ACCELERATED MASTER’S DEGREES

Overview
This page describes accelerated master’s degrees (AMDs) at UWM. For more information see the UWM AMD policy (GFC Document 1311) (https://apps.uwm.edu/secu-policies/storage/faculty/3225_Accelerate_grees_PandPpdf). AMD policy allows high achieving students to begin graduate-level work before completion of the undergraduate degree and allows programs to double count credits between bachelor’s and master’s degrees. Programs create a unique AMD with one undergraduate and one graduate degree to prescribe what credits can be double counted between the two degrees. This allows students to complete both a bachelor’s and master’s degree in an accelerated timeframe.

Definitions
Double Counting: counting the same course credit for fulfillment of the requirements of both the bachelor’s and the master’s degree.

Forward Double-Counted Credit: graduate-level course credit completed as an undergraduate student that, in addition to bachelor’s degree credit, is eligible to fulfill master’s degree credit upon student admission to Graduate School.

Backward Double-Counted Credit: graduate course credit completed as a graduate student that is eligible to fulfill remaining undergraduate credits in addition to master’s degree credits.

Degree Requirements
Undergraduates complete at least 120 credits for a bachelor’s degree. Graduates complete at least 30 credits for a master’s degree, and substantially more in some programs. Students in an AMD complete the same requirements by double counting graduate-level credits within the prescribed limits to complete both degrees. All graduate-level work requires students to follow graduate academic standards, regardless of when they take the course. Each AMD may double count differently, and may double count forward, backward, or both. See AMD Programs (http://catalog.uwm.edu/opportunities-resources/accelerated-programs/#programtext) for double counting details.

Programs
Approved AMDs below involve one UWM undergraduate degree and one UWM graduate degree. Eligible double-counted credits, undergraduate requirements, and graduate school admission requirements are listed under each AMD as defined by the program. Approved AMDs are listed in alphabetical order by bachelor’s degree. When viewing online, use the “>” next to each AMD degree pair to expand the view.

Accounting, BBA (http://catalog.uwm.edu/business/accounting-bba//) /Information Technology Management, MS (http://catalog.uwm.edu/business/information-technology-management-ms/)
This is an approved AMD as of Spring 2020. Requirements are currently being formatted for Catalog copy from governance documents. See program directly for details.

Anthropology, BA (http://catalog.uwm.edu/letters-science/anthropology/anthropology-ba/) /Anthropology, MS (http://catalog.uwm.edu/letters-science/anthropology/anthropology-ms/)
This is an approved AMD as of Spring 2020. Requirements are currently being formatted for Catalog copy from governance documents. See program directly for details.

Community Engagement and Education, BS (http://catalog.uwm.edu/education/educational-policy/community-studies/community-engagement-education-bs/) /Educational Psychology, MS: Cognitive and Developmental Sciences (http://catalog.uwm.edu/education/educational-psychology/educational-psychology-cognitive-developmental-sciences-ms/)
The Accelerated Master’s Degree will utilize 6 forward double-counted and 15 backward double-counted credits for a total of 21 double-counted credits.

Double-Counted Credits:
ED PSY CDS elective courses taken during the undergraduate career must be taken at the graduate (G) level to count forward toward the graduate career. These courses will count toward the ED PSY CDS elective course requirement and also fulfill elective credits in the CEED undergraduate major.

Elective courses in ED PSY CDS are selected in close consultation with the faculty advisor such that they can be tailored to the student’s MS degree progression. Course selection must be approved by the advisor and program to move the student toward mastery of the CDS standards, from: ED PSY 728, ED PSY 734, ED PSY 735, ED PSY 741, ED PSY 742, ED PSY 743, ED PSY 746, ED PSY 748, ED PSY 831, ED PSY 832, and ED PSY 834.

