Special Academic Programs

Accelerated Degree Program

The Accelerated Degree Program (ADP) policy is designed to provide Marquette University undergraduates a more efficient means to obtain a master’s degree. The program benefits the university by retaining our best students for master’s study. Minimum academic criteria are established by each participating unit for students who have a high academic potential (typically 3.000 or above) and want to start taking graduate-level courses during their undergraduate careers, some of which will count toward both their undergraduate and graduate degrees.

Undergraduates participating in this program are granted early admission to the Graduate School and are allowed to take specified graduate-level courses during their junior year or senior year.

Admission Process

Academic programs that offer an accelerated program may approve a maximum of 12 graduate credit hours for master’s programs requiring 36 or fewer credit hours. These hours can be applied by individual students toward both the undergraduate and graduate degree. Requests for any exceptions to these limits would go to the assistant dean of the Graduate School.

Undergraduate students in an accelerated program apply for formal admission to the Graduate School using regular procedures.

An accelerated degree student will officially be considered an undergraduate student until the baccalaureate degree is awarded. While an undergraduate, the student may enroll for graduate credit but will pay the appropriate undergraduate tuition for graduate courses.

Academic units will define satisfactory academic progress for undergraduates in the accelerated degree program. Contingent on students maintaining satisfactory academic progress, acceptance in the accelerated degree program is a promise of formal admission to the Graduate School and the academic unit after completion of the bachelor’s degree. Students who fail to make such progress may be dropped from the program.

Undergraduate students who complete the undergraduate degree may claim their status as graduate students in the next semester or session after receiving the bachelor's degree. At that time, the student must notify the Graduate School that the baccalaureate degree has been received, and the student will be formally admitted into the Graduate School.

Following admission to the Graduate School, credit for pre-approved courses completed successfully while an undergraduate will be effected by the transfer of credit form.

Academic Advising and Records

Academic units that want to participate in the ADP will develop a clear admissions and advising process for their accelerated degree program.

Students taking graduate courses at the 5000-level and above are still required to follow the appropriate procedures. (See the Permission to Enroll in a Graduate Course form, available on the Graduate School forms website (http://www.marquette.edu/grad/forms_index.shtml)).

Additionally, students admitted to an accelerated program will be required to complete and submit an approved Master’s Program Planning Form (MPPF) to the Graduate School, which includes an addendum identifying the graduate courses that will be taken while the student is still an undergraduate.

Admission Procedure

Each academic unit with an accelerated program will develop admission criteria based on the following guidelines:

1. Minimal criteria for admission and continuation in the program will be established by each participating program.
2. Each academic unit will establish the point in an undergraduate career when a student may apply for admission to the accelerated degree program, but in no case may it be earlier than the completion of the sophomore year.
3. The student must apply for admission to the accelerated degree program through the Graduate School. This admission, if approved, will include admission to the graduate degree granting academic unit.
4. International students who are admitted into the accelerated degree program will work with the Graduate School and the Office of International Education in order to apply for the appropriate visa.

Dual Counting of Undergraduate and Graduate Credits

With the approval of the applicable academic unit and the Graduate School, up to 12 graduate credits taken during their undergraduate career may be applied toward completion of their graduate degrees. Requests for any exceptions to this limit would go to the assistant dean of the Graduate School.

The grades earned in Marquette courses applied toward both the baccalaureate and graduate programs will be computed into the grade point averages of both degrees.
Preparing Future Faculty and Professionals (PFFP), sponsored by the Graduate School, provides professional development opportunities for graduate students. Graduate students are welcome to participate in all PFFP activities as part of their preparation for pursuits in academia, as well as other careers. The Graduate School works in collaboration with the Center for Teaching and Learning, the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs, the Writing Center, the Career Services Center, the Kohler Center, the Office of Community Engagement, GROW, and Campus Ministry to offer wide-ranging opportunities for professional development.
PFFP participants prepare individual development and mentor plans, and engage in activities organized into three tracks: faculty, versatile Ph.D., and professional. Based on their selected track, students complete the requirements of four of six concentrations: teaching, scholarship, leadership, career development, professional development, and service and mission.

The programs collaborating with PFFP provide students opportunities to complete PFFP requirements, including workshops.

Successful completion of the requirements for the PFFP Program is recognized with a notation on the graduate student’s official university transcript. For more information call (414) 288-5957, email mupff@marquette.edu, or visit the website (http://www.marquette.edu/pff).