

## Accelerated Master Program Overview

Accelerated Master Programs allow qualified UNK undergraduate students to take UNK graduate courses during their senior year that count toward both the bachelor's degree and master's degree in the same or closely related discipline. Students are therefore able to complete the master's degree in a reduced amount of time.

### Admission Eligibility

Students may apply to the graduate program by April 1 of their Junior year to be eligible for Fall courses, or October 1 of their Senior year to be eligible for the Spring courses. Acceptance into the program will be determined by the department and Dean of Graduate Studies. Applicants must complete graduate departmental admission requirements as well as meeting the following minimum requirements:

- Meet the minimum undergraduate GPA required by the program for which applying.
- Have completed 89+ hours (senior level standing) in the undergraduate degree prior to enrolling in a graduate course.
- Formal application to the graduate program completed by deadline. The application fee to apply to the accelerated master's program will be waived by emailing [gradstudies@unk.edu](mailto:gradstudies@unk.edu) and requesting a waiver code.

### Enrollment Criteria/Student Status

Although admitted to the Accelerated Master Program, students will retain their undergraduate student status until the undergraduate degree is posted.

1. Once admitted, students complete the Accelerated Master Program Student Enrollment Form.
2. Prior to receiving the undergraduate degree, students may take up to 12 credit hours of approved graduate coursework that applies toward both the bachelor's and master's degrees. (Students will be charged graduate tuition rates for the graduate courses that apply to the bachelor's degree.)
3. Prior to receiving the undergraduate degree, students retain all rights as an undergraduate student including eligibility for undergraduate scholarships and financial aid. **Note:** *If you are receiving any financial aid (scholarships, grants, student loans, etc.) you must meet with the Financial Aid Office to determine eligibility and sign off on the enrollment form.*
4. Grades below a "C" (2.0) (C- or below) will not apply to a graduate degree program, nor satisfy the undergraduate degree completion of a course being taken through the Accelerated Master Program.
5. Graduate level courses the student withdraws from will result in a "W" on the graduate transcript.
6. Accelerated Master Program students must have an overall GPA of B (3.0) or higher to graduate.
7. After the posting of the bachelor's degree, students will be considered officially admitted to the Graduate College and be eligible for graduate assistantships or fellowships.
8. Any "P" courses (*Dual-listed courses (400/800P)*) completed at the graduate level to fulfill the bachelors' degree will be counted towards graduate program requirements. Graduate students must have at least 50% of their program completed with non-P courses.

## Coursework Requirements

1. No more than 12 credit hours of graduate coursework may count toward both the bachelor's and master's degrees.
2. No course substitutions are permitted.
3. Courses must be currently and regularly offered.
4. Dual-listed courses (400/800P) are acceptable, but not required. If dual-listed courses are included in the Accelerated Master Program, students must register at the 800-level and complete all graduate-level requirements. Dual-listed courses previously taken and completed at the 400-level will not be retroactively changed to the 800-level.

## Creating a New Accelerated Master's Program

The graduate committee in the department offering the master's degree is administratively responsible for the Accelerated Master Program.

Proposals for a new Accelerated Master Program must follow the procedure outlined below before submission of the program in the CIM for undergraduate and graduate catalog changes.

Creation Process:

1. The department completes the accelerated master program proposal and secures signatures from
  - a) Program chair, b) Department Chair, c) Graduate Program Chair, and e) Dean of College.
    - a. Courses listed in the accelerated master program must currently be found in the catalog. If a course is not found, the department must complete the protocol for a change/addition of a course prior to the submission of the proposal.
2. The proposal will be sent to the Office of Graduate Studies and Academic Innovation ([unkgradoffice@unk.edu](mailto:unkgradoffice@unk.edu)).
  - a. NOTE: The proposal must be submitted three weeks prior to the next Graduate Studies Council meeting to be added to the council monthly meeting, or the proposal will be placed at the following Graduate council monthly meeting.
3. The Graduate Studies Council Academic Programs Executive Committee will review the proposal and provide a recommendation to the council for approval or denial.
4. The Graduate Council will vote, and when the program is approved, the proposal will be moved to the Dean of Graduate Studies for approval.
5. Notification of approval will be sent to the department within the week of the council's decision.
6. Upon approval, the department chair will submit the proposal through the CIM Program Management for approval through the appropriate program management workflow.