

## EARLY ENTRY GRADUATE PROGRAM APPLICATION

**Department:** Religious Studies

**Program (degree/certificate and major):** M.A. in Religious Studies

**Requestor Name:** Joanne Robinson/Sean McCloud **Date:** December 11, 2015

On behalf of the department named above, I hereby request permission to implement an Early Entry Graduate Program option so that exceptional UNC Charlotte undergraduate students may begin work toward a graduate degree/certificate before completion of the baccalaureate degree. Based on the published guidelines for an Early Entry Program, the program summary and our criteria for admission and continued enrollment are as follows:

### Mechanism

1. Students must complete their baccalaureate degrees before they complete 15 hours of graduate credit.
2. Up to 12 hours earned at the graduate level *may* be substituted for required undergraduate hours ~~with permission of a student's Undergraduate Coordinator. In other words, up to 12 hours of~~ graduate work may be "double counted" toward both the baccalaureate and graduate degrees, but permission to do so is at the discretion of the Undergraduate Coordinator.
3. To facilitate registration, billing, and financial aid, registration holds are put on Early Entry student records. Students must submit an approved Early Entry Program form to the Graduate School for approval prior to enrollment.

### Application and Admission Requirements

1. A student may be accepted to the Early Entry Program at any time after completion of 75 (*minimum* 75) semester hours of undergraduate work applicable to the appropriate baccalaureate degree although it is expected that at least 90 hours will have been earned by the time the first graduate course is taken.
2. The application process and all required documentation (e.g., test scores, transcripts, recommendations) is the same for Early Entry students as for other applicants unless an exception is requested herein (ie: test scores are waived). Exception Requested: GRE scores waived.
3. To be accepted, an undergraduate student must have at least a 3.2 cumulative undergraduate GPA.
4. Admission must be recommended by the Graduate Program Director and approved by the Graduate School.
5. Admission is generally limited to two to three semesters pending the award of the undergraduate degree. Exceptions may be considered on a case by case base.

### Continued Enrollment Requirements

Students must:

- Provide a completed Early Entry Program Form to the Graduate School for approval prior to registering for course work each semester. For domestic students, failure to submit the Form in a prompt manner may impact Financial Aid.
- Maintain a strong academic record at the undergraduate and graduate levels, respectively (cumulative GPA  $\geq 3.0$ ). Students who do not meet the normal admission requirement of a 3.0 cumulative undergraduate GPA at the end of his/her baccalaureate degree will be dismissed from the graduate program, and are subject to the same policies that pertain to other matriculated graduate students.

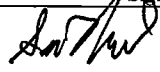

### Financial Aid and Tuition

Students will:

- Be considered for undergraduate financial aid and funding prior to completion of 121 semester hours of undergraduate credit.
- Be considered for graduate financial assistance after completion of the baccalaureate degree.
- Be considered for a graduate assistantship after completion of the baccalaureate degree.
- Be charged graduate tuition and fees after completion of the baccalaureate degree.

- Pay undergraduate tuition and fees for all courses (*graduate and undergraduate*) for which they register until such time that the baccalaureate degree is earned; program-based tuition increments are waived for Early Entry students until the baccalaureate degree is awarded.

**Early Entry Program Approval**

Date Received	Date Considered	Date Forwarded	Action	Signature
12/11/15	12/14/15		Approve	 Graduate Program Director
12/11/15	12/14/15		approve	 Department Chair/School Director
				Graduate Dean