

Accelerated Graduate Degrees Program
(Draft proposal for the Graduate and Undergraduate University Catalogs)

Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's degree programs allow high-performing Coastal Carolina University undergraduate students to complete a combination of a bachelor's and master's degree on an accelerated time frame. For students that meet the criteria, the use of dual credit (courses that can be used by both degrees) can reduce the total combined enrollment by up to 9 credits, which is a typical graduate semester load.

Undergraduate students are eligible to apply for approval of an accelerated education plan if they have completed at least 90 hours of undergraduate course work (or are enrolled in the semester when they will do so) and have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.4. Students applying to the program must submit an "Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's Program Plan" with endorsements by the undergraduate advisor, undergraduate department chair, the director of the relevant graduate program, and the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies and Research. The latter has final authority for approving accelerated education plans.

Only graduate-level courses (numbered 500 and above, including up to 3 credit hours of project/research work) satisfying both Bachelor's and Master's degree requirements may be used for dual credit. Individual undergraduate or graduate programs may have additional restrictions regarding which courses are eligible for dual credit. Students are advised to speak with their program advisors for specific requirements.

Grades earned for graduate courses under an accelerated education plan are used in the calculation of the undergraduate GPA, exclusively. These grades will not be used in the calculation of any future graduate GPA. The credit is added to the undergraduate record, but not the graduate record.

The Accelerated Graduate Degrees Program does not replace Transitional Study. The Transitional Study program requires a 3.0 grade point average, does not require a program plan, and does not allow dual credit (courses must be designated for either undergraduate or graduate credit only). Undergraduate students cannot take more than 12 total credits of graduate coursework from the two programs combined (Accelerated Graduate Degree and Transitional Study).

Completion of graduate-level course work in the accelerated program does not require or insure acceptance into the graduate degree program. Students wishing to continue towards a master's degree must apply formally to the CCU graduate school by submitting the appropriate application and all required supporting documents. Students in the accelerated program will be eligible for graduate assistantships upon admission to their graduate program.