



TO: Deans and Provost Gatrell
FROM: Ryan C. Hendrickson, Dean
RE: Guidelines for the Creation of Accelerated Graduate Programs
DATE: December 7, 2017 (version after requested edits by CGS) (December 5 approval)

Proposed Guidelines for the Creation of Accelerated Graduate Degree Programs

Purpose:

To provide an opportunity for advanced undergraduates to begin graduate studies while still enrolled in undergraduate studies at Eastern Illinois University. Accelerated graduate programs increase the prospects of retaining some of our best undergraduates for graduate study, reduce the financial expense of graduate education, and assist in the recruitment of academically strong undergraduate freshmen as well as community college transfer students who are looking for accelerated graduate degree programs.

Admission:

Undergraduate students interested in enrolling in accelerated graduate programs will need to gain early admission to a graduate program while still enrolled in undergraduate studies. Requirements include: a minimum undergraduate cumulative GPA of 3.25, the completion of at least 15 credit hours of the major or a complementary undergraduate degree, as determined by the graduate program. Undergraduates may not be admitted until the completion of a minimum of 60 hours of undergraduate course credit. Participants in accelerated graduate programs will remain under early admission into graduate programs until the completion of the undergraduate degree. Upon earning the undergraduate degree, a student will gain full admission status to the graduate program. These criteria are only the minimum qualifications for admission to an accelerated graduate program. Graduate program leaders may establish additional admission standards as deemed appropriate.

Tuition:

Undergraduates enrolled in accelerated graduate programs pay undergraduate tuition rates and fees; all accelerated program students will be required to pay all course and special fees.

Shared credit guidelines:

- "Shared course credit" is defined as course credit that will apply and count to both the undergraduate and graduate degree requirements. These courses will be clearly identified in eventual proposed plans of study for accelerated graduate programs. Retroactive enrollment in shared course credit is not permitted; students must be explicitly enrolled in accelerated graduate programs in order for shared credit to apply to degree requirements.

- In undergraduate majors with established core requirements at the 1000, 2000 or 3000 levels, shared coursework cannot count toward undergraduate degree requirements at these levels.
- Shared coursework can be applied to undergraduate major core requirements, major elective options, or other university elective requirements for courses numbered 4000 and above.
- Only courses numbered 4750 or above may count as shared credit. As per current Graduate Catalog policy, all courses numbered 4750 to 4999 must have additional course requirements for the graduate students, and for any accelerated graduate program students.
- Undergraduate students taking courses in the accelerated graduate program must earn a grade of B or higher in these courses to remain in the program.
- The undergraduate degree must be earned prior to the completion of the master's degree, and cannot be awarded simultaneously.
- Accelerated program students may not enroll in graduate thesis credit hours prior to full admission to the graduate program, though they may enroll in any 5000-level course deemed appropriate by the graduate program.
- No more than 9 hours of combined shared credit in the accelerated program may be applied toward the graduate program of 35 credit hours or less. No more than 12 hours of combined shared credit in the accelerated program may be applied toward the graduate program of 36 credit hours to 42 credit hours. No more than 15 hours of combined shared credit in the accelerated program may be applied toward the graduate program of 43 credit hours or more.

Graduate Faculty:

All courses taught for accelerated graduate program shared credit require that instructors have graduate faculty status as approved through Departmental leaders, Colleges, and the Graduate School.

Accreditation:

Accelerated graduate programs are commonly offered at a range of public and private universities in the region and nationally. Such universities are accredited by the Higher Learning Commission, and include the University of Illinois and Western Illinois University.

Eastern Illinois University Governance:

All proposed plans of study and admission criteria for accelerated graduate programs will go through the regular established approval process, which includes approval by Departments, Colleges, the Council on Academic Affairs, and the Council on Graduate Studies.