

# 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.

**Accelerated Pathway Option** INCOMPLETE

Students with a minimum overall 3.0 GPA, or higher as determined by the department, must meet with their advisor to create a Graduate Course Plan and receive permission to register for graduate courses for their senior year (90+ earned credits).

<input type="radio"/> Pathway Credits	<b>Still needed:</b>	12 credits are required. You currently have 0, you still need 12 more credits.
<input type="radio"/> Graduate Courses	<b>Still needed:</b>	12 Credits in @ 5@ or 6@ or 7@

- Familiarize yourself with the specific accelerated block for your program as listed in the catalog.
- 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 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.

### Removing the Accelerated Attribute

- Removal of the accelerated attribute results in the degree evaluation reverting to the standard format.
- Faculty advisors submit a workflow to remove the accelerated attribute for students.
- Students can request removal directly from the registrar.

## **The Graduate Course Plan**

### 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.

### 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 to ensure timely permissions for course registration.
  - Early April for fall and summer registration
  - Early November for winter or spring registration
- Advisors specify courses and terms on the plan.
  - Work with students to select suitable graduate courses and credits.
  - Students may select between 1 and 12 credits depending on their programs.
  - Students may take a maximum of 6 graduate 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 have earned 90+ credits prior to that term.

### 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.

## Sample Graduate Course Plan

- Major substitutions can be noted here; an audit memo via workflow is not necessary.
- If left blank, it will fulfill the accelerated pathway block.

### GRADUATE COURSE PLAN (to be completed by the student and advisor)

Enter up to 12 credits of graduate courses at the 500-level or above for your intended graduate program of study (the total number of credits allowed may vary by program) with no more than 6 credits in any given term.

Term and Year <i>Ex. Fall 2023</i>	Course <i>Ex. ANT 500</i>	Credits <i>Ex. 3 Credits</i>	Substitution (if applicable) <i>Ex. Replaces ANT 400</i>
Summer 2024	CSC 540	3	Elective 300-Level
Fall 2024	CSC 555	3	Elective 300-Level
Spring 2025	CSC 558	3	Elective 400-Level
Spring 2025	CSC 568	3	Elective 400-Level

## Sample Degree Evaluation

To ensure visibility of approved plans for the student and advisor, these selections will be indicated on the degree evaluation once processed by the registrar.

- For course substitutions in the major, this will be reflected as follows:

<input type="radio"/> Electives 300-level or higher	<b>Still needed:</b> 2 Classes in <a href="#">CSC 305</a> or <a href="#">321</a> or <a href="#">334</a> or <a href="#">335</a> or <a href="#">341</a> or <a href="#">398</a> or <a href="#">42</a> or <a href="#">451</a> or <a href="#">453</a> or <a href="#">463</a> or <a href="#">465</a> or <a href="#">476</a> or <a href="#">477</a> or <a href="#">481</a> or <a href="#">490</a> or
	<b>Processed by:</b> Registrar's Office <b>On:</b> 03/06/2024 <b>Also Allow:</b> <a href="#">CSC 540</a>
	<b>Processed by:</b> Registrar's Office <b>On:</b> 03/06/2024 <b>Also Allow:</b> <a href="#">CSC 555</a>
<input type="radio"/> Electives 400-level or higher	<b>Still needed:</b> 2 Classes in <a href="#">CSC 421</a> or <a href="#">425</a> or <a href="#">431</a> or <a href="#">443</a> or <a href="#">451</a> or <a href="#">453</a> or <a href="#">46</a> or <a href="#">481</a> or <a href="#">490</a> or <a href="#">497</a> or <a href="#">558</a> or <a href="#">568</a>
	<b>Processed by:</b> Registrar's Office <b>On:</b> 03/06/2024 <b>Also Allow:</b> <a href="#">CSC 558</a>
	<b>Processed by:</b> Registrar's Office <b>On:</b> 03/06/2024 <b>Also Allow:</b> <a href="#">CSC 568</a>

- For courses approved for the accelerated block, this will be reflected as follows:

**Accelerated Pathway Option** INCOMPLETE

Students with a minimum overall 3.0 GPA, or higher as determined by the department, must meet with their advisor to create a Graduate Course Plan and receive permission to register for graduate courses for their senior year (90+ earned credits).

<input type="radio"/> Pathway Credits	<b>Still needed:</b> 12 credits are required. You currently have 0, you still need 12 more credits.
<input type="radio"/> Graduate Courses	<b>Still needed:</b> 12 Credits in @ 5@ or 6@ or 7@ or <a href="#">CSC 500:599</a>
	<b>Processed by:</b> Registrar's Office <b>On:</b> 03/07/2024 <b>Also Allow:</b> Approved for CSC 540, 541, 542, 543

## Things to Consider During Advising

### GPA Requirement

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 Year

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](mailto: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.

The screenshot shows a web-based degree evaluation tool for a Bachelor of Arts Degree. At the top, it says "Bachelor of Arts Degree" with a red "INCOMPLETE" status tag. Below this, it displays "Credits Required: 120", "Credits Applied to Program (Excludes Excess): 0", and "Catalog year: Fall 2024". A table below lists requirements and their status:

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 <a href="#">Accelerated Pathway Option</a> 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			
<input type="radio"/> Overall Credits Required	Still needed:	120 credits are required, including a total of 20 free elective credits.	
<input type="radio"/> Southern Credits Required	Still needed:	30 credits are required, you have 0 credits and still need 30 more.	
<input type="radio"/> Overall GPA of 2.0			
<input type="radio"/> Accelerated Pathway Option	Still needed:	See <a href="#">Accelerated Pathway Option</a> 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

☒ In-progress classes
☒ Preregistered classes
PROCESS

0% Requirements
0% Credits

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:
		Spmmaxcredits 4 in MAT 120, 122 Qualifier Original fits:
		Spmmaxcredits 4 in MAT 139, 150 Qualifier Original fits:
		Spmmaxcredits 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)

Header Qualifiers