

Accelerated Pathways Advising Guide

Notable Changes for Spring 2024

Please read the full [Accelerated Pathway Standards and Guidelines](#) document, in particular the information on pages 1-4. In addition, the old “Petition for an Irregular Schedule” form no longer exists. There are now two forms that serve different purposes:

- [The Credit Overload Request Form](#) Gives permission for an undergraduate student to register for more than 18 credits or for a graduate student to register for over 15 credits.
- [The Graduate Course Plan](#): Finalizes a student’s eligibility for accelerated pathway graduate coursework at the 90-credit mark. This form approves the designated courses for credit towards their undergraduate and graduate degree and grants enrollment permission for specified graduate courses.
- All new forms may be found on [OneStop>Academic Forms](#).

Credit Overload Request Form

The Catalog Policy on Full-Time and Part-Time Status includes the definition of credit overload summarized below:

- [Undergraduate Catalog Policy](#): Students with a cumulative 3.0 GPA or higher may register for more than 18 credits if their [Credit Overload Request](#) is approved by their advisor and the Dean for the college or school where the course is offered.
- [Graduate Catalog Policy](#): Students with a cumulative 3.0 GPA or higher may register for more than 15 credits if their [Credit Overload Request](#) is approved by their advisor and the Dean for the college or school where the course is offered.
- At both levels, an over-registration fee applies when registering for more than 18 credits, see [Tuition and Fees](#) for more information.

Accelerated Pathways

Good advising is key to student success in accelerated pathways. The updated policy will provide students maximum flexibility in how they take graduate courses as undergraduates and allows advisors to provide custom guidance to each student’s specific situation.

Summary

The new accelerated pathway policy allows any student with a 3.0 or higher and 90+ credits completed to take up to 12 credits of graduate course work. Those credits will apply to their Southern undergraduate degree; if the student earns a C or better, the credits will also apply to their Southern graduate transcript. Completion of an accelerated pathway does not guarantee students admission to a graduate program.

The Accelerated Attribute

Students interested in an accelerated pathway option will have the accelerated attribute on their student record to facilitate the following:

- A block on the degree evaluation for graduate coursework will be visible to students. This block varies slightly depending on the major.
 - Familiarize yourself with the specific accelerated block for your program as listed on your program's catalog page.
 - In most cases, students will be using free elective space for graduate course work. The accelerated block "reserves" those credits in the degree evaluation.
 - Some programs offer standard major substitution options, reflected in the degree evaluation and catalog for students in the accelerated pathway.
- Students retain the accelerated attribute if they switch majors.
- Students will be identified on majors lists with this attribute.
- The accelerated attribute does not guarantee that students can proceed with graduate course work. It simply shows what the degree will look like with the accelerated pathway.

Adding & Removing the Accelerated Attribute

- Students may choose the accelerated pathway at the point of admission.
- Students may add the accelerated attribute later by consulting with their faculty advisor; faculty advisors submit a workflow to add the accelerated attribute for students.
- Removal of the accelerated attribute results in the degree evaluation reverting to the standard format.
 - Faculty advisors can initiate the removal process through workflow, or students can request removal directly from the registrar.

The Graduate Course Plan

Initiation

- Once students reach 90 credits (typically in the spring of their junior year), faculty advisors collaborate with them to complete a [Graduate Course Plan](#), finalizing their intended graduate courses and requesting enrollment permission.
- Note: If a student becomes ineligible for the pathway, initiate a workflow to remove the accelerated attribute.

Submission

- Submit Graduate Course Plans before the registration season begins (early April for fall and summer registration; early November for winter or spring registration) to ensure timely permissions for course registration.
- Advisors specify courses and terms on the plan.
 - Work with students to select suitable graduate courses and credits (between 1 and 12, with a maximum of 6 credits per term).
 - Plans should encompass all intended graduate courses in the student's final year, with only one plan submitted per student.

- Students may take Summer or Winter session courses if they will have earned 90+ credits prior to that term.

Department Guidance

- Departments should provide advisors with guidance on selecting appropriate graduate courses, considering factors like enrollment patterns and seat availability.
- Additional advising criteria may include career paths, GPA, and prerequisites.
- The Graduate Course Plan can allow a graduate course to substitute for a major requirement, if desired by the department and student.

Signatures

- The Department Chair's signature signifies approval of changes to the student's undergraduate degree requirements, making them part of the graduation requirements unless further changes are submitted.
- The Graduate Coordinator's signature grants permission to enroll ONLY in the specific courses named on the plan.
- The Registrar's Office enters all required permissions upon receipt of final approved plans.

Things to Consider During Advising

GPA Requirements

Faculty advisors should consider the GPA requirement when discussing accelerated pathways with students; those not meeting the required GPA by 90 credits must be advised out of the pathway.

Catalog Years

Students from any catalog year can opt to add the accelerated attribute and benefit from the new policy; there's no need to change their catalog term.

- For students with 90 or more credits (expected by the end of this semester), complete the Graduate Course Plan.
- For students with fewer than 90 credits, initiate a workflow to add the accelerated attribute to their record.

Note: Students enrolled in prior catalog terms currently in an accelerated pathway concentration will not be affected by these changes; their degree evaluation will remain unchanged as we phase out these programs.

