs must complete a Program of Study, develop a plan for academic advising, and tracking of students, including notation of potential financial aid impact.
- **Shared Credit:** Typically, up to twelve (12) hours of graduate credit may be shared between the graduate and undergraduate degree. Although, with Graduate Council and Graduate School approval, programs may offer accelerated programs with more shared credits.
- **GPA:** Programs must establish a minimum undergraduate GPA requirement of at least 3.33 overall and a minimum GPA requirement of 3.50 in the major, having taken a minimum of 15 hours in the undergraduate major, for students to be admitted to an accelerated program. Students must have a 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 Departmental 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.
- **Degree Conferral:** Programs have a choice of conferring degrees simultaneously or sequentially, but it is recommended that undergraduate degrees are to be conferred in a timely manner as soon as undergraduate requirements are fulfilled.

Accelerated Program Requirements (Academic Information for Catalog)

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.

Admission Requirements

Admission into an Accelerated Program is accomplished in one of two ways: Faculty Nomination or Student Self-Application.

To be eligible for consideration for an Accelerated Program, students must:

- Have completed a minimum of 15 undergraduate hours in the major

Guidelines

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

Guidelines

SHARED CREDITS

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

Guidelines

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

Guidelines

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.

Guidelines

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. . . .

Guidelines

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.

Guidelines

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

Guidelines

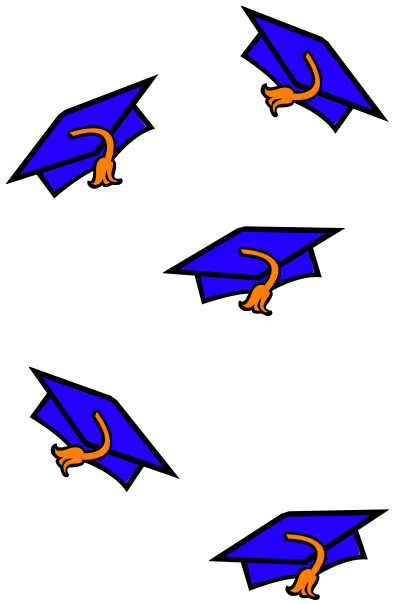
Degree Conferral

- simultaneously or sequentially, BUT
- Recommended that undergraduate degrees are to be conferred in a timely manner **as soon as undergraduate requirements are fulfilled**.

Guidelines

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

Guidelines

Academic Requirements

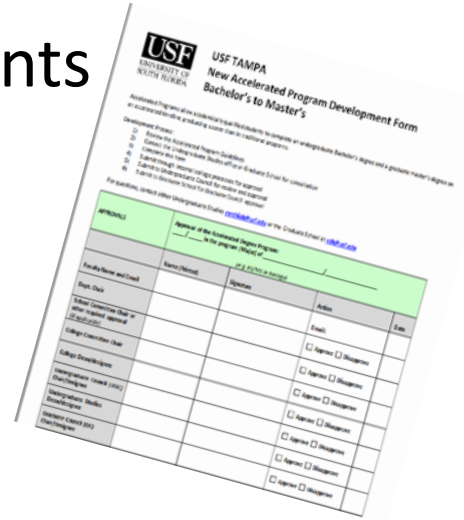
Following the Guidelines, Programs must specify:

- Undergraduate Requirements
- Graduate Requirements
- List of Shared Courses/Requirements

Development

Accelerated Program Development Form

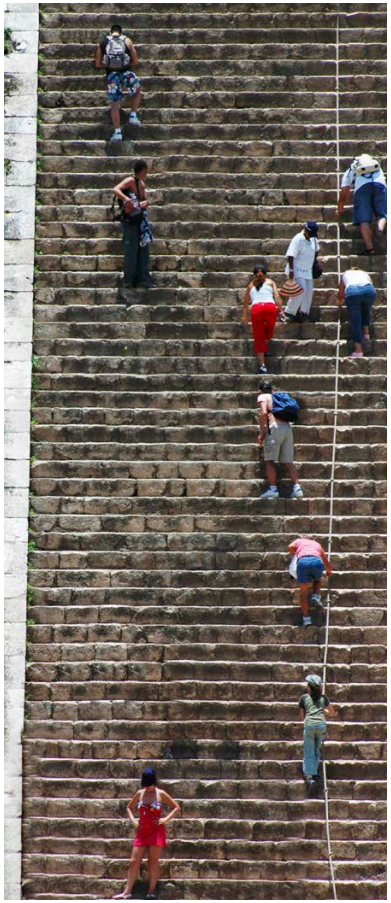
- Word Document on the website
- Provides basic demographic information (e.g. Programs, Degrees, etc.)
- Undergraduate and Graduate Requirements
- List of Shared Courses/Requirements
- Equates to Catalog Copy


USF TAMPA
New Accelerated Program Development Form
Bachelor's to Master's

Development

Routine Curriculum Process

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



Development

Curriculum Processing Timelines

- College
- Undergraduate Council
  http://www.ugs.usf.edu/ugc/sch.htm
- Graduate Council
  http://www.grad.usf.edu/inc/linked-files/academics/Full_2011_2012/Meeting%20Dates_2011-2012_rev.pdf

Marketing & Recruiting

Marketing

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

Marketing & Recruiting

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.