ED PSY CDS Concentration courses taken during the graduate career count backward toward the undergraduate career: ED PSY 640, ED PSY 624, and electives from ED PSY 728, ED PSY 734, ED PSY 735, ED PSY 741, ED PSY 742, ED PSY 743, ED PSY 746, ED PSY 747, ED PSY 748, ED PSY 831, ED PSY 832, and ED PSY 834.

Undergraduate Selection Criteria
Ideally, students will declare their intention to complete an accelerated degree as incoming freshmen; however, continuing and transfer students may also pursue the accelerated degree. Interested students must meet with an academic advisor to determine if it is possible to complete all of the requirements in the portion of undergraduate study remaining to them. If there is not a logistical constraint, the student then must write a 1-2 page statement explaining their interest in the particular field of study as reasons for pursuing an accelerated degree. The student should include a copy of their college transcript with this statement and a recommendation letter from a faculty member in the chosen field. These materials should be submitted to the intake administrator (Office of Student Services) who will then notify the ED POL chairperson, the CDS accelerated programs coordinator, and the student’s undergraduate advisor. Both the CEED and CDS programs must agree to accept the student into the accelerated degree track.

Graduate Admissions Requirements
To be considered for admission into Graduate School prior to completing their Bachelor’s degree, students must meet the minimum criteria for
admission established by the MS in Educational Psychology and the UWM Graduate School.

Because the ED PSY CDS programs coordinator will be involved in monitoring undergraduate student progress of individuals pursuing an accelerated degree, the ED PSY CDS program will permit guaranteed acceptance in the M.S. program if the student meets the minimum criteria for admission established by the UWM Graduate School.

Students who do not satisfactorily meet admissions criteria for the MS in Educational Psychology may continue with their BS in Community Education and Engagement.

Criminal Justice, BS (http://catalog.uwm.edu/social-welfare/criminal-justice/criminal-justice-bs/)/Criminal Justice, MS (http://catalog.uwm.edu/social-welfare/criminal-justice/criminal-justice-ms/)

The MS in Criminal Justice has 33 credits. The Accelerated Master’s Degree in Criminal Justice will utilize 6 forward double counted and 15 backward double counted credits.

Double Counted Coursework
Courses that forward count to graduate career:


These courses fulfill the electives requirements of the Master’s degree.

Courses that backward count to undergraduate career:


CRM JST 970 (special topics) can only be taken if the student has not already taken the topic as an undergraduate elective (i.e. Criminal Evidence and Investigation, Violence and the Criminal Justice System).

CRM JST 671G would count as a major requirement. The other courses could count as either a major elective or general elective.

UNDERGRADUATE CAREER

The Criminal Justice and Criminology Department’s graduate program coordinator and undergraduate academic advisors from the Helen Bader School of Social Welfare will be responsible for advising students in the accelerated program. For enrollment in graduate level courses during an undergraduate career that may be forward double counted toward the MS in Criminal Justice, the Accelerated Master’s Degree in Criminal Justice requires students meet the following additional criteria:

• a student must maintain an overall GPA of at least 3.0 and a GPA of at least 3.25 in the major area of study
• junior standing (58+ credits)
• prior completion of CRM JST 110, CRM JST 271, CRM JST 273, CRM JST 275, CRM JST 305 courses

Approved enrollment into graduate level coursework during an undergraduate career does not guarantee admission to the MS in Criminal Justice as part of the Accelerated Master’s Degree. These courses fulfill requirements for the BS in Criminal Justice regardless of acceptance into Graduate School. Students apply for Graduate School as indicated below. Per usual UWM Graduate School criteria, students must obtain a “B” or better in all courses taken at the graduate level that are to be counted toward a Master’s degree.

APPLICATION TO GRADUATE SCHOOL

Admission to the MS in Criminal Justice as part of the Accelerated Master’s Degree is guaranteed. Students typically apply by February of the junior year. To be considered for admission into the Graduate School prior to completing their Bachelor’s degree, students must do the following:

• Meet the standard UWM Graduate School admission requirements (except for the completion of a Bachelor’s degree).
• Meet the standard application requirements for a MS in Criminal Justice.

