

Accelerated Bachelor's/Post-Baccalaureate Certificate (PBC) Program at UMBC

Proposal:

The Graduate School proposes that the faculty approve an Accelerated Bachelor's/Post-Baccalaureate Certificate (PBC) program that will allow up to 6 credits of graduate-level courses taken as undergraduates to be counted toward the credits needed for both the Bachelor's degree and the Post-Baccalaureate Certificate. Since PBCs can only be granted to current graduate students, at least 6 credits counted toward the PBC must be taken when the student is graduate student. Consistent with the Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's program, the faculty of both programs must approve the courses that are being used toward the Bachelor's degree and PBC in their respective departments.

Background:

The Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's Program was created to provide an incentive for highly qualified undergraduate students to pursue a Master's degree at UMBC by allowing graduate-level courses to be taken during their last years of study as an undergraduate. These credits (up to 9 in most cases but may be up to 12 for some programs) can be counted toward the credits needed for both the Bachelor's degree and the Master's degree.

When we created Post-Baccalaureate Certificates (PBCs) nearly 2 decades ago, the decision was made that courses taken at another university or as an undergraduate at UMBC could not be transferred into the PBC to satisfy program requirements. In other words, the current transfer credit policies at UMBC apply to Master's programs but not to PBCs. However, courses taken as a non-degree graduate student at UMBC can be counted toward the PBC. Courses may also be counted toward both a PBC and master's degree at UMBC.

PBCs have grown in number and in enrollment. Most PBCs require 12 credits but a few require 15. In most cases PBC courses are a subset of an existing Master's program; however, there are a few that are standalone, particularly in departments that don't have Master's programs (e.g. Music). For a complete list see <https://gradschool.umbc.edu/admissions/programs/>. Undergraduates and graduate programs have expressed interest in the option of an accelerated program. Having an accelerated program for our PBCs provides another option for our students to attain their educational goals.

Approved by the Graduate Program Directors on November 11, 2020