

ACCELERATED BACHELOR'S/GRADUATE STUDY PLAN

The University of South Carolina's School of the Earth, Ocean and Environment (SEOE) offers exceptional undergraduate students the opportunity to spend an extra year at USC and earn a Master's degree in addition to their Bachelor's degree! Qualifying students take a combination of undergraduate and graduate courses in their fourth year of undergraduate study and concentrate on graduate work in their fifth year, earning their Bachelor's degree in the fourth year and the opportunity to earn the Master's degree in the following year. The accelerated plan allows students to count 12 credit hours of graduate course work (500 level and above) towards *both* the undergraduate and graduate degree.

As research experience is essential for a Master's Degree, candidates for this program must arrange to participate in a research project in a faculty member's research program prior to applying for the Accelerated Bachelor's/Graduate Study Plan. This program is ideal for students already conducting independent research with faculty, and/or for students who started with sufficient AP or IB credits that they could graduate a semester or more early if not for this plan.



Note that application to the accelerated master's study plan does not guarantee you admission to a specific graduate program or financial support. Nor does acceptance to the accelerated Masters degree plan obligate you to stay at USC for your graduate work! Instead, it merely confirms your interest in pursuing a Master's degree and allows you to start taking graduate courses during your senior year of undergraduate study.

See the Guidelines, Application for Admission, and Coursework Authorization Form (https://www.sc.edu/study/colleges_schools/graduate_school/documents/g-abgsp.pdf) on the Graduate School's website for more information about this program.

Students should apply for this plan during the spring of their junior year or in the semester in which they reach 90 undergraduate credit hours. Note that approval for this program does not guarantee admission to the University of South Carolina's Graduate School. **Please discuss financial support with your faculty advisor before applying to this program, as the accelerated Master's Degree does not guarantee support either through Instructional Assistantships or other funding sources.**

Once the G-ABGSP form has been completed and the student is approved for the Accelerated Bachelor's/Graduate Study Plan by the SEOE Graduate Director, and the graduate school, the student will be allowed to register for graduate coursework approved on the form. Note that undergraduate students participating in Senior Privilege or the Accelerated Bachelor's/Graduate Degree Plan may opt for **only one** program; if a student has been approved to participate in one of these programs, that student is prohibited from applying for, or taking courses under, the other.

Follow the Accelerated Bachelor's/Graduate Degree Plan Checklist below to apply to the Accelerated Bachelor's/Graduate Degree Plan! The recommended deadline is February 1 of your junior year.

Name		VIP ID	
Anticipated B.S. Date		Anticipated M.S. Date	
ACCELERATED BACHELOR'S/GRADUATE STUDY PLAN APPLICATION CHECKLIST			
Talk with prospective faculty advisors to find a faculty member willing to mentor you as a Master's student			
Complete the Accelerated Bachelor's/Graduate Study Plan Authorization form : https://www.sc.edu/study/colleges_schools/graduate_school/documents/g-abgsp.pdf			
Write a Statement of Purpose <i>~2 paragraphs explaining why you want to enter the program</i>			
Compile an overview of your research plan and details of available research support <i>2-3 pages maximum, including both current and proposed research; be specific; does your intended faculty advisor have grant money to support you as a Research Assistant?</i>			
→ At this point, make an appointment for you and your intended faculty advisor to meet with the Undergraduate Director, Dr. Gwen Geidel: UGradDir@sc.edu			
Letter of support from faculty advisor <i>Ask your intended faculty advisor to put in writing how he/she will financially support you, if at all – and document other important details so everyone is in agreement</i>			
Update your Resume or CV			
→ At this point, put everything together into a packet, using this checklist as a cover sheet, and submit to Sheri Foxworth, Undergraduate Coordinator, in Jones 108. This packet will be forwarded to the SEOE Graduate office.			