

Program Overview

The Graduate Track Pathway (GTP) program is designed for exceptional undergraduate students at Missouri S&T interested in pursuing graduate degrees with an opportunity to complete the requirements for both degrees at an accelerated pace. This program allows eligible students to use a set of designated credits toward their bachelor's degrees and then also toward a future graduate degree or certificate. Missouri S&T offers two tracks within this program, outlined below.

Master's Track

Allows eligible students to apply up to nine credit hours of graduate courses (5000- and 6000-level lecture) taken while completing the bachelor's degree towards a future master's degree.

Courses designated as shared credits are registered as undergraduate credits, and therefore, they will be charged at the undergraduate tuition rate, and included in the cumulative undergraduate GPA. Shared credit courses cannot be factored into the cumulative graduate GPA and will not appear on the graduate transcript.

A student is eligible to apply to the pathway once the following criteria are met:

- Must be active in a bachelor's degree program (it is recommended students apply at least 30 days prior to completing the bachelor's degree).
- Must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00/4.00.
- Must have a minimum GPA of 3.50/4.00 in the group of designated courses specified by the department.

~~Eligible students must submit the Grad Track Pathway (GTP) Admission and Course Approval Form for approval to their undergraduate advisor, graduate advisor, department chair or designee, and then the approved application to the Graduate Education office. To be admitted to the pathway program, eligible students must submit an early provisional application to the intended master's degree program for the semester following the anticipated completion of the bachelor's degree.~~ Individual departments may require additional documents, such as statement of purpose, letters of recommendation, or standardized test scores.

Prior to completing the bachelor's degree, the student must also consult with their undergraduate and graduate advisor(s) to determine which courses will be designated as shared credits. This ensures that the courses will satisfy the requirements of the bachelor's degree and can be used toward the requirements of the master's degree. Once the courses are selected, the student must formally designate the courses selected for shared credits with the department chair/designee and the vice provost of graduate education. If changes occur at any time, the student must revise their plan in the same manner. The courses designated as shared credits must be accurate, and if changes occur at any time, the student must revise their last approved designation.

Students must maintain a cumulative GPA of at least 3.00 until they complete their bachelor's degree and receive a grade of B or better in the shared credit courses.

If all program requirements are met, the approved shared credit courses may be listed on the master's plan of study and be used to meet the requirements of the master's degree. ~~All courses approved for~~

Commented [JS1]: Change admission processes

Commented [JS2R1]: *Current process:* Student is required to submit a GTP Admission and Course Approval Form to be admitted into the GTP program and designate which courses will be used as shared credit. Form is reviewed/approved by undergraduate and graduate advisor(s), department chair/designee, and Graduate Education. Student submits formal application to master's degree upon completion of the bachelor's degree. Final check is completed by Graduate Education after the close of the semester in which the bachelor's degree is awarded to ensure all requirements of the GTP program have been met. *Proposed process:* Student would apply (provisionally) to the master's degree through Slate for the term following anticipated bachelor's degree completion, department and Graduate Admissions would be responsible for checking minimum admission requirements. Then, before completing the bachelor's degree, the student would be required to designate courses intended for shared credit, undergraduate and graduate advisor(s), department chair/designee and Graduate Education would be responsible for checking shared credit courses meet program requirements.

shared credits must meet the requirements and be listed on the master's plan of study. If any course does not meet the requirements, all shared credit is considered invalid that course will not be considered as part of the shared credits for the master's degree requirements.

Once the bachelor's degree is awarded with a cumulative GPA of 3.00/4.00, the student is fully admitted to the master's degree program, and the plan of study is approved, the courses designated as shared credit will be included on the student's graduate degree audit as part of the master's degree program requirements.

Ph.D. Track

Allows eligible students to apply up to twelve credit hours of graduate courses (5000- and 6000-level lecture) taken while completing the bachelor's degree towards a future Ph.D. degree.

Courses designated as shared credits are registered as undergraduate credits, and therefore, they will be charged at the undergraduate tuition rate, and included in the cumulative undergraduate GPA. Shared credit courses cannot be factored into the cumulative graduate GPA for the designated graduate degree programs and will not appear on the graduate transcript.

A student is eligible to apply to the pathway once the following criteria are met:

- a. Must be active in a bachelor's degree program (it is recommended students apply at least 30 days prior to completing the bachelor's degree).
- b. Must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.50/4.00.
- c. Must have a minimum departmental GPA of 3.75/4.00 (courses specified by department).

To be admitted to the pathway program, eligible students must submit an early provisional application to the Ph.D. degree program for the semester following the anticipated completion of the bachelor's degree. Individual departments may require additional documents, such as statement of purpose, letters of recommendation, or standardized test scores. It is recommended that the student identify a graduate advisor that is willing to work with them before applying into the PhD GTP Program. If accepted into the Ph.D. GTP Program, the student should be informed if any funding opportunities are available in the admission letter.

Prior to completing the bachelor's degree, the student must also consult with their undergraduate and graduate advisor(s) to determine which courses will be designated as shared credits. This ensures that the courses will satisfy the requirements of the bachelor's degree program and that they can be used toward the requirements of the Ph.D. degree program. Once the courses are selected, the student must formally designate the courses selected for shared credit with the department chair/designee and the vice provost of graduate education. If changes occur at any time, the student must revise their plan in the same manner. The courses designated as shared credits must be accurate, and if changes occur at any time, the student must revise their last approved designation.

Students must maintain a cumulative GPA of at least 3.50/4.00 until they complete their bachelor's degree and receive a grade of B or better in the shared credit courses.

If all program requirements are met, the approved shared credit courses may be listed on the Ph.D. plan of study and be used to meet the requirements of the Ph.D. degree program. If any course does not

Commented [JS3]: Remove all or nothing requirement of shared credit.

Commented [JS4R3]: *Current process:* If a student receives a C in a shared credit course, they are no longer eligible to use any shared credits toward the graduate degree.
Proposed process: Allow student to include any combination of the designated courses that they received an A or B in.

Commented [SJE5]: Add track for Ph.D. option.

Commented [SJE6R5]: Highlighted text indicates requirements that are different from the master's track.

Commented [SJE7]: Change contingent on vote for master's track.

meet the requirements, that course will not be considered as part of the shared credits for the Ph.D. degree requirements.

Once the bachelor's degree is awarded with a cumulative GPA of 3.50/4.00 and the student is fully admitted to the Ph.D. degree program, the courses designated as shared credits will be included on the student's graduate degree audit as part of the Ph.D. program requirements.

Additional Considerations

- Students can only participate in one pathway program. If recommended by the academic advisor(s) and department, students may also participate in the dual enrollment program. This program allows students the opportunity to earn credits toward their master's degree while completing their bachelor's degree by enrolling in both undergraduate and graduate courses concurrently, during the last one or two semesters of their bachelor's degree. Courses designated as graduate credit as part of the dual enrollment program can only be used toward the graduate degree program and cannot be used to meet the requirements of the bachelor's degree program.
- Students may participate in a pathway program outside of their undergraduate discipline if they meet the requirements of the graduate program they intend to enroll. In some cases, such students may be required to complete specified courses by enrollees from other disciplines. Students must work with the graduate advisor to ensure that the courses are appropriate to meet the requirements of the graduate degree.

Commented [SJE8]: Change contingent on vote for master's track.