The Accelerated Master’s (AM) Degree offers the opportunity for outstanding students to begin earning credit toward a master's degree while still pursuing undergraduate studies. Our accelerated programs allow a student to complete a master's in less time and at a lower-than-average cost. The main feature of the program is that, while completing their undergraduate study, students may earn up to 12 semester hours of graduate credit that counts as dual credit for both the baccalaureate and master’s degrees.

**Minimum Requirements**

AM students must have a cumulative undergraduate GPA of at least 3.2 to be conditionally admitted into a master’s degree program. Students may not enroll in graduate courses until they have 1) completed all requirements for the Core Curriculum; 2) completed a minimum of 90 hours of undergraduate work, including at least 15 hours of upper-level courses in the major; and 3) been conditionally admitted to a master’s program.

Conditional admission does not guarantee full admission to the program. Minimum criteria for full admission to the graduate program are:

1. Conferral of the baccalaureate degree;
2. Cumulative undergraduate GPA of 3.00; and
3. Satisfaction of all requirements for admission to the graduate program (entrance test scores, statement of purpose, recommendations, etc.).

**NOTE:** Individual departments may require additional criteria, including a higher admission GPA.

**Minimum Guidelines**

1. An updated undergraduate plan of study, outlining all requirements for baccalaureate degree completion and listing the graduate courses that will be posted to the baccalaureate transcript, must be approved by the student’s academic advisor.
2. Before an undergraduate AM student may register for graduate courses, an AM Application Form indicating the courses to be taken for graduate credit must be approved by the College, the Department, and the Graduate School.
3. **Graduate Coursework**:
   1. AM students may apply a maximum of 12 graduate hours to the baccalaureate degree, depending on the graduate program. Graduate coursework in the following areas will not count in the AM program toward the baccalaureate degree: travel study, independent study/project/research, directed study, directed readings, practicum, internships, other field-based placement, or thesis;
   2. Grades earned in graduate-level courses must meet the minimum GPA required by the Graduate School of 3.00. Graduate courses in which a GPA is less than 3.00 may be counted towards satisfaction of the bachelor’s degree but not towards the master’s;
   3. To remain in an AM degree program, the student must maintain at least a 3.00 overall GPA in graduate coursework.
4. The graduate hours taken to fulfill baccalaureate degree requirements will be fully transferrable to the master’s degree and will show on both the graduate and undergraduate transcripts.
5. The baccalaureate degree must be awarded following the completion of the undergraduate degree requirements and at least two semesters before the graduate degree is awarded.
6. If an AM student requests admission to any other master’s program (or does not complete the approved master’s degree within the prescribed time), the joint hours posted to the graduate transcript will be removed.

Graduate programs are invited to develop guidelines for recruiting undergraduates into an AM degree program and for guiding students admitted to the program. Following the minimum guidelines above, proposals must:

1. Designate at what point students may apply for the degree program
2. Define admission requirements to the AM program as an undergraduate (GPA, completion of specific courses, etc.);
3. Stipulate the number of graduate hours (12 maximum) and graduate courses that may be applied to the baccalaureate degree;
4. Notate graduate courses that will satisfy both degree requirements with an asterisk on the 5-year Plan of Study;
5. Designate at what point a student must satisfy all admissions requirements (including GPA and satisfactory completion of the GRE and/or GMAT) and apply for full admission to the graduate program;
6. Specify deviations from the standard undergraduate program and the standard graduate program;
7. Outline plans for providing the student with the advising necessary for program success;
8. Describe contingency plans for students who do not finish the master’s degree;
9. Indicate, if applicable, whether AM students will follow thesis or non-thesis option.

AM proposals must be approved through the regular curriculum process:

Department > College Courses & Curricula Committee > University Courses and Curriculum Committee > Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs.

