

# Program Change Request

Date Submitted: 10/14/20 3:02 pm

Viewing: : **Bachelor's Degree (any)/Geographic and Cartographic Sciences, Accelerated MS**

Last approved: 02/04/20 11:07 am

Last edit: 11/18/20 10:11 pm

Changes proposed by: jbazaz

## Catalog Pages

### Using this Program

[Geographic and Cartographic Sciences, MS](#)

Are you completing this form on someone else's behalf?

Yes

Requestor:

## In Workflow

1. Registrar-Programs:Workflow Review
2. GGS Chair
3. SC Curriculum Committee
4. SC Associate Dean
5. Assoc Provost-Graduate
6. Assoc Provost-Undergraduate
7. Registrar-Programs

## Approval Path

1. 10/14/20 4:21 pm  
Tory Sarro (vsarro): Approved for Registrar-Programs:Workflow Review
2. 10/26/20 10:24 am  
Nathan Burtch (nburtch): Approved for GGS Chair
3. 10/26/20 1:15 pm  
Gregory Craft (gcraft): Approved for SC Curriculum Committee
4. 10/26/20 1:20 pm  
Jennifer Bazaz Gettys (jbazaz): Rollback to SC Curriculum

Committee for SC  
Associate Dean

### History

1. Feb 4, 2020 by Jennifer Bazaz Gettys (jbazaz)

Name	Extension	Email
Nathan Burtch	1207	nburtch

**Effective Catalog:** 2021-2022

**Program Level:** Undergraduate & Graduate (BAMs)

**Program Type:** Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's

**Title:** Bachelor's Degree (any)/Geographic and Cartographic Sciences, Accelerated MS

**Registrar's Office Use Only – Program Start Term**

**Registrar/OAPI Use Only – SACSCOC Status**

**Concentration(s):**

**College/School:** College of Science

**Department / Academic Unit:** Geography & Geoinformation Science

**Jointly Owned Program?** Yes

**Participating Colleges**

**Participating Departments**

**Justification**

Eliminating the statement of interest and letters of reference:  
This will eliminate redundancies in assessing competency and enhance the accessibility of the program for all applicants. These elements have, to date, not been of concern or justification in

the rejection of a single BAM applicant.

The submission requirements do, however, provide a number of potential barriers that could reduce interest or entrance into the program. Students must actively foster relationships early in their undergraduate tenure to solicit faculty letters of reference, an activity particularly challenging for individuals from backgrounds of lower socioeconomic status and/or for individuals transferring to Mason from other institutions. Statements of interest can be a substantial time investment and because students are so early in their schooling, are likely a poor reflection of the depth or direction students are capable of achieving and intend to follow at the time of their application. We believe fostering the spirit of inclusivity, as well as the streamlining of the admissions process, is worthwhile and appropriate.

The remaining requirements will be the required coursework, GPA, and overall credit requirements stated in the catalog. If these prerequisites are met, students will be automatically admitted into the BAM program subsequent to their applicant submission through the Graduate Admissions application portal.

**Additional Modifications:** The University has loosened rules on Accelerated Master's degrees in several ways.

We seek to modify the pathway into the MS GECA to afford the maximum opportunities for students considering our master's degrees. We are also customizing the first-semester suggestions to be specific to the master's degree's core requirements.

**Application Changes:**

- Allow provisional acceptance after completion of 60 UG credits

**Accelerated Option Requirements:**

- Allowing graduate courses at 75 UG credits
- Replacing GGS 550 with GGS 551
- Adding GGS 560
- Allowing up to 12 credits of GR coursework to apply to UG degree
- Updating additional credits needed totals: 18 (thesis option) or 25 (comprehensive exam option)

**Reserve Graduate Credit:**

- Updating the example to include 12 credits toward the UG degree.

## Catalog Published Information

---

Admission  
Requirements:

Program-Specific  
Policies:

Degree Requirements:

Plan of Study:

Honors  
Information:

Accelerated  
Description/Dual  
Degree  
Description:

# Bachelor's Degree (any)/Geographic and Cartographic Sciences, Accelerated MS

---

## Overview

---

Offered by the [Department of Geography and Geoinformation Sciences \(GGS\)](#) in the [College of Science](#), this bachelor's/accelerated master's degree program enables highly qualified undergraduates to obtain any Mason bachelor's degree and the [Geographic and Cartographic Sciences, MS](#) degrees within an accelerated timeframe. The program strategy enables students to undertake graduate coursework during their final year in the bachelor's degree. In the case of a 120 credit bachelor's program, this accelerated master's option can be completed as a **138** ~~144~~ credit program (thesis option) or **145** ~~151~~ credit program (comprehensive exam option). This accelerated pathway prepares students for professional careers where geoinformation management, geographic analysis, and geospatial visualization are of importance.

Students in this accelerated degree program must fulfill all university requirements for the bachelor's program and the [Geographic and Cartographic Sciences, MS](#). While the information below is largely comprehensive, students are strongly encouraged to also review [AP.6.7 Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Degrees](#).

## Application Requirements

---

Students with an overall GPA of at least 3.0 may apply for provisional acceptance into this accelerated master's program after completing **at least 60** ~~75-100~~ undergraduate credits. Additionally, **students** ~~they~~ must have completed the following courses with a combined GPA of 3.0 or better: **GGG 300** Spatial Quantitative Methods, **GGG 311** Geographic Information Systems, **and any one upper level GGS-prefixed course.**

Applicants to all graduate programs at Mason must meet the admission standards and application requirements for graduate study as specified in the Admissions section of this catalog. However, this accelerated master's does not require GRE test **scores, letters of recommendation, or a statement of interest.** ~~scores:~~

While being undergraduate students, accelerated master's students must complete the **two** graduate courses indicated on their Accelerated Master's Program Application (obtained from the Office of Academic and Student Affairs) with a minimum grade of B in each course. They must maintain a minimum GPA of 3.0 in all coursework and in coursework applied to their major.

At the beginning of their final undergraduate semester, they must submit the Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Transition Form (found on the Office of the University Registrar website). Students must begin their master's program in the semester immediately following the term of undergraduate degree conferral. Students should consult with their faculty advisor in the Department of Geography and Geoinformation Science and the Office of Academic and Student Affairs to obtain further guidance.

## Accelerated Option Requirements

---

Students admitted to this program may start taking graduate courses after completing **75** ~~90~~ undergraduate credits. **It is recommended that students** ~~Students must~~ register for one of the following **three** courses in their first semester of accelerated coursework:

<del>GGG-550</del>	<del>Geospatial Science Fundamentals</del>	<del>3</del>
<b>GGG 551</b>	<b>Cartographic Design</b>	<b>3</b>
<del>GGG 553</del>	<del>Geographic Information Systems</del>	<del>3</del>
<b>GGG 560</b>	<b>Spatial Quantitative Methods</b>	<b>3</b>
<del>GGG 579</del>	<del>Remote Sensing</del>	<del>3</del>

Including the course chosen above, up to **12** ~~6~~ credits of graduate coursework may be applied to both undergraduate degree and the master's degree. If students earn at least a B in these classes, they are granted advanced standing in the master's program and must then complete **18** ~~24~~ (thesis option) or **25** ~~31~~ (comprehensive exam option) additional credits to receive the master's degree. All other master's degree requirements must be met.

## Reserve Graduate Credit

---

During the bachelor's degree status, students may take up to 6 graduate credits as reserve graduate credit. These credits do not apply to the undergraduate degree, but will reduce the subsequent master's degree credits **accordingly.** ~~accordingly (e.g., with 6 credits counted towards undergraduate degree plus the maximum 6 reserve credits, the master's degree can be completed with 18 (thesis option) or 25 (comprehensive exam option) graduate credits):~~ **With 12 credits counted toward the undergraduate degree plus the maximum 6 reserve credits, the credits necessary for the graduate degree can be reduced by up to 18.** The ability to take courses for reserve graduate credit is available to all high achieving undergraduates with the permission of the department. To apply

the reserved credits to the master's degree, students must request their transfer from the undergraduate degree to the graduate degree via the Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Transition Form found on the Office of the University Registrar website.

**INTO-Mason  
Requirements:**

**College  
Requirements &  
Policies:**

**Department /  
Academic Unit  
Requirements &  
Policies:**

### **Program Outcomes**

**Courses offered via  
Indicate whether**

**What is the  
primary delivery  
format for the  
program?**

**Does any portion of this program o**

### **Additional SCHEV & SACSCOC Inf**

---

**Are you changing the total number of  
credits required for this program?**

**Are you changing the delivery format in  
any way (e.g adding an online option)?**

**Are you adding/removing a licensure  
option which was approved by SCHEV?**

**Will any portion of this program be  
offered at an off-campus location?**

## OAPI Use Only – Determination of SACSCOC Impact

---

Comments or Notes

## Green Leaf Program Designation

---

Is this a Green Leaf program?

Green Leaf

*Sustainability-focused academic programs require at least one gr*

Relationship to

Relationship to

List sustainability-

Does this program cover material which crosses into another dep:

Impacted

**Additional Attachments**

SCHEV Proposal

Executive Summary

**Reviewer**

**Comments**

**Jennifer Bazaz Gettys (jbazaz) (10/26/20 1:20 pm):** Rollback: Approved by accident- goes to the COSCC next month.

**Additional Comments**

**Is this course required of all students in this degree program?**

%wi\_required.eshtml%

**Attached**

Key: 805