Time To Degree Completion

Accelerated pathways offer benefits to many students, but in certain instances, they could cause students to exceed 120 credits and thus delay timely graduation. Advisors should be aware of how prior course work and major choice impact overall credits and time to graduation and offer suitable guidance to students. Please contact the Faculty Director of Academic Advising (Meredith Sinclair, sinclairm4@southernct.edu) if you need assistance reviewing a student's options.

To determine if a student has room for a minor or accelerated pathway:

- If the minor or accelerated pathway hasn't been added yet:
 - Calculate remaining free elective credits:
 - Example: Free Electives Allowed (32) minus Free Electives Completed (3) equals 29 credits, leaving enough room for an 18-credit minor or 12-credit pathway.
 - Note: If free electives haven't been started, the block won't be present, indicating 0 completed free electives.

Bachelor of Arts Degree INCOMPLETE

Credits Required: 120 Credits Applied to Program (Excludes Excess): 0 Catalog year: Fall 2024

Overall Credits Required **Still needed:** 120 credits are required, including a total of 32 free elective credits.

Southern Credits Required **Still needed:** 30 credits are required, you have 0 credits and still need 30 more.

Overall GPA of 2.0

Accelerated Pathway Option **Still needed:** See [Accelerated Pathway Option](#) section

Free Electives

Credits Applied: 3

Course	Title	Grade	Credits	Term	Repeated
ANT 100	Interpreting Cultures	C	3	Fall 2022	

- If the minor or pathway has been added and free electives remain:
 - Example: If the initial Free Electives Allowed was 32, and after adding a pathway (12), the student still has 20 Free Electives there is space for the minor or pathway.

Bachelor of Arts Degree INCOMPLETE

Credits Required: 120 Credits Applied to Program (Excludes Excess): 0 Catalog year: Fall 2024

Overall Credits Required **Still needed:** 120 credits are required, including a total of 20 free elective credits.

Southern Credits Required **Still needed:** 30 credits are required, you have 0 credits and still need 30 more.

Overall GPA of 2.0

Accelerated Pathway Option **Still needed:** See [Accelerated Pathway Option](#) section

- If the minor or pathway has been added but no free electives remain:
 - Conduct an advanced lookup in the Diagnostics tab:
 - Blocksum represents the total credits for all blocks on the degree evaluation.
 - Shared indicates the actual credits shared by the student (excluding future potential shares).
 - If Blocksum minus Actual Shares minus Anticipated Shares exceeds 120 credits, the student may be extending their time to degree completion.
 - Consider advising the student to reduce graduate credits or drop the accelerated pathway.
 - Note: The Diagnostic tool is also available for 'What-If' scenarios to assess major changes.

[Degree Evaluation](#) [What-If Analysis](#) [View Previous Degree Evaluations](#)
 03/04/2024 at 10:39 AM (BA)

Format: Student View

Degree progress Overall GPA: 0.00

0% Requirements 0% Credits

In-progress classes Preregistered classes **PROCESS**

Audit date: 03/04/2024 10:39 AM
[Diagnostics](#) [Student data](#) [Save audit](#) [Delete audit](#) [Collapse all](#)

Block [Hide](#) **Bachelor of Arts Degree** - 0%

RA002764: DEGREE = BA
 120 Credits
Label=Overall Credits Required
 Minres 30 credits
Label=Southern Credits Required

MaxClasses 1 in HIS 110, 112 Qualifier Original fits:
 MaxClasses 1 in HIS 111, 112 Qualifier Original fits:
 MaxClasses 1 in PSY 370, 371 Qualifier Original fits:
 MaxClasses 0 in @@ (With DWGRADELETTER = R) Qualifier Original fits: [fits are not recorded when the max is zero]
 MaxClasses 0 in @@ (With DWGRADELETTER = Z) Qualifier Original fits: [fits are not recorded when the max is zero]
 MaxClasses 0 in @@ (With DWGRADELETTER = N) Qualifier Original fits: [fits are not recorded when the max is zero]
 MaxClasses 5 in @@ (With DWGRADELETTER = S) Qualifier Original fits:
 MaxClasses 0 in MAT 095 Qualifier Original fits: [fits are not recorded when the max is zero]
 MaxClasses 1 in MAT 111, 112 (MAT 111 is cross-listed with MAT 112; MAT 112 is cross-listed with MAT 111) Qualifier Original fits:
 MaxClasses 1 in HLS 440, RSP 440 Qualifier Original fits:
 MaxCredits 6 in PSY 463, 467 Qualifier Original fits:

Header Qualifiers
 Spmaxcredits 4 in MAT 120, 122 Qualifier Original fits:
 Spmaxcredits 4 in MAT 139, 150 Qualifier Original fits:
 Spmaxcredits 5 in MAT 178, 250 Qualifier Original fits:
 CHECK-ELECTIVE-CREDITS-ALLOWED (Qualifier added by auditor per CFG020 flag)
 Overall = 120 (Credits required by degree block)
Blocksum = 128 (Sum of credits required in all *required* blocks; excludes credits in blocks included in other required blocks)
Shared = 0 (Credits shared between required blocks)
 ECA = 32 (Credits allowed/needed in fall-through and non-required blocks)
 RequiredCreditsApplied = 0 (Credits applied to required blocks)
 NonrequiredCreditsApplied = 0 (Credits applied to non-required blocks)
 Overflow = 0 (Excess fall-through credits)
 CreditsAppliedTowardsDegree = 0 (Credits applied minus overflow)