Students admitted to the MS in Criminal Justice as part of the Accelerated Master’s Degree will begin their graduate career in their 8th semester, after the completion of at least 105 credits toward the BS in Criminal Justice. The remaining (15) credits to complete the BS in Criminal Justice may be fulfilled through backward double counting graduate coursework (as described above). There may be one or two semesters where students are taking a mix of undergraduate and graduate courses to complete the BS in Criminal Justice while earning their MS in Criminal Justice.

Students who do not satisfactorily meet admissions criteria for the MS in Criminal Justice are eligible to continue with their BS in Criminal Justice major, provided they continue to meet those standards.

Economics, BA (http://catalog.uwm.edu/letters-science/economics/economics-bs/)//Economics, MA (http://catalog.uwm.edu/letters-science/economics/economics-ma/)

This is an approved AMD as of Spring 2020. Requirements are currently being formatted for Catalog copy from governance documents. See program directly for details.

Exceptional Education, BS: K4-12 Special Education (http://catalog.uwm.edu/education/teaching-learning/exceptional-education-k4-12-bs/)//Exceptional Education, MS (http://catalog.uwm.edu/education/teaching-learning/exceptional-education-ms/)

Double-Counted Credits:

Forward-counted courses taken during the undergraduate career must be taken at the graduate (G) level to count forward toward the graduate career. Two of the following three courses should be taken at the graduate level: EXCEDUC 532G, EXCEDUC 601G, EXCEDUC 679G.

Backward-counted courses taken during the graduate career that count backward toward the undergraduate career: EXCEDUC 488G, EXCEDUC 588G, EXCEDUC 574G.

Students who elect to earn a bachelor’s degree in Exceptional Education without teacher certification in special education may take any of the following courses for the 13 backward-counting credits in their graduate career: EXCEDUC 560, EXCEDUC 561, EXCEDUC 699, EXCEDUC 703, EXCEDUC 705, EXCEDUC 707, AD LDSP 598, AD LDSP 861, SOC WRK 774, and SOC WRK 775.
**Undergraduate Career**

The Academic advisors from the School of Education will identify, track, and advise undergraduates who have declared an intent to pursue an accelerated master's degree. Students apply to the undergraduate Bachelor’s Degree in Exceptional Education and teacher certification program in special education during their 2nd or 3rd year (typically), and subsequent to admission complete 4 semesters of professional coursework.

The following items must be met prior to applying for formal admission to the undergraduate Bachelor’s Degree in Exceptional Education and teacher certification program in special education:

- At least 45 credits with a GPA of 2.5
- Grade of “C” or better in MATH 175 (or equivalent) and ENGLISH 102 (or equivalent)
- Grade of “C” or better in CURRINS 300 (Intro to Teaching) and a positive field evaluation or equivalent (e.g., recommendation from instructor)

Students indicate their intent to apply to the Accelerated Master’s Degree program after their 2nd semester of professional coursework in the undergraduate Bachelor’s Degree in Exceptional Education and teacher certification program in special education. This allows them to be eligible to take graduate level courses during their undergraduate career in the 3rd semester of professional coursework, and students must meet the following criteria:

- meet the minimum GPA requirements for admission to the Graduate School at the time of enrollment in graduate level U/G or G coursework
- a minimum GPA of 3.0 on all work in the professional program
- declare their intent to apply for an accelerated master’s program
- complete service and/or undergraduate research in special education or a related field
- write and submit a 2 page (approximately) personal statement that explains: the students’ interest in a particular field of study, an appropriate faculty mentor tied to their interests, and reasons for desiring to enter the accelerated program
- submit 2 letters of recommendation from professionals who can speak to the applicant’s analytical thinking, intellectual curiosity, and ability to manage an increased workload
- receive a positive recommendation from the teacher certification program faculty, following an interview with the faculty
- complete the same academic work and follow the same performance standards as graduate students in the Exceptional Education master’s program

Approved enrollment into graduate level coursework during an undergraduate career does not guarantee admission to graduate school as part of the Accelerated Master’s Degree. Per usual UWM Graduate School criteria, students must obtain a “B” or better in all courses taken at the graduate level that are to be counted toward a master’s degree.

