

Title: Accelerated Masters Pathway (AMP)

Category: Academic Affairs

Responsible Cabinet Member: Provost

Purpose

To provide a structured and academically rigorous mechanism for highly qualified undergraduate students to begin graduate-level coursework prior to completion of the baccalaureate degree. This policy establishes institutional standards and oversight for accelerated pathways that integrate undergraduate and graduate study, while preserving the academic integrity, distinct degree requirements and admissions standards of graduate programs. The Accelerated Masters Pathway (AMP) supports timely degree completion, efficient use of curricular offerings and enhanced educational opportunities for exceptional students, while ensuring compliance with accreditation, tuition and student classification requirements.

Scope

Through AMP, students are permitted to take up to 12 credit hours of graduate-level coursework, while enrolled as an undergraduate student, prior to application to their intended graduate program. Graduate programs interested in participating in AMP will submit their AMP pathway through the curricular process for approval as an AMP-approved program.

Through AMP, eligible students have the opportunity to integrate their undergraduate and graduate courses of study in a single continuous program culminating in an undergraduate credential (minor, certificate, baccalaureate degree) and a master's or doctoral degree. The requirements for each degree are unaffected. If students are pursuing an AMP pathway with a baccalaureate degree and a master's or doctoral degree, the combined total of the credit hours earned through the undergraduate degree and the graduate degree must total a minimum of 150 hours (per SACSCOC 9.2).

Applicants submit the AMP Intent Form when they have earned at least 60 credit hours of work toward the baccalaureate degree and when they have at least 15 hours left to complete their undergraduate degree. The undergraduate grade point average must be at least 3.0 overall, demonstrating exceptional academic merit.

Once a student has been admitted to an AMP pathway, their primary classification will be undergraduate until the undergraduate degree is awarded, and undergraduate tuition rates will be applied to the 12 hours (or less) of graduate-level coursework designated for dual credit in this program. Acceptance to the AMP pathway does not guarantee admission to the graduate program. AMP students apply to the graduate program in their last year as an undergraduate; if accepted, they will be able to transfer up to 12 hours taken as an AMP student into the graduate program.