

Accelerated Master's Program: Frequently Asked Questions

Eligibility Questions

1. ***Am I eligible as a B.A. in Biology?*** Yes, students obtaining a B.A. or a B.S. are eligible for this program.
2. ***Am I eligible for the program if I haven't taken BIOL 363 (Ecology) yet? What about BIOL 330 (Genetics)?*** Yes, you are. While we prefer that you have taken all the core classes, we understand that scheduling conflicts may prohibit you from taking these classes in your first three years. Just note your unique case in your personal statement when you fill out your application for the Biology Department.
3. ***When should I apply to the Accelerated Master's program?*** Ideally, you need to apply prior to the start of your penultimate semester. For full-time students who entered in a fall semester, this often coincides with the end of the summer (August 1) after your junior year. It is possible to apply in advance of your last semester, but this could restrict the number of credits that could apply to your future M.S.
4. ***If I am a senior based on credit hours but really only in my third year, am I eligible for this program?*** Yes.
5. ***Am I eligible if I need to take a fifth year before I graduate with my Bachelor's Degree?*** Yes.
6. ***Am I eligible for this program if my GPA is less than 3.35?*** Yes, but acceptance rates decline as the GPA declines after this point.

Application Questions

7. ***Can I substitute MCAT or DAT scores for the GRE scores?*** Yes, just report your scores to the UofL Graduate School officially and also on the Biology-specific application.
8. ***Do I need to fill out both the UofL and Biology Department applications?*** Yes.

Program Questions

9. ***How will my senior year be different if I am in the Accelerated Master's program?*** You can take up to 9 graduate-level credits over the two semesters. This usually corresponds to one 4 hr class a semester. Any graduate course you take during this year will count towards both your Bachelor's and Master's Degrees. This is the real benefit of the Accelerated program (i.e., you get to double-dip on classes).
10. ***Can I use my undergraduate financial aid for this program?*** Yes, any classes, even those at the 600-level, taken while you are still officially an undergraduate (i.e., during your senior year) should

be covered by any existing financial aid. Once you have received your BA/BS, you would need to apply for new financial aid to finish your MS

- 11. *How can I enroll in graduate classes if I am an undergraduate?*** You will be provisionally accepted into our M.S. graduate program, but your official M.S. program will not start until the academic session after you graduate with your bachelor's degree (e.g., summer for spring graduates). To take graduate courses while still in your last undergraduate degree year, you will need to download and complete the "Permission to Enroll in a 600-level Course as an Undergraduate" form found on the A&S website, here: <http://louisville.edu/artsandsciences/academics/graduate-education/student-resources>. Please let instructors know that you have been provisionally accepted into the accelerated master's program when you ask for their signatures. This form should be filled out before the end of the first week of classes and returned to the Director of Graduate Studies.
- 12. *What happens if I am accepted into a professional school during my senior year?*** You should graduate with your B.A. or B.S. and leave! We are happy you have succeeded in your goals. Just email the Director of Graduate Studies to remove yourself officially from the program.
- 13. *What kind of summer project do I need to do?*** As this is a non-thesis degree, you will be required to work with a faculty member on a one-semester research project. This project will be smaller in scope than those required for thesis Master's degrees.
- 14. *How do I find a research mentor?*** Examine the websites of faculty members in the Biology department (<http://louisville.edu/biology/faculty>). Email them to determine if they are open and available for a non-thesis Master's student to join their group. You may not do research in another department without the written consent of the Director of Graduate Studies and a co-mentor in the Biology Department. In this case, your summer project will need to be biology-based even though the lab you work in may not be.