

Accelerated Graduate Pathways

Summary:

At the October meeting, Faculty Senate approved catalog language creating Accelerated Graduate Pathways (AGPs). These are intended to meet the demand for 3+1, 3+2, 4+1, etc. programs with policies that will shorten the time to a graduate degree while protecting the financial and academic interests of both our students and our academic units. This does not replace the current Senior for Graduate Credit or Early Admission policies in the Graduate Catalog, but it will make graduate coursework for graduate credit accessible to a much greater number of students in strategically-targeted ways.

Policy Highlights:

- Under the AGP, students must apply to the graduate program and receive conditional admission in order to earn graduate credit.
- AGP students may earn up to 16 graduate hours prior to conferral of the bachelor's degree.
- An AGP may choose to allow students to count up to 9 graduate hours in place of undergraduate hours toward bachelor's degree requirement. I.e., these students may receive the undergraduate degree with 111 undergraduate hours if graduate credits bring up the total to 120.
- Per ODHE, AGP students must be "exceptionally well-prepared." The university minimum GPA is 3.2 over all or 3.0 over all with a 3.5 in the most recent 30 hours.
- AGPs will have dedicated program codes and must be approved by UCC prior to enrolling students. The approval process will include specifying eligibility criteria beyond the university minimum.
- Students may apply to the grad program through the AGP after 60 UG credit hours and may begin earning graduate credits after 75 undergraduate credit hours AND after meeting program-specific eligibility requirements.
- AGP students must maintain a GPA of 3.0 on both the graduate and undergraduate transcripts to maintain eligibility. Graduate hours do not affect the undergraduate GPA.
- AGP students will have an AGP/graduate program advisor as well as an undergraduate advisor, with two advising holds.
- AGPs may be combined with Early Assurance Programs (see Definitions, below), but either one may exist separately.

Additional State Requirements

- Students must pay undergraduate tuition until conferral of bachelor's (min. 120 total hours).
- Annual reporting on program is required.
- Pathway must assure that students meet learning outcomes of the undergraduate program.

Definitions

- **Accelerated Graduate Pathway (AGP)**—intentional blending of undergraduate and graduate degree progress to shorten the total time toward the graduate degree.
- **Early Assurance Program (EAP)**—conditional admission to a graduate program for a future term. Most EAPs are offered for incoming first-year or transfer students, and nationally they are most commonly found in health fields (especially medical school).
- **Early Admission**—student has completed all baccalaureate requirements except minimum hours AND switches to graduate status/graduate appointment eligibility when beginning graduate work. This is existing OHIO policy applicable to any major/graduate degree. Note that Early Admission can only happen after the Tier 3 requirement is met, i.e., a semester after the start of senior status.
- **Senior for Graduate Credit**¹—student has a maximum of 6 credits required before completion of the bachelor's degree. Such a student may take up to two graduate classes, normally in the same semester, with permission of instructors. This is existing OHIO policy and does not imply admission to a graduate program.
- **Conditional Admission**—admission to a graduate program contingent upon meeting certain requirements set by the program. For EAPs and AGPs, the conditions always include completion of the baccalaureate degree, but probably also a defined minimum undergraduate GPA, requisite undergraduate coursework, etc. Students conditionally admitted to an OHIO program may not hold graduate appointments until the conditions have been cleared.
- **Graduate Courses for Undergraduate Credit**—HTC students, OHIO Honors students, and departmental honors students may take up to 9 hours of graduate courses *for undergraduate credit*. This does not generate a graduate transcript, and the courses do not apply toward a graduate degree.

¹ This is different from taking graduate courses for undergraduate credit only. All honors students at OHIO may take up to 9 hours of graduate courses, but those courses do not create a graduate transcript or “count” toward graduate degrees.