**Graduate Admissions Requirements**

Admission to Graduate School prior to completion of a bachelor’s degree as part of the Accelerated Master’s Degree in Exceptional Education is selective, and students must meet the standard UWM Graduate School MS in Exceptional Education admission requirements.

Students who do not satisfactorily meet admissions criteria for Graduate School are eligible to continue with their bachelor’s degree, provided they continue to meet undergraduate standards.

**Finance, BBA** ([http://catalog.uwm.edu/business/finance-bba/](http://catalog.uwm.edu/business/finance-bba/))

This is an approved AMD as of Spring 2020. Requirements are currently being formatted for Catalog copy from governance documents. See program directly for details.


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**Information Technology Management, MS** ([http://catalog.uwm.edu/business/information-technology-management-ms/](http://catalog.uwm.edu/business/information-technology-management-ms/))

This is an approved AMD as of Spring 2020. Requirements are currently being formatted for Catalog copy from governance documents. See program directly for details.

**Kinesiology, BS** ([http://catalog.uwm.edu/health-sciences/kinesiology/kinesiology-bs/](http://catalog.uwm.edu/health-sciences/kinesiology/kinesiology-bs/))

This is an approved AMD as of Spring 2020. Requirements are currently being formatted for Catalog copy from governance documents. See program directly for details.
Marketing, BBA (http://catalog.uwm.edu/business/marketing-bba//Management, MS (http://catalog.uwm.edu/business/information-technology-management-ms/
This is an approved AMD as of Spring 2020. Requirements are currently being formatted for Catalog copy from governance documents. See program directly for details.

Marketing, BBA (http://catalog.uwm.edu/business/marketing-bba/)Management, MS: Marketing (http://catalog.uwm.edu/business/management-marketing-ms/
This is an approved AMD as of Spring 2020. Requirements are currently being formatted for Catalog copy from governance documents. See program directly for details.

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External Programs
AMDs between external college or university programs and UWM are described in their Articulation Agreements. Contact those programs directly.

Bachelor's Degree

Undergraduate Requirements
Typically, students complete their general education requirements, school or college general requirements, and most of their major requirements prior to beginning any double-counted coursework. Students remain in undergraduate status to complete all required bachelor's degree credits (typically 120, potentially more) minus eligible backward double-counted credits. Remaining undergraduate credit requirements fulfilled through backward double counting is specified by the program and will be completed as a graduate student.

Individual AMDs may have additional requirements for degree completion (see AMD Programs (http://catalog.uwm.edu/opportunities-resources/accelerated-programs/#programtext)). Some programs do not prescribe backward double-counted credit. In this case, the student would complete all undergraduate requirements and receive their bachelor’s degree prior to their first term as a graduate student.

Forward Double-Counted Credits
Some AMDs prescribe forward double-counted credits so undergraduate students can begin graduate coursework eligible for both their bachelor’s and master’s degrees. Undergraduates must meet the minimum GPA requirements for the Graduate School before attempting graduate-level work. Programs provide additional requirements for enrolling in eligible graduate-level coursework. Enrollment in graduate-level coursework during an undergraduate career does not guarantee admission to the Graduate School. All graduate-level work requires completion of graduate academic standards. Students accruing forward double-countable credits remain in undergraduate standing, pay undergraduate tuition for graduate-level courses, and are eligible for undergraduate federal financial aid. For a U/G course, students must enroll in and complete the G section in order for it to forward double count.

Opting Out of the AMD As an Undergraduate Student
Students in undergraduate status who choose not pursue a master’s degree may continue with their bachelor’s degree and complete any remaining bachelor’s degree credits as an undergraduate student.

