

**Western Michigan University
Faculty Senate
Memorandum of Action**

MOA – 26/10

Name of Council/Committee:

Faculty Senate Executive Board

Approval Date:

July 24, 2026

Implementation Date:

Upon Administrative Approval

RECOMMENDATION:

Date

☐ Approve ☐ Disapprove ☐ Other Action

Comments:

Janet S. Hahn

Janet S. Hahn (Jul 27, 2026 15:33:44 EDT)

Jul 27, 2026

Janet Hahn,

WMU Faculty Senate President

Date

☐ Approve ☐ Disapprove ☐ Other Action

Comments:

Q. C. Cheatham

Jul 27, 2026

Christopher Cheatham, Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Date

☐ Approve ☐ Disapprove ☐ Other Action

Comments:

Russ Kavalhuna

Russ Kavalhuna (Aug 3, 2026 07:51:05 EDT)

Aug 3, 2026

Russ Kavalhuna,

WMU President

Date

Western Michigan University

Faculty Senate

Memorandum of Action

MOA – 26/10

**Revision of the Graduate Catalog Accelerated Graduate Degree Program
(supersedes MOA-21/04)**

RECOMMENDATION

The Faculty Senate Executive Board recommends revising MOA-21/04: *Revision of Accelerated Graduate Degree Program* to clarify requirements and rules governing accelerated graduate degree programs (AGDP).

RATIONALE/PURPOSE

The proposed revision is necessary to address recurring inquiries received by the curriculum manager regarding the application of Accelerated Graduate Degree Program (AGDP) coursework and student eligibility parameters. Specifically, clarification is required concerning:

- Appropriate use of AGDP courses withing the bachelor's degree, given persistent confusion between the term "program" and "degree"
- Whether students may defer conferral of the baccalaureate degree to access reduced undergraduate tuition rates.

At the time of MOA-21/04 these terms were used interchangeably; however, current institutional definitions distinguish "program" as referring exclusively to graduate curriculum, while "degree" denotes the full set of undergraduate requirements, including major(s), minor(s), and WMU Essential Studies, totaling 120/122 credit hours.

Per these recommendations, AGDP student are required to graduate upon completion of all baccalaureate degree requirements. AGDP coursework must be applied concurrently to both undergraduate and graduate degrees, consistent with the

program's definition. Students who complete undergraduate requirements prior to enrolling in graduate coursework do not meeting AGDP criteria, as such courses cannot be counted toward both degrees. Additionally, financial aid implications arise, as students would be ineligible for undergraduate aid if courses are not required for degree completion.

These revisions will supersede MOA-21/04 and all other versions.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICE(S) AND ENFORCEMENT OFFICIAL(S):

Graduate College

Registrar's Office

Academic Departments

STAKEHOLDERS

Undergraduate Students

Graduate Faculty

Undergraduate Advisors

HISTORY:

- a) Effective date of current version: spring 2021
- b) Date first adopted: fall 2004
- c) Revision history: spring 2007; spring 2009; fall 2012; fall 2013
- d) Proposed date of next review: fall 2029

CURRENT POLICY MODIFICATION (additions in bold and redaction in strikethrough)

Graduate Catalog

Accelerated Graduate Degree Program

The Accelerated Graduate Degree Program (AGDP) allows students to begin accumulating credits towards completion of a master's, specialist or doctoral degree

while still enrolled as undergraduates. Undergraduate students admitted to an AGDP, with senior standing, could take 5000- and 6000- level courses for graduate credit. Up to 12 hours of designated 5000- and/or 6000- level courses could be used in both the bachelor's degree and the master's, or doctoral degree. All departmental **AGDP** programs must be approved in advance through the regular curricular process, (i.e., departmental curriculum committee, college curriculum committee, dean, Undergraduate Studies Council and Graduate Studies Council.)

Admission Procedures

Participation in the AGDP by any department is optional. Each department will develop admission criteria based on the following guidelines:

1. Minimal criteria for admission will include: a cumulative undergraduate GPA of at least 3.0 based on at least 45 earned hours, 15 of which shall be earned at Western Michigan University, and additional criteria as determined by the department.
2. The student completes the online graduate [application](http://wmich.edu/grad/apply) (~~wmich.edu/grad/apply~~) and within the application selects the appropriate accelerated graduate degree program.
3. International students must clarify their visa status with the Office of International Student and Scholar Services before submitting an application for AGDP.
4. Students enrolled in an AGDP ~~program~~ must maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 throughout their baccalaureate degree, or maintain a higher GPA if required by the department. Admission to the AGDP will be revoked by the Registrar if the GPA falls below the required minimum. (MOA-21/04 **26/10**)

Registration

Upon admission into the AGDP, the department advisor will meet with the student to complete the AGDP Course Approval Form.

