MEMORANDUM

TO: Undergraduate Council
FROM: Dianne Horgan
SUBJECT: REVISED Accelerated Master’s Scholars Program

DATE: December 14, 2005

Last year the Undergraduate Council approved a proposal for an accelerated master’s program which allows exceptional students the opportunity to earn both a bachelor’s and a master’s in 5 years. That proposal has undergone additional discussion and I bring it to you in its latest form for your review. The Accelerated Master’s Scholars Program (AMSP) offers high-achieving undergraduates an opportunity to simultaneously finish their undergraduate degrees and work toward a master’s degree. Such programs are growing nationally and are an excellent way to recruit and retain top students. We anticipate that most AMSPs will involve only a few students. Because these programs by their nature are directed at only the top one or two seniors in a major and build on existing graduate programs, there is not a need to develop a full proposal for each AMSP. We, therefore, suggest a blanket agreement as to the minimum standards for such programs. Any master’s program may initiate an Accelerated Master’s Scholars Program, but new programs must be approved by the AMSP Advisory Board, the Graduate Dean, and the Provost. AMSPs will be included as part of graduate program reviews. The Bachelor’s and master’s must be in the same discipline or very closely related disciplines. Departments wishing to establish an AMSP program should designate a faculty coordinator and small faculty committee to administer the program.

AMSP Advisory Board
A board comprising representatives from Financial Aid, Honors College, the Undergraduate and Graduate Councils, participating departments, and the Graduate College will oversee all AMSPs.

AMSP Requests
Departments wishing to establish AMSPs should submit a short memo to the Advisory Board identifying
- The undergraduate majors that would be eligible for the graduate program,
• Any requirements that are in addition to, or more stringent than, the minimums stated below, and
• The faculty coordinator and faculty committee that will administer the program.

Admission Requirements.
Programs will select from among a qualified pool, based on the following criteria. Individual programs may have more stringent or additional requirements.

1. Completion of a minimum of 75 undergraduate credit hours will be required at the time of application; a minimum of 90 undergraduate credits hours will be required at the time of entry into the AMSP.
2. A minimum GPA of 3.3.
3. Completion of at least 12 undergraduate credits in their major at The University of Arizona’s main campus.
4. Completion or near completion of general education requirements.
5. Submission of a graduate application and graduate application fee.
6. Demonstration of the maturity necessary for success in an accelerated, highly competitive program.
7. Expectation to complete the undergraduate degree within four years.

Awarding Degree and Fees
Students will be considered undergraduates until they complete their undergraduate requirements, which should be no later than the end of the fourth year. Students entering with Advanced Placement Credit or who attend summer school would likely graduate with their bachelor’s in the 3rd year. Students must take at least 12 of their graduate credits while in graduate status. In other words,

• During years 1-3 (or approximately 0-90 credits) students will be taking undergraduate coursework and charged at the undergraduate rate.
• Once admitted to AMSP, during the senior (or transition year), they may take up to 12 units of graduate coursework which may apply toward both the bachelor’s and the master’s degrees. Students will be charged at the undergraduate rate and retain eligibility for undergraduate scholarships.
• After completion of all bachelor’s requirements, students will be granted graduate status, be charged at the graduate rate, and be eligible for graduate assistantships.
• Should a student have completed 12 graduate credits, but not yet completed the undergraduate degree, they will be considered graduate for financial aid and tuition purposes and coded as ‘graduate’ in SIS. They will no longer be eligible for undergraduate scholarships. Nor will they be eligible for graduate assistantships.
• At least 12 graduate credits must be taken while in graduate status, after completing all degree requirements for the bachelor’s.
• Students should be encouraged to complete their undergraduate requirements as soon as possible.
Summary of Changes in the Proposed Accelerated Master's Scholars Program

History: At the April 27, 2004 UGC Meeting Dianne Horgan, Graduate College Associate Dean, presented the Accelerated Master's Scholars Program (AMSP) Proposal. UGC members approved the proposal with the proviso that the AMSP Advisory Board, which will have responsibility for approving new AMSPs, include representation from the Undergraduate Council. The AMSP proposal has since been revised and the new proposal now includes the following changes:

Changes in Admissions Requirements

1. **UGC Approved Version**: Completion of a minimum of 90 undergraduate credit hours, including the completion of all General Education requirements

   **Current Version**: Completion of a minimum of 75 undergraduate credit hours completion or near completion of general education requirements.

2. **UGC Approved Version**: Completion of at least 12 undergraduate credits in the major. Completion of at least 12 undergraduate credits taken at the University of Arizona's main campus.

   **Current Version**: Completion of at least 12 undergraduate credits in the major at the University of Arizona’s main campus.

Change in Awarding Degree

3. **UGC Approved Version**: There would be no reduction in quality: The master's would be based on all but 6 hours of graduate credit. The bachelor's would have fewer unique hours but would be enhanced by having 6 hours at the graduate level.

   **Current Version**: During the senior (or transition year), students may take up to 12 units of graduate course work which may apply toward both the bachelor's and master's degrees.

P. King (1/17/06)