Master’s Degree

Graduate School Admission
For AMDs that prescribe backward double-counted credits, students will begin Graduate School prior to completing their bachelor’s degree. To be considered for admission to the Graduate School prior to completing their bachelor’s degree, students must meet the UWM Graduate School admission criteria (https://uwm.edu/graduateschool/admission/), any
additional standards set by the program, and have completed required bachelor's degree credits minus eligible backward double-counted credits prior to their first term as a graduate student. (For example, if the bachelor's degree requires 120 credits and the AMD allows for 15 backward double-counted credits, the student must have 105 undergraduate credits before starting their first term as a graduate student.)

For AMDs that do not prescribe backward double-counted credit, students would have completed their bachelor's degree prior to their first term as a graduate student and still must meet the UWM Graduate School admission criteria and any additional standards set by the program.

**Failure to Gain Admission to Graduate School**

A student who applies to but is not admitted to the Graduate School as an accelerated master’s student may continue with the bachelor's degree and can reapply for graduate admission after completing the bachelor's degree.

**Graduate Requirements**

Once accepted, students begin graduate student status the semester in which they only have backward double-counted credits remaining to complete the bachelor’s degree. Students carry the same graduate student status as those admitted with a bachelor’s degree and are eligible for all graduate student financial assistance, including appointments as TAs, PAs, and RAs. Students pay tuition at the graduate rate. All students completing graduate-level work are subject to the same performance requirements.

All accelerated master’s degree students must submit an Accelerated Master’s Credit Evaluation Form (https://uwm.edu/graduateschool/wp-content/uploads/sites/90/2020/05/Accelerated-Masters-Credit-Evaluation-Form.pdf) in the first semester of their graduate career, even if they have no forward double-counted credits. The Graduate School will evaluate graduate-level work from the undergraduate portion of the AMD or verify that the student has no forward double-counted credits.

**Opting Out of the AMD After Starting Graduate School**

The Graduate School typically requires a bachelor’s degree for admission, but makes an exception to this rule for students in an approved AMDs. If a graduate student chooses to opt out of their AMD program and has not yet completed all bachelor’s degree requirements through backward double counting, they can no longer maintain graduate student status. These students can opt back into undergraduate student status in order to complete undergraduate coursework and finish their bachelor’s degree. Depending on when the student was last term activated at the undergraduate level, they may need to complete a re-entry application with Undergraduate Admissions.

**Degree Completion**

**Credit Transfer**

**Forward Double-Counted Credit Transfer**

AMD students submit an Accelerated Master’s Credit Evaluation Form (https://uwm.edu/graduateschool/wp-content/uploads/sites/90/2020/05/Accelerated-Masters-Credit-Evaluation-Form.pdf) in the first semester of their graduate career. The Graduate School will evaluate graduate-level work from the undergraduate portion of the AMD. Coursework eligibility is determined by the program and subject to UWM Graduate School transfer credit standards. Once forward double-counted graduate-level credit has been transferred into the master’s degree, it is available for other forms of double counting, such as that permitted between master’s degrees and certificates.

**Backward Double-Counted Credit Transfer**

Once students enter graduate status, they are eligible to take backward double-counted courses. Coursework eligibility is determined by the program. Backward double-counted credit will be transferred to the undergraduate transcript once the student completes all required undergraduate credit and applies for graduation.

**Bachelor’s Degree**

Upon completion of the courses and credits required for the bachelor’s degree, the student should apply for graduation in the undergraduate degree program. Upon receipt of the application for graduation, the Registrar's Office will transfer the credits completed at the graduate level into the undergraduate record to facilitate the review of the student for undergraduate degree clearance. Degree clearance procedures at the undergraduate level will follow established procedures once the graduate credit is transferred to the undergraduate record.

**Master’s Degree**

Students graduate with the master’s degree when they have completed all requirements in addition to any forward double-counted credits. This may occur during the same semester when the bachelor's degree is awarded, or in a later semester.