# ACCELERATED GRADUATE DEGREE (AGD)

Prepare **one** paper copy with all signatures and forward to the Graduate Council Chair. Additionally, send **one** identical ELECTRONIC COPY with all supporting documentation as an e-mail attachment by to the Graduate Council Chair for electronic distribution to the Graduate Council Curriculum Committee.

# Guidelines for an AGD Proposal

Accelerated Master's Degree Programs may be developed between an undergraduate and graduate program in a single department, between two programs in a single school/college or between programs in two different schools/colleges. AGD programs enrich the opportunities of the best undergraduates at Marshall University, enabling them to earn a Bachelor's and Master's degree in much less time than it would take following the traditional path.

Undergraduates accepted into an AGD program can begin taking graduate coursework during their senior year. Programs offering an accelerated master’s degree option may allow up to 12 hours of graduate level course work. Programs offering an accelerated doctoral degree option may allow up to 18 hours of graduate level course work.

Programs may use one of two models for the AGD option.

For those offering a 3+ graduate option, the department may allow specified graduate-level courses to double-count as fulfilling a portion of the bachelor’s and master’s degree requirements.

For those offering an accelerated graduate degree option, the department will specify the graduate-level courses that to double-count as fulfilling a portion of the bachelor’s and master’s degree requirements and those graduate-level courses that will serve as electives for completion of the baccalaureate degree but not the graduate degree.

Each program offering a AGD will clearly list how students may count courses for both degrees in the description of the degree options presented the *Graduate Catalog*.

**Rationale:** The proposal should identify the rationale or need for an AGD, and, if the undergraduate and graduate programs are in different departments, clarify how they are appropriate for the AGD.

Students in the BA in Early Childhood Education complete three courses in common with the area of emphasis in Early Childhood Education that is part of the MA in Education – Administration of Early Childhood Programs, Multicultural Influences in Education, and Preschool Curriculum and Methods. Rather than having to repeat these same courses when pursuing the graduate program, it would streamline the experience for undergraduate students to have the option to complete these three related courses at the graduate level. This proposal was collaboratively planned by undergraduate and graduate faculty in the College of Education and Professional Development

**Admission Requirements:** requirements (e.g. waive test scores). The proposal should state whether admission requirements for the AMD differ from regular admission

Eligibility requirements for the Accelerated Master’s Degree, outlined on p. 63 of the graduate catalog, indicate that a GPA of 3.30 is required. This is higher than the current full admission standard of the program, which is 3.0. Therefore, admission requirements will be higher.

**AGD Credits:** For AGD programs leading to a Master Degree, students may enroll in up 12 hours of credit. For AGD programs leading to a Doctoral Degree, students may enroll in up to 18 hours of credit. Identify how courses completed for the AGD will count toward the undergraduate and graduate degrees.

The proposed program would follow the 3+ graduate option described above (as part of this form), which would allow students to double-count nine hours of course work toward BA and MA requirements.

**Curriculum:** Outline the required or elective courses students may use for the AGD. If there are no required courses, describe how the department will advise students to enroll in the appropriate course for their degrees.

The 400-level undergraduate will be replace with the 500-level graduate courses listed belows:

CI 449/559 Multicultural Influences in Education

ECE 430/530 Preschool Curriculum and Methods

ECE 435/535 Administration of Early Childhood Programs

**Student Eligibility:** AGD applicants must have a minimum over-all grade point average of 3.30 and 3.30 in the major. Programs may require a higher GPA. Please note your required GPA and any additional requirements for participation.

The program will adhere to eligibility requirements outlined in the graduate catalog (p. 63).

**Summary Statement:** Provide an abstract of your AGD proposal as a summary information for the Graduate Council agenda. Your abstract must include the following headings and corresponding brief statement: 1) DEPARTMENT, 2) AGD PROPOSAL, 3) AGD CREDITS AND ALLOCATION TO DEGREES, 4) STUDENT ELIGIBILITY.

DEPARTMENT: Curriculum & Instruction

PROPOSAL: An Accelerated Master’s Degree is available for qualified undergraduate majors completing the BA in Early Childhood Education. Nine hours required in the undergraduate program will be replaced with 9 hours of grade level courses and may be applied to both the BA in Early Childhood Education and the MA in Education with an area of emphasis in Early Childhood Education. Courses include: CI 559 Multicultural Influences in Education, ECE 530 Preschool Curriculum and Methods and ECE 535 Administration of Early Childhood Programs.

CREDITS: 9 hours, applicable to BA in Early Childhood Education and MA in Education

ELIGIBILITY: The program will adhere to eligibility requirements outlined in the graduate catalog (p. 63).

# Approvals

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Undergraduate Advisor Date

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Graduate Program Director Date

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Dean, Undergraduate College Date

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Registrar Date

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Graduate Council Chair Date

**Current Catalog Copy**

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EDUCATION, M.A.

Areas of Emphasis

Early Childhood Education

Elementary Mathematics Specialist

Individualized Plan of Study

Instructional Processes and Strategies

Instructional Technology and Learning

Math through Algebra I

School Library Media Specialist

Teaching English as a Second Language - Licensure

Teaching English as a Second Language - Non-Licensure

Graduate Certificates

Early Childhood Education

Elementary Mathematics Specialist

Instructional Technology and Learning

Math through Algebra I

Post-Baccalaureate Teacher Certificate

Program Evaluation

School Library Media Specialist

Teaching English as a Second Language - Licensure

Teaching English as a Second Language - Non-Licensure

p. 111

Admission Requirements to Master’s Degree Programs

Applicants to the MA in Education should follow the admissions process described in this catalog or at the Graduate Admissions website at [www.marshall.edu/graduate/admissions/how-to-apply-for-admission](http://www.marshall.edu/graduate/admissions/how-to-apply-for-admission).

For full admission, applicants must have an undergraduate degree from a regionally accredited institution with an undergraduate Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale OR have a master’s degree from a regionally accredited institution.

Applicants having an undergraduate degree from a regionally accredited institution with an undergraduate GPA of 2.5 or above, but below 3.0, may be granted provisional admission. Provisionally admitted applications will be granted full admission upon successful completion of 12 hours toward the approved plan of study with a GPA of 3.25 or higher, assuming that all other admission requirements are met.

Note: Some areas of emphasis are designed to lead to added endorsements for licensed teachers. Applicants may be asked to submit additional materials, such as documentation of current teacher licensure, before an admission decision is made.

Plan of Study

A Plan of Study approved by the student’s advisor must be on file before the student registers for his or her 12th semester hour. The Plan of Study is a student’s “blueprint” for completing graduation requirements.

**New Catalog Copy with Track Changes**

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EDUCATION, M.A.

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Early Childhood Education (Accelerated Master’s Degree)

Elementary Mathematics Specialist

Individualized Plan of Study

Instructional Processes and Strategies

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