**Requirements towards the completion of the Bachelor’s degree**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **General Education Requirements** | | | | |
| Course Name/ # | Credit Hours | Course Name/# | | Credit Hours |
| ENGL 1157 | 3 | | Social Sciences | 6 |
| ENGL 1158 or 1159 | 3 | |  |  |
| MATH | 6 | |  |  |
| Science (incl. 3+ hours in BIOS) | 9 | |  |  |
| Literature | 3 | |  |  |
| Foreign Language 1001, 1002 | 6 | |  |  |
| Approved Arts | **3** | | **Total 39** |  |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Other Requirements** | | | |
| Course Name/ # | Credit Hours | Course Name/# | Credit Hours |
| Literature | 3 | Electives (incl. UNIV 1001 required of new freshmen) | 42 |
| Foreign Language 2001 | 3 |  |  |
| 3000+ non POLI | 6 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  | **Total 54** |  |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Major Requirements** | | | |
| Course Name/ # | Credit Hours | Course Name/# | Credit Hours |
| POLI 2151 | 3 | POLI 5170 | 3 |
| POLI 2600 or 2700 | 3 | PADM 5220 | 3 |
| POLI 2900 | 3 | PADM 5221 | 3 |
| Any POLI course at 3000+ level in U.S. Politics | 3 | PADM 5224 | 3 |
| Any POLI course at 3000+ level in International or Comparative | 3 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  | **Total 27** |  |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Graduate Requirements** | | | |
| Course Name/ # | Credit Hours | Course Name/# | Credit Hours |
| PADM 6001 | 3 | PADM 6410 | 3 |
| PADM 6010 | 3 | PADM 6201 | 3 |
| POLI 5170 | 3 | PADM 6901 | 3 |
| PADM 6110 | 3 | PADM 6902 | 3 |
| PADM 6160 | **3** | Elective 1 | **3** |
| PADM 6401 3 Elective 2 3 | | | |  | Elective 3 3 |
| AADM 6621 3 Elective 2 3 | | | |

**Signatures represent approval.** Signatures by the department chair and courses and curricula committee chairs certify that the proposal was discussed and approved by a majority of the voting members of the department or committee.

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| **Five Year Plan of Study** | | | |
| **First Year of Enrollment** | | | |
| **First Term** | | **Second Term** | |
| **Course Prefix & Number** | **Credit Hours** | **Course Prefix & Number** | **Credit Hours** |
| ENGL 1157 | 3 | ENGL 1158 or 1159 | 3 |
| Foreign Language 1001 | 3 | Foreign Language 1002 | 3 |
| BIOS | 3 | Other Physical Science | 3 |
| Math 1031, etc. | 3 | Other Math | 3 |
| POLI Elective | 3 | POLI 2151 | 3 |
| UNIV 1001 | 1 |  |  |
| **Total Hours** | **16** | **Total Hours** | **15** |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Second Year of Enrollment** | | | | | | | | |
| **First Term** | | | **Second Term** | | | | | |
| **Course Prefix & Number** | **Credit Hours** | | **Course Prefix & Number** | | | | **Credit Hours** | |
| Literature | 3 | | Literature | | | | 3 | |
| Foreign Language 2001 | 3 | | Approved Arts | | | | 3 | |
| Other Physical Science | 3 | | POLI Elective | | | | 3 | |
| POLI 2600 or 2700 | 3 | | Elective | | | | 6 | |
| Elective | 3 | |  | | | |  | |
|  |  | |  | | | |  | |
| **Total Hours** | **15** | | **Total Hours** | | | | **15** | |
| **Third Year of Enrollment** | | | | | | | | |
| **First Term** | | | | | | **Second Term** | | |
| **Course Prefix & Number** | | | | **Credit Hours** | | **Course Prefix & Number** | | **Credit Hours** |
| 3000+ non POLI | | | | 3 | | 3000+ non POLI | | 3 |
| POLI 2900 | | | | 3 | | Electives | | 12 |
| Any POLI course at 3000+ level in U.S. Politics | | | | 3 | |  | |  |
| Any POLI course at 3000+ level in International or Comparative  Elective | | | | 3  3 | |  | |  |
|  | | | |  | |  | |  |
| **Total Hours** | | | | **15** | | **Total Hours** | | **15** |
| **Fourth Year of Enrollment** | | | | | | | | |
| **First Term** | | **Second Term** | | | | | | |
| **Course Prefix & Number** | **Credit Hours** | **Course Prefix & Number** | | | **Credit Hours** | | | |
|  |  | PADM 5220\* | | | 3 | | | |
| POLI 5170\* | 3 | PADM 5221\* | | | 3 | | | |
| PADM 5224\* | 3 |  | | |  | | | |
| Electives | 9 | Electives | | | 8 | | | |
| **Total Hours** | **15** | **Total Hours** | | | **14** | | | |
| **Total Degree Hours** | | | | | **120** | | | |

\* Graduate courses that will satisfy both degree requirements.

