UMass Amherst Accelerated Master’s Programs
Fall 2012

John McCarthy, Vice-Provost and Graduate Dean
jmccarthy@grad.umass.edu
413-545-5271
Office: Goodell 514

• Basic idea
  o Minimum master’s = 30 credits (some are higher, as much as 60).
  o 30 credits can be completed in one year with some mix of:
    ▪ Eligible courses taken as undergrad (up to 9 credits – see page 2)
    ▪ Two semesters of courses (18-24 credits)
    ▪ Internship/independent study (credits vary)
    ▪ Summer or online courses (credits vary).
  o Students enter as early as junior year and receive guidance about courses that will transfer over.

• Why?
  o Transition from liberal arts education to a profession (Mellon Grant).
  o Beef up application to a PhD program.
  o Explore an area of interest, possibly leading to a career.

• Five College connection (see spreadsheet)
  o All programs limited to Five College students.
  o Almost all solicit applications from the four colleges.
  o Life science programs want students with on-going research in affiliated faculty member’s lab, but these “big tent” programs include many faculty at the four colleges among their affiliates.

• Costs and financial aid
  o For two semesters, 24 credits, tuition and mandatory fees, AY12-13:
    ▪ In-state $13,335
    ▪ Regional $21,177
    ▪ Out-of-state $26,494
  o Financial aid available:
    ▪ Work-study.
    ▪ Loans.
    ▪ Some programs may give full or partial assistantships to master’s students, but this is not usual. (Assistantship includes stipend and waiver of tuition and fees.)
    ▪ No grants or scholarships available.

• Future prospects
  o Models for tighter integration through Mellon Grant.
  o Worked out articulation agreements.
  o Where demand exists, other UMass master’s programs could get an approved accelerated option. See the list on page 3.
Rules governing the transfer of credits for courses taken as an undergraduate to a master’s program:

- In an approved accelerated master’s program, a maximum of 9 credits may be transferred. In any other master’s program, a maximum of 6 credits may be transferred.
- Limited double-dipping: credits required for the bachelor’s degree cannot be transferred to cover the first 30 credits of a master’s degree. If the master’s degree requires more than 30 credits, the credits required above 30 can be fulfilled by double-dipping into the bachelor’s requirements. This issue does not arise if the student is transferring courses that he/she did not need to graduate.
- Courses eligible for transfer, at the discretion of the master’s program, are:
  - University courses numbered 500 or higher, taken through the Five College Interchange.
  - University courses numbered 400-499, or equivalents at the colleges, upon recommendation of the master’s program and with the approval of the Graduate School.
Extant UMass Amherst Face-to-Face Master’s Programs Without an Accelerated Option
Fall 2012

Degree is shown in parentheses if not MA/MS. The asterisk calls out high-credit programs that could not be packed into 12 months.

Afro-American Studies*
Anthropology
Applied Mathematics
Art (MFA)*
Art History
Astronomy
Biology
Chemical Engineering (MSChE)
Chemistry
Chinese
Civil Engineering (MSCE)
Communication
Communication Disorders
Comparative Literature
Computer Science
Education (MEd)
English
English — Poets and Writers MFA*
Environmental Engineering (MSEnvE)
French & Francophone Studies (MA, MAT*)
Geography
Geosciences
German & Scandinavian Studies
Hispanic Literatures & Linguistics (MA, MAT*)
History
Industrial Engineering & Operations Research (MSIEOR)
Italian Studies (MAT)
Japanese
Kinesiology
Labor Studies
Landscape Architecture (MLA)*
Latin & Classical Humanities (MAT)*
Management (MBA)*
Mathematics
Mechanical Engineering (MSME)
Music (MM)
Nursing
Nutrition
Philosophy
Physics
Polymer Science & Engineering
Psychology
Public Policy & Administration (MPPA)*
Regional Planning (MRP)*
Resource Economics
Sociology
Sport Management
Theater (MFA)*