Academic Advising, Records and Program Requirements

Departments that want to participate in the Accelerated Graduate Degree Program (AGDP) will develop a clear admission and advising process for the AGDP. The department will send the student and the registrar an Accelerated Graduate Degree Program Course Approval form stating which graduate courses may be counted in both degrees. A copy of this form will be placed with the student's record, and the change will be incorporated into the student's undergraduate and Master's, Specialist or Doctoral program as outlined below. Graduate courses substituting for required courses within the undergraduate degree must be designated by the ~~program~~ **academic department** as equivalent in content but delivered with graduate level rigor. Current 5000 level courses (required or elective) in the bachelor's degree must be taken at the graduate level to be double counted. ~~The~~ Courses for the AGDP may be used to complete the undergraduate degree credit hour requirements. Those students completing an AGDP related to a master's or doctoral degree must meet the minimum number of required credits for that degree under the graduation requirements in the graduate catalog.

Administration of the ~~program~~ **AGDP** will include the following:

1. Students with senior standing who have been accepted into an AGDP ~~could~~ **are permitted to take 5000- and 6000-level courses for graduate credit while undergraduates. In order for these courses to count for the AGDP, this registration must be done using the AGDP Course Approval Form. will be done by the Registrar's Office, with permission of the department and the student. This will occur in the same way that dually-enrolled students are registered as undergraduates and graduates under current policy.**
2. Students will pay undergraduate tuition for these **5000- and 6000-level** courses as long as they are undergraduates. The 6000-level courses will be included in the flat rate for tuition purposes.
3. Students will be considered undergraduates for financial aid purposes until they ~~receive~~ **have finished the requirements for** the baccalaureate degree.

4. The **5000-** and 6000-level courses, taken while the student is still an undergraduate, will appear on the student's graduate transcript. The grades earned in these courses will be reflected in the graduate GPA.
5. At the time when a student completes **the requirements for** his/her bachelor's degree, the Registrar's Office staff will manually add the hours earned in the **5000- and** 6000-level courses to the student's undergraduate transcript. The undergraduate GPA will also be adjusted to include the grades earned in these courses.
6. The department will clearly identify for the Registrar's Office on the original proposal which 5000- and 6000- level courses are available to be double counted. Individual students will have specific courses identified to be double counted when they are admitted into the AGDP.
7. The 5000- and 6000- level courses which are double counted will be identified as such on the graduate transcript.
8. The transcript key, which is on the back of the transcript paper, will explain the double counting.
9. Both the undergraduate and graduate transcript will show that the student completed an Accelerated Graduate Degree Program.
10. If a student completes **the requirements for** his/her bachelor's degree and then stops attending the AGDP, the graduate transcript will show the graduate courses completed.
11. It is expected that the baccalaureate degree will be awarded within one calendar year after initial enrollment in the AGDP or as determined by the department.
12. In order to progress automatically into the ~~graduate program~~ **AGDP**, a student must achieve a grade of "B" or above in each of the graduate courses being counted for the undergraduate degree, as well as maintain the required overall GPA. Students who do not meet this criterion will have the earned grade applied to their undergraduate ~~program~~ **degree** only, and must apply for readmission into the **regular (non-AGDP)** graduate program. If the student is admitted to the **regular** graduate program, the department and graduate dean will determine if any credit from the bachelor's degree will be carried forward for the graduate

degree. Students who complete the undergraduate degree including a “B” or above in the specified graduate courses will be admitted as graduate students (with the relevant graduate credit) in the next semester or session after receiving the bachelor’s degree.

(MOA 21/04 & MOA 13/04 **MOA-26/10**)

POLICY DETAILS

The new policy language will be added to the Graduate Catalog by the Registrar’s Office. These modifications will be communicated to the University community through a Faculty Senate Snapshot email with a link to the policy.

KEY DEFINITIONS/GLOSSARY

Accelerated Graduate Degree Program

Accelerated Graduate Degree Programs have been approved in some academic units. These programs allow students who earn bachelor’s degrees at Western Michigan University to begin graduate coursework before completion of the undergraduate degree, and use this graduate coursework (up to 12 hours) to count for both the bachelor’s and graduate degrees, thus “accelerating” completion of the graduate degree. Special [admission and registration procedures](#) must be followed by students in accelerated programs until the bachelor’s degree is completed.

wmich.edu/registrar/students/forms