

Robert Morris University
Office of Graduate Admissions
Accelerated 4+1
&
Counseling Psychology 3+2
Student Handbook
2026 - 2027

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Welcome

Thank you for your interest in the Accelerated Program at Robert Morris University. In today's highly competitive job market, having both an undergraduate and graduate degree can give you a distinct advantage and make you more valuable to potential employers. RMU knows you want to get the most out of your time. That's why we offer a selection of Accelerated Programs that enable you to earn both a bachelor's and a master's degree in around five years.

This handbook will outline the application process, as well as provide helpful information that will help you to decide if the Accelerated Program is a good fit for you.

We look forward to further discussing your interest in the program!
graduateadmissions@rmu.edu

Accelerated Program Offerings

The Accelerated Program is available to qualified, on-ground bachelor's degree seeking students.

- BSBA/MBA
- BS Applied Mathematics, concentration in Financial Mathematics/MBA
- BS Engineering/MBA
- BS in Computer Information Systems/MBA
- BS in Cybersecurity/MBA
- BS in Data Analytics/MBA
- BS in Health Science (all concentrations)/MBA
- BS Engineering/MS Engineering Management
- BS Psychology/MS Counseling Psychology (3+2 Program)
- Any Bachelor's/MS Leadership & Organizational Studies
- Any Bachelor's/MS Cyber Investigation & Intelligence
- Any Bachelor's/MS Cybersecurity
- Any Bachelor's/MS Data Analytics
- Any Bachelor's/MS Data Science
- Any Bachelor's/MS Information Systems Management
- Any Bachelor's/MS Applied Artificial Intelligence

Admission Criteria

MBA

- Accelerated program application – www.rmu.edu/accelerated
- Applications must be completed in spring semester of junior year or when applicant has earned 90 credits, but no more than 100 earned credits
- 3.0 GPA (GMAT is required if GPA is below 3.0)
- 1 page essay describing your interest in earning the degree
- Resume

Engineering Management

- Accelerated program application – www.rmu.edu/accelerated
- 2.8 overall GPA and 3.0 GPA in RMU engineering courses
- 81-96 earned credits
- Personal statement of interest (3-5 paragraph describing personal interest in the program and professional/educational goals)
- 2 professional letters of recommendation (one letter must come from a faculty member)
- Resume

Counseling Psychology (3+2 Program)

- Accelerated program application – www.rmu.edu/accelerated
- 3.0 GPA
- 3rd year students who already applied to get on the counseling psychology concentration track
- 500 word essay answering "What has led you to pursue a career as a professional counselor?"
- 2 professional letters of recommendation (one letter must come from a faculty member)
- Resume

Leadership & Organizational Studies

- Accelerated program application – www.rmu.edu/accelerated
- 2.8 overall GPA, 3.0 major GPA
- 87-108 earned credits
- 750-1000 word essay detailing academic and professional goals
- Resume

Cyber Investigations & Intelligence

- Accelerated program application – www.rmu.edu/accelerated
- Applications must be completed in the spring semester of junior year or when the applicant has earned 90 credits.
- 3.0 overall GPA

Cybersecurity/ Data Science/ Data Analytics/ Information Systems Management/ Artificial Intelligence

- Accelerated program application – www.rmu.edu/accelerated
- 2.8 overall GPA, 3.0 major GPA, 3.0 for computing courses
- 87-108 earned credits
- Students applying to the **Artificial Intelligence MS** are encouraged to take the following prerequisite courses as open electives to prepare them to begin the MS in AI program:
    - STAT 2110 Statistics & INFS 3240 Python Programming or similar courses

Program Directors

If you have academic/course/scheduling related questions about the Accelerated Program please arrange an appointment with the appropriate program director.

MBA
Dr. Jacob Peng
Email: peng@rmu.edu
412-397-6385

Engineering
Dr. Jameela Al-Jaroodi
Email: aljaroodi@rmu.edu
412-397-4053

Counseling Psychology
Dr. Neha Pandit
Email: pandit@rmu.edu

CIS Programs
Dr. Natalya Bromall
Email: bromall@rmu.edu
412-397-6435

Leadership & Organizational Studies
Dr. Heather Pinson
Email: pinson@rmu.edu
412-397-6463

Cyber Investigations and Intelligence & Cybersecurity
Dr. Frank Hartle
Email: hartle@rmu.edu
412-953-5026

International Students, Student-Athletes & Veterans

Prior to making an application to the Accelerated Program please contact the following staff members regarding your eligibility:

International Students:

Jennifer Creamer
Office Phone: 412-397-6887
creamer@rmu.edu
On-campus location: Colonial Village #2

Student-Athletes:

Dr. Kevin Deitrick	Dr. Jose Garcia
Office Phone: 412-397-6864	Office Phone: 412-397-6327
deitrick@rmu.edu	garcia@rmu.edu
On-campus location: Solutions Central	On-campus location: Athletics

Veterans:

Christie McFadden
Office Phone: 412-397-5435
mcfaddenc@rmu.edu
On-campus location: Jefferson Center 106

Accelerated Contract

Once your completed application is received, it will be sent to the program director for review. A decision is typically rendered within 7-14 days. If you're admitted into the program, you'll be asked to sign the Accelerated Student Contract. The contract will come to you via email.

It is important to thoroughly review and understand the contract prior to signing and submitting.

Robert Morris University
Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's Program
Student Enrollment Agreement (SAMPLE)

The following terms must be understood and agreed upon by each student who wishes to enter the Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's program. Please read each statement below carefully and then sign on the bottom of the form to indicate your understanding and agreement with each statement.

1. ***I understand that I will forgo earning my bachelor's degree until I have met all of the necessary academic requirements to receive my accelerated degree. No interim bachelor degree will be awarded and I will not be able to participate in a commencement exercise until my accelerated program requirements have been met.*** Once my accelerated degree is complete, I can elect to have either my bachelor's or master's degree conferred at the appropriate commencement exercises.

2. I agree that once I am officially placed into the accelerated program, I will begin to pay the University's blended flat rate of tuition. ***I understand that I will be charged the blended flat rate of tuition for the very next term that I enroll in classes regardless of the term I applied for as my desired entry term for the accelerated program.*** Entering the accelerated program means that I will forfeit my ability to pay for courses on a per credit basis (unless taking under 12 credits in a semester at which point I will pay a per credit rate that is a hybrid of the current per credit rate of graduate and undergraduate tuition).

3. If I elect to leave the accelerated program at any time after I am placed into it, I will return to my original undergraduate check sheet. I will receive credit toward my undergraduate requirements for graduate work completed when applicable. If I elect to make this change, I understand that I will then be placed on the University's traditional flat rate of tuition. If my bachelor's degree requirements are met once I leave the accelerated program, my bachelor's degree will be conferred at the end of the term during which I changed majors. The degree will not be backdated.

4. I understand that credits earned in one degree will not be applied towards the second degree with related content. In this case, advanced placement will be applied, and a course substitution will