A. Introduction
Northern Arizona University Accelerated bachelor’s and master’s degree program provides the opportunity for outstanding undergraduates working on completing their bachelors’ degree to simultaneously begin work on a master’s degree. Typically, a bachelor degree requires four years to complete and a master’s degree requires an additional two years. However, the accelerated degree programs allow students the opportunity to complete a graduate program in an accelerated manner.

B. Issues to be Considered in Developing an Accelerated Program.
⇒ What is the educational objectives and structure for the Accelerated Program?
⇒ Who are the intended participants in the program?
⇒ How will students learn about the program?
⇒ Who will serve as the advisor for the program?
⇒ How will the program be administered?
⇒ What are the procedures if students fail to make adequate progress in the program?

C. Program Criteria
Requirements indicated for admission into the program is set to allow greater flexibility for graduate programs as they design Accelerated programs. Minimum requirements articulated in this policy must be met.

Accelerated Programs Policy Restated

Admission Requirements to Accelerated Bachelor and Master's Degree Programs
1. Undergraduate students may apply for admission to an Accelerated program available at Northern Arizona University after completing 60 semester hours of undergraduate coursework of which a minimum of 24-30 semester hours must be completed at Northern Arizona University with a minimum NAU cumulative grade point average of 3.25/4.00.

2. Students must complete at least 12 earned undergraduate credits in their major with a grade point average of 3.50/4.00 at Northern Arizona University prior to seeking admission into an accelerated program. Receiving an Incomplete or completing a class graded as Pass/Fail or Audit will not count towards this 12 undergraduate unit requirement.

3. In addition, applicants to accelerated programs must meet the grade point average and all other requirements as specified by their accelerated program. In addition, specific accelerated programs may have requirements that exceed these minimum standards.

4. Applicants must submit the graduate application form and pay the required graduate application fee. Applicants must also submit all other materials required by the department. The application is reviewed by the appropriate person or committee in the department. If admission is recommended, the Graduate College is informed by the department and a conditional offer of acceptance is issued by the Graduate College. Full admission will be granted upon receiving the undergraduate degree and meeting any other requirements as specified by the department at the time of admission.

5. The undergraduate degree should be completed at the end of the fourth year and no later than one semester before the student is eligible to have the master's degree awarded.
Academic Requirements
1. The requirements for the bachelor’s and master’s degree of the accelerated program will remain the same as for the existing bachelor and master’s programs. A graduate program has the discretion to use no more than 6 hours of NAU coursework credit (400 level or higher) applied towards the undergraduate degree to satisfy requirements included on the master’s program of studies. Students must receive a grade of B or higher in this coursework used towards the undergraduate degree that will also be counted for graduate credit.

2. The work required for the master’s degree program must be completed within six years from the time of first enrollment in courses which are included in the graduate program of studies.

Tuition and Financial Aid/Scholarships
1. For tuition purposes, students will be considered undergraduates until they complete their undergraduate requirements, which should be no later than the end of the fourth year.

2. Once admitted to an accelerated program in their junior or senior year, they will continue to be charged at the undergraduate rate and retain eligibility for undergraduate scholarships.

3. After completing all bachelors’ requirements, students must complete the graduation paperwork and have their degree posted. Once the degree is posted they will be granted full graduate status and become eligible for Graduate Assistantships and other graduate financial awards.

Withdrawal/Ineligibility
1. Students may be ineligible to participate in the accelerated program if the G.P.A. in either the undergraduate or graduate coursework drops below a 3.0 or if they fail to demonstrate adequate progress as defined by the academic program.

2. A student may withdraw at any point from an approved accelerated program by informing in writing the respective unit administrators of undergraduate and graduate programs with a copy to the Dean of the Graduate College.

Other
1. All other policies/regulations related to undergraduate or graduate degree programs apply to the accelerated degree programs except as specifically differentiated in this document.

D. Process for Departments Seeking to Establish Accelerated Programs (use request for Accelerated Program form-available on the Graduate College website)

1. Initiate meeting with Graduate College to discuss the feasibility of establishing an Accelerated Program.

2. Set up meetings with respective undergraduate programs if undergraduate program is outside of departmental unit.

3. Inform Academic Dean(s) of respective units of plan to establish Accelerated Program.

4. Seek departmental/school committee approvals.

5. Seek college level curriculum committee approvals.

6. Complete request for accelerated form and attach supporting documents if needed.
   a. Statement of educational objectives and structure for the accelerated program
   b. Statement of demonstrated need for the accelerated program
   c. Number of credit hours permitted to satisfy both the bachelor and master’s degree (maximum of six completed at NAU; 400 level or higher).
   d. Cumulative GPA requirements for admission to the program (NAU GPA 3.25 minimum).
   e. Undergraduate Academic Plan (i.e., Major) GPA requirements for admission to the program (3.5 over 12 hours or more completed at NAU).
   f. Specific departmental requirements for students applying for admission to the accelerated program (see policy on admission requirements into Accelerated Programs).
   g. Include or attach sample plan and indicate any core or required classes including those courses that will be considered to satisfy both the bachelor and master’s degree (if any);

7. Requests must be accompanied by endorsement from the department chairs/directors and deans where the contributing programs are housed.

8. If program requires any additional faculty, space, or equipment, indicate how requirements will be satisfied
9. If proposal affect other programs, plans, curricula, or enrollment, obtain supporting documents from departments/programs affected by these changes.

**E. Approval Process**

1. The Request will be submitted to the Graduate College on the deadline dates indicated for the Review Committee of the University Graduate Committee (UGC).
2. Requests will be initially reviewed by the UGC Review Committee for meeting academic requirements as outlined in Accelerated Policy and the justification for the program.
3. Requests that provide all of the information necessary for approval will be included on the subsequent UGC agenda.
4. Following approval from the UGC, the Graduate College will be responsible for including the program on the list of accelerated programs within the University Catalog.
5. The last date to submit a proposal for an accelerated program to be included in the following academic year catalog is March 1.

**F. Miscellaneous**

1. The approval process for accelerated programs will be reviewed by UGC at the end of one year to determine the effectiveness of the process.
2. Changes to the process if any will be determined after this review by the UGC.

Revision Approved April 29, 2009