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| Fifth Year of Enrollment | | | |
| First Term | | **Second Term** | |
| Course Prefix & Number | Credit Hours | Course Prefix & Number | Credit Hours |
| PADM 6001  PADM 6010  PADM 6401 | 3  3  3 | PADM 6110  PADM 6160  PADM 6410 | 3  3  3 |
| Total Hours | 9 |  | 9 |

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| Sixth Year of Enrollment | | | |
| First Term | | **Second Term** | |
| Course Prefix & Number | Credit Hours | Course Prefix & Number | Credit Hours |
| AADM 6621  PADM 6901 | 3  3 | PADM 6201  PADM 6902 | 3  3 |
| Total Hours | 6 |  | 6 |
| Total Degree Hours | **30 (plus 12 while an undergraduate) = 42** |  |  |
|  | | | |

1. **Students may apply for admission into the AM program once 90 hrs with at least 15 hrs of upper-level courses in the major have been completed. This would normally indicate that a prospective AM applicant would have to complete their junior year before applying to the AM program. However, it should be noted that provisional AM program acceptance would be offered in an applicant’s junior year if all other admission requirements are met at that time.**
2. **Admission Requirements**
   * **AM students must have a cumulative undergraduate GPA of at least 3.2 to be conditionally admitted into a master’s degree program. Students may not enroll in graduate courses until they have** 
     + **1) completed all requirements for the Core Curriculum;**
     + **2) completed a minimum of 75 hours of undergraduate work with at least 18 hours of upper-level courses completed in the major; and**
     + **3) been conditionally admitted to a master’s program.**
   * **Conditional admission does not guarantee full admission to the program. Students will be admitted fully to the graduate program only upon 1) awarding of the baccalaureate degree, 2) earning a total cumulative undergraduate GPA of 3.0, and 3) satisfying the graduate program requirements for admission.**
   * **An updated undergraduate plan of study, which outlines all requirements for baccalaureate degree completion and lists the graduate courses that will be posted to the baccalaureate transcript, must be approved by the student’s advisor.**
   * **Before an undergraduate AM student may register for graduate courses, a dual enrollment form indicating the courses to be taken for graduate credit must be approved by the Graduate School.**
3. **The number of graduate hours that may be applied to the baccalaureate degree**
   * **AM students may apply a maximum of 12 graduate hours to the baccalaureate degree. The following graduate courses will not count in the AM program toward the baccalaureate degree: Travel Study, Independent Study/Project/Research, Directed Study, Directed Readings, Practicum, Internships, other field-based placement, or Thesis.**
   * **Grades earned in graduate-level courses must meet the minimum GPA required by the Graduate School of 3.0. Graduate courses in which a GPA is less than 3.0 may be counted towards satisfaction of the bachelor’s degree but not towards the Master’s.**
   * **To remain in an AM degree program, the student must maintain at least a 3.0 overall GPA in graduate courses taken.**
   * **The graduate hours taken to fulfill baccalaureate degree requirements will be fully transferrable to the master’s degree and will show on both the graduate and undergraduate transcripts.**
   * **The baccalaureate degree may be awarded at any time following the completion of the undergraduate degree requirements, and at least two semesters before the graduate degree is awarded.**
   * **If an AM student requests admission to any other master’s program (or does not complete the approved master’s degree within the prescribed time) the joint hours posted to the graduate transcript will be removed.**
4. **Student must file Application for Graduation for Bachelor’s in Year 4**
5. **Student must apply for admission into the Master’s program prior to the start of year 5. At this time, all admission requirements, including GPA, must be met.**
6. **Students completing requirements for the Accelerated MPA will have completed all the requirements for the regular MPA. The 12 hours of 5000-level courses in Year Four also count as 12 hours of upper-level POLI coursework within the Political Science undergraduate major. The following courses may NOT be counted towards the bachelor’s degree for Accelerated MPA students: Independent Study/Project/Research, Directed Study, Directed Readings, Practicum, Internships, and Thesis.**
7. **Undergraduate advising is done at the college-level. When a student begins an application for the MPA program, advising is done by the MPA Director.**
8. **Students who do not complete the MPA degree will still be eligible to receive a BA in Political Science after completing all requirements through Year Four. Coursework completed in this plan cannot be applied towards another graduate degree at UNO.**
9. **AM students will follow a non-thesis option (the thesis option is not offered in the MPA program).**