Proposed Catalog Language for 2027-2028 Catalog

Item #1: Adding a general "University Degree Requirements" paragraph to the catalog.

University Degree Requirements

University undergraduate degree requirements include lower-level, core curriculum and upper-level requirements. Each bachelor's degree shall comply with the semester-credit-hour requirements applicable to baccalaureate degrees under Texas law and Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board rules; include the applicable Texas Core Curriculum; include a coherent program curriculum, approved through the university curriculum process, with the upper-division coursework necessary to achieve the program's baccalaureate-level learning outcomes; and satisfy all applicable UHCL residency requirements.

Item #2: Editing and adding to the Accelerated Degree Information in the Catalog

Accelerated Degree Options

Accelerated Bachelors-to-Masters Degre Programs

Accelerated bachelor's-to-masters programs, sometimes referred to as dual degrees, allow academically qualified students to complete both degrees through an approved accelerated curriculum that permits graduate coursework to begin before the completion of the bachelor's degree. Each program must establish curriculum that identifies whether and how coursework may be applied to both degree programs. Accelerated degree program students must complete the undergraduate residency requirements.

An approved accelerated bachelor's-to-master's program may permit up to 12 semester credit hours of designated graduate coursework to apply to both degrees. Each program may elect to use up to 12 shared hours through the normal curriculum-approval process, based on curricular alignment, professional accreditation, and competitive need.

Shared courses should be identified in advance, satisfy the learning outcomes of both degrees, meet the program's graduate-grade requirement, preserve applicable external accreditation requirements, and be documented in the academic catalog entry for each participating program. No more than 12 graduate credit hours may be taken as an undergraduate. Consistent with university graduate requirements, at least 24 of the hours required for the master's degree must be completed in graduate-level (5000- or 6000-level) coursework.

Commented [AK1]: This is from catalog and edited, this is Provost request 1. https://catalog.uhcl.edu/content.php?catoid=24&navoid=2436&hl=%22university+degree+requirements%22&...

University Degree Requirements → Undergraduate Degree Requirements for Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Fine Arts, Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Social Work Degrees, item 1. Substantially identical language also appears under the BAS requirements.

Students interested in an accelerated bachelor's-to-master's program must meet with an accelerated degree advisor in their college before enrolling in graduate courses. Programs may establish additional admission, progression, and graduate-course enrollment requirements, including minimum GPA, earned-credit-hour thresholds, and prerequisite coursework. Such requirements must be published in the academic catalog. Students must be classified as juniors prior to being able to enroll for graduate level classes. Please refer to the specific program for these requirements. Once admitted to the accelerated degree program, students are authorized to enroll in graduate courses as undergraduate students.

The bachelor's degree shall normally be conferred once all bachelor's degree requirements have been completed, including approved graduate-course substitutions. Exceptions may be permitted in accordance with university policy and the approval of appropriate academic and administrative offices.

A student who becomes ineligible to participate in or withdraws from the accelerated bachelor's to master's program cannot double count any courses for both bachelor's and master's degrees. However, courses successfully completed with a 3.0 or better may count toward the bachelor's degree as appropriate substitutions.

Graduate courses utilized for a bachelor's degree cannot be utilized for a graduate degree outside of the accelerated bachelor's to master's degree program.

Associate of Applied Science to a Bachelor of Applied Science Degree programs

An applied baccalaureate degree designed to build upon an Associate of Applied Science degree, another approved applied associate credential, or equivalent technical preparation shall incorporate an approved, coherent block of applicable technical or workforce coursework. Program faculty shall determine the applicability of that coursework and how it is integrated with the core curriculum and advanced program requirements. All candidates for a Bachelor of Applied Science degree at UHCL must meet certain minimum requirements. **Additional requirements may be imposed by the individual department or college.** Students should refer to the department or college section of this catalog for complete requirements and total number of hours prescribed for the specific major.

The following are the minimum requirements for a Bachelor of Applied Science degree:

1. Students must complete at least 120 semester credit hours. A minimum of 36 hours of the 120 semester hours must be advanced (3000-4000 level) coursework according to the requirements of the respective major. Programs may require

Commented [AK2]: Do we want to say anything like: Most accelerated degree programs will allow students to begin taking graduate level courses once they are classified as a junior.

UTSA says must apply after 75 SCH,

Commented [HR3R2]: We agreed that students needed to be a junior before they can begin to take master's level courses and there may be additional program level requirements to qualify for the Accelerated Bachelor's to Master's program.

Commented [CS4]: Should this be "can" in order to give students the option? They should work with their advisors to determine whether remaining an undergraduate (for aid, tuition, scholarships, etc.) or conferring the degree immediately makes sense.

Commented [AK5R4]: We were thinking "shall normally" allowed for those cases, awarding would be the standard but if they do not apply for graduation, it would not be conferred. Troy pointed out UHCL gets more money if they are grad students and it generally benefits them.

Commented [AK6]: Troy also recommended "An alternative pathway might offer an opt-in simultaneous-conferral option following documented academic, financial-aid, and registrar advising." I do not think we want that, but it could be an exception, it does say normally conferred.

Commented [AK7R6]: I added some other potential language if we want flexibility here

Commented [CS8]: Why is this? Is this a THECB rule? If not, why would we make a student retake a graduate course they made a satisfactory grade in if they enrolled later as a graduate student?

Commented [AK9R8]: This was in the old policy, so I left it in. I do think based on a quick web search that you cannot have a course count for 2 separate stand alone degrees per THECB. They do not have to retake the courses, but must substitute others. Or they can take extra undergrad courses and reserve the graduate credit if it is not applied to the BS. MS degrees have a strict 30 hour min, SACSCOC or whatever it is now also limits credit sharing unless combined degrees.

Commented [AK10]: From Troy

additional advanced (3000-4000 level) coursework when justified by disciplinary, licensure, or accreditation needs.

2. Students must complete at least 25% of the credit hours required for the degree (i.e., 30 semester credit hours for a 120 credit-hour program) through instruction offered by UHCL to fulfill the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) residency requirements.
3. Students must complete the final 30 semester hours of 3000 and 4000 level coursework in residence at UHCL.
4. Students must complete a minimum of 12 semester credit hours of upper-level (3000-4000 level) coursework in the major in residence at UHCL.
5. Students must have a cumulative GPA of 2.000 on coursework completed at UHCL with grades of C or better on at least 30 hours of resident upper-level work. Grades of C- or below cannot be applied toward the 30 hours of resident upper-level work.

Undergraduate Degree Requirements for Bachelor of Art, Bachelor of Fine Arts, Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Social Work Degrees

All candidates for a bachelor's degree at UHCL must meet certain minimum requirements. **Additional requirements may be imposed by the individual department or college.** Students should refer to the department or college section of this catalog for complete requirements and total number of hours prescribed for the specific major.

The following are the minimum requirements for a bachelor's degree:

1. Students must complete at least 120 semester credit hours. A minimum of 36 hours of the 120 semester hours must be advanced (3000-4000 level) coursework according to the requirements of the respective major. Programs may require additional advanced (3000-4000 level) coursework when justified by disciplinary, licensure, or accreditation needs.
2. Students must demonstrate writing proficiency by completing nine hours of lower-level (1000-2000 level) and upper-level (3000-4000 level) English composition course credit with a minimum grade of C- or better. Some majors may require higher grades in English composition.
3. Students must complete at least 25% of the credit hours required for the degree (i.e., 30 semester credit hours for a 120 credit-hour program) through instruction offered by UHCL to fulfill the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) residency requirements.

Commented [AK11]: Might can delete based on added language

Commented [CS12R11]: Minimum means it can be more. The added sentence is gatekeeping why programs can exceed the minimum.

Commented [AK13R11]: Yes, the concern is having 120 hours if we end up with 90 hour degrees would take revisions. So we may want to be more general. And if 90 hour degree, would also want to adjust the 36 perhaps, so may not want to put numbers on it

Commented [CS14]: Same as above.

4. Students must complete the final 30 semester hours of 3000 and 4000 level coursework in residence at UHCL.