

**SPECIAL REPORT**  
**OF THE**  
**ACADEMIC MATTERS and**  
**GRADUATE COUNCILS**  
**concerning**  
**AN AMENDMENT TO THE GUIDELINES FOR**  
**ACCELERATED MASTER'S DEGREE OPTIONS**

**Presented at the**  
**794<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate**  
**March 12, 2020**

**ACADEMIC MATTERS COUNCIL**

**Wesley Autio, Carol Barr, Carolyn Bassett, Bryan Beck, William Brown, Allison Butler, D. Anthony Butterfield, Marcy Clark, Elizabeth Connor, Morgan Donovan-Hall, Sharon Dormier, Wei Fan, Diane Flaherty, Laura Francis, Jennifer Heuer, Patrick Kelly, Matthew Komer, Lt. Col. David Lemery, Linda Lowry, Ruthanne Paradise, MJ Peterson, Sarah Pfatticher, Jennifer Randall, Sylvia Salas, Barry Spence, Patrick Sullivan, Jack Wileden, Kate Woodmansee**

**COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION**

**The Academic Matters Council recommends approval of this proposal.**

**GRADUATE COUNCIL**

**Sonia Alvarez, Pamela Aselton, Joseph Black, D. Anthony Butterfield, Ana Caicedo, David Cort, Robert DeConto, Jennifer Friedman, Mark Hamin, Neil Immerman, Cynthia Jacelon, Ramakrishna Janaswamy, Barbara Krauthamer, John Lopes, Martina Nieswandt, MJ Peterson, Sarah Pfatteicher, Sarah Poissant, Rebecca Reznik-Zellen, Frederic Schaffer, Patrick Sullivan, Corine Tachtiris, David Vaillancourt, Tilman Wolf**

**COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION**

**The Graduate Council recommends approval of this proposal.**

*Background:*

At its 695<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting on May 13, 2010, the Faculty Senate approved the guidelines for accelerated Master's Degree Options specified in Sen. Doc. 10-043.

*Summary and Rationale:*

This is a proposal to clarify the rules regarding number of credits of Master's-applicable coursework taken during a student's undergraduate career to be applied to the Master's degree in the same or related field, and for specific double-counting limits to be determined by individual colleges/departments specified within their Accelerated Master's Program (combined Bachelor's/Master's, 4+1 programs) proposal. The existing rules have caused an undesirable level of confusion. This proposal will provide better guidance regarding the structuring of Accelerated Master's Degree programs.

*Formal Proposal:*

Amend the following sections of Sen. Doc. No. 10-043 *Guidelines for Accelerated Master's Degree Options* to read as follows:

*First page of the policy document:*

1. Up to ~~nine~~ twelve credits (~~twelve for high-credit programs~~) of graduate work taken while enrolled as an undergraduate may be counted toward both the Master's degree (transferred in) and the baccalaureate degree for students in an approved accelerated option (the current 6-credit general limit on transfer of credits into a graduate program remains). ~~Total credits taken across both programs must equal at least 30 plus the minimum required for the baccalaureate degree (typically 120). Double counting of credits toward both the baccalaureate and master's degrees can occur depending upon the credit requirements for the Master's degree (e.g., 6 credits can be double counted for master's degree requirements of 30-32 credits, 9 credits for master's degree requirements of 33-35 credits, and 12 credits for master's degree requirements of 36 or more credits, see Tables 2 and 3).~~ Proposals may identify graduate courses to be taken while the student is enrolled as an undergraduate that will satisfy both undergraduate and graduate degree requirements, where appropriate in terms of content coverage. This approach is similar to the policy already in place for dual Master's degrees.

*Second page of policy document:*

~~Early completion section, first bullet point to be amended as follows: An accelerated Master's option requires minimum total credits, taken across both programs, equal to 30 plus the minimum baccalaureate credit requirement. The typical undergraduate degree requires 120 credits, so the credit minimum for the accelerated option would be 150 unless a higher undergraduate requirement applies.~~

*Early completion section, second bullet point to be amended as follows:* The Graduate School will accept for transfer ~~twelve~~<sup>nine</sup> credits into any approved accelerated Master’s degree option, of which anywhere from 6-12 credits (depending on the number of credits required in the Master’s program) can be double counted toward both the baccalaureate and master’s degrees~~and proposals for twelve credits will be considered for accelerated options involving Master’s degrees of more than 36 credits.~~ The courses eligible for transfer must be described in the proposal.

*Examples of Possible Baccalaureate/Master’s Course Overlap:*  
Delete examples provided (delete whole page from the policy)

*Last page of current policy:*

Template for Proposal for Accelerated Master’s Option would need to be changed to reflect a transfer of 12 credits (not 9 credits currently stated) allowed toward the Master’s program.

**Table 2: Accelerated Master’s Programs Current Policy**

	Credits in accelerated master’s program												
	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42+
Amount allowed for double counting (based on UG 120 cr. + 30 cr. G minimum)	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Max amount allowed in transfer (total Grad credits taken as UG including	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	12	12	12	12	12	12

**Table 3: Proposed Policy**

	Credits in accelerated master’s program (proposed)												
	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42+
Amount allowed for double counting	6	6	6	9	9	9	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
Max amount allowed in transfer (total Grad credits taken as UG including	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12

The remaining sections of the original policy document, Sen. Doc. No. 10-043, addressing admissions, advising, financial aid, access to Five College accelerated options, and the approval process will remain as is with no suggested changes at this time.

**MOTION:** That the Faculty Senate approve an Amendment to the Guidelines for Accelerated Master’s Degree Options, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 20-076