

Mason Policy

The university offers a number of [Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Programs](#) for academically strong Mason undergraduates with a commitment to research or graduate or professional studies. Applicants receive a waiver of the graduate application fee and admitted students may obtain both a bachelor's and a master's degree after satisfactory completion of 144 - 150 credits (number of required credits depends on the graduate program).

Application and Admission

Application to accelerated master's degree programs should be made once the student has earned between 75 and 100 credits. Individual colleges, schools and programs may set more specific requirements for earned hours prior to application. Admission is competitive and must be approved by the faculty director of the student's undergraduate program, the faculty director of the intended graduate program, and the relevant graduate dean or designee.

Course Work Requirements

After admission and having earned 90 undergraduate credits, accelerated master's students complete 3 to 6 credits of graduate coursework in their field of study (with a 3.00 GPA or better in each course), specified by their undergraduate and graduate advisors. These credits will apply to the undergraduate degree and provide the student advanced standing in

the related Mason master's program. All graduate course prerequisites must be completed prior to enrollment. While still in undergraduate status, a maximum of 6 additional graduate credits may be taken as reserve graduate credit and applied to the master's program. Reserve graduate credits do not apply to the undergraduate degree. See Graduate Course Enrollment by Undergraduates in the [AP.1 Registration and Attendance](#) section of this catalog.

Students in an accelerated degree program must fulfill all university requirements for the master's degree, including a minimum of 18 applicable graduate credits taken after the bachelor's degree has been completed and posted to the student's academic record.

Timeline Requirements

Accelerated master's students must graduate from their undergraduate program in the semester specified on their application to the accelerated degree program. Changes to the timeline for conferral of the undergraduate degree must receive written approval by the graduate program director. Students are also required to enroll in the related master's program in the fall or spring semester that immediately follows the term of undergraduate degree conferral. Some programs may allow a deferral of no more than one year from time of admittance to graduate status. Students must abide by all timelines outlined in the program specific sections of this catalog. Failure to enter

the graduate program in accordance with specified timelines will result in forfeiture of graduate advanced standing courses earned in undergraduate status.

Instructions for International Students
F-1 and J-1 students must request a change of program level and an I-20/DS-2019 extension at the time they move from the undergraduate to graduate level of study. Funding for the additional time in F-1 or J-1 status also must be documented as required by federal immigration regulations.

S-CAR Policy

Only Conflict Analysis and Resolution majors who have completed at least 75 credits toward the bachelor's degree and no more than 90 credits toward the degree are invited to apply for the accelerated program. Students with more than 90 credits will be considered on a case-by-case basis. At least 24 credits must have been taken at Mason at time of application.

GPA Requirements

Students must have a minimum cumulative GPA of a 3.5 or higher at the time of application.

No grade below a B is permitted for any undergraduate **or** graduate CONF course taken after application to the accelerated master's program until completion of the undergraduate program.

If a student receives a grade below a B in any course after acceptance in the program, they will not be allowed to continue on to the master's program. Students that have received a grade below a B in any course after acceptance into the program may re-apply to the master's program after conferral of the undergraduate degree however; re-application does not guarantee admission.

At the time of the undergraduate degree conferral, students' GPAs must meet the standard required for admission to the master's degree.

Graduate Coursework

During the first semester of senior year, after completing 90 hours of undergraduate coursework, admitted students may take up to 6 credits/2 classes that will count towards both the undergraduate and graduate degrees. The courses should be graduate electives and may count towards an undergraduate concentration.

During second semester senior year, student may take up to 6 credits/2 classes that will count towards a graduate degree only.

Course Criteria

Students may not take more than 12 credits a semester if taking two graduate courses or 15 credits a semester if taking one graduate course.

Students in the accelerated program may only take graduate CONF courses numbered 650 –

699 with the exception of CONF 690 and CONF 694.

Student Requirements

Students are responsible for ensuring the submission of the Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Transition Form to the Registrar's office at the beginning of the last undergraduate semester.

Students admitted to the accelerated master's program must enroll in the graduate program in the semester immediately following conferral of the undergraduate degree.

Accelerated Master's Program Procedure

1. Students interested in the Accelerated Master's Program must meet with an Academic Advisor to review program policy and complete the Accelerated Master's Application at least one month before the application deadline.
2. Students must submit the following to their advisor for consideration:
 - Accelerated Master's Application
 - Resume
 - Goals Statement (750-1000 words)
 - Three Letters of Recommendation (see an advisor for letters of recommendation guide)
 - Your choice of paper or revised paper from an undergraduate course assignment that best reflects your analytical writing ability,

reasoning capacity, and critical thinking skills on a topic related to conflict and/or conflict resolution.

3. Applicants must complete an interview with a graduate and undergraduate advisor. The advisors will include their comments on the Accelerated Master's Application.
4. The undergraduate advisor forwards a complete packet with all necessary application materials to the Director of Student Services for consideration by the Graduate Admissions Committee.
5. If approved by the graduate admissions staff, the applicant will be coded AM and will receive a letter of admission to the accelerated master's program.
6. At the beginning of the student's last undergraduate semester, the Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Transition Form must be submitted to the Registrar.
7. After conferral of their bachelor's degree, the student will receive a letter of admission to the master's program.