

Mathematics, Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Degree

The five-year Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Degree program allows academically strong students to obtain a BS and an MS degree within five academic years plus the summer of the last year. The program leads to an MS degree following satisfactory completion of 144 credits. Well-prepared students can enter this program after completion of 90 credits. This program makes it possible for students to complete some of their graduate classes during their junior and senior years. All other Master's degree requirements must be met.

Is this program for me?

The Accelerated BS/MS program is for strong students who are majoring in Mathematics and who are interested in obtaining a Master's degree in Mathematics from GMU. This program enables the student to obtain the MS in Mathematics after completing as few as 18 credits after receiving their BS in Mathematics. The MS in Mathematics requires a total of 30 credits to complete. If the student maintains a full course load (that is, 9 credits per semester) then all course requirements for the MS degree can be completed in one academic year following graduation. The final research/creative component of the MS degree (the non-thesis options) can be completed by the end of the following summer. A student interested in writing a Master's thesis as the research/creative component of their degree should expect to take more time.

What if I am not willing or able to take 12 graduate credits as an undergraduate?

Under the Accelerated Master's program you can take *up to* 6 credits of graduate work as an undergraduate that can then apply to both your graduate and undergraduate degrees. In addition you may take *up to* 6 credits of graduate work as an undergraduate as "reserve graduate credit." This means that those credits do not count toward your undergraduate degree but will count toward your MS degree.

Which graduate courses can be used in this way?

Any 500 or 600-level MATH course that counts toward a MS in Mathematics can be used without prior approval. Graduate courses outside the Mathematics Department can also be used with prior approval of the Graduate Coordinator.

When do I have to decide if I am interested in this program?

You must have completed 90 undergraduate credits and have approximately 30 credits left to complete your undergraduate degree to apply to this program. You should apply for this program no later than the end of the spring semester of your junior year. If you have already started your senior year, you should simply apply to the Master's program using the standard application.

How do I apply to the program?

- First, pick up an Accelerated Master's Application from the COS Graduate Admissions Office. On the application form you may list up to two eligible graduate courses (6 credits) to be applied to the bachelor's degree. You are also required to submit a "Projected BA/BS Graduation Date." It is important that this date be accurate. There is no application fee required.
- Second, submit the completed form together with, (1) an internal GMU transcript, and (2) a completed undergraduate graduation checklist, to the Graduate Coordinator.
- Once you are admitted to the Accelerated Master's program, your status will automatically change from Undergraduate to Graduate at the end of the semester listed on your application as "Projected BA/BS Graduation Date." You do not need to apply to the MS program.

Is there anything else I need to know?

- Once you are admitted to the Accelerated Master's program, you can register for the graduate classes listed on your Accelerated Master's Application just as you would for any undergraduate class. Note that you must have the proper prerequisites for any graduate class you take as an undergraduate. You do **not** have to complete a *Graduate Course for Undergraduate Credit* form.
- If you wish to take graduate courses for credit, not to be used toward your undergraduate degree, but to be applied toward a graduate degree at a later date, you must complete the *Permission for Undergraduate to take Reserve Graduate Credit* form. The form must be approved by the course instructor, the student's advisor, and the COS dean's office. The form is available at: <http://registrar.gmu.edu/forms/index.html>.
- When you submit your bachelor's degree application, you must complete the *Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Transition Form* listing all graduate courses you have taken as an undergraduate and all graduate courses taken as reserve graduate credit. This form must be signed by the Graduate Coordinator. The form is available at: <http://registrar.gmu.edu/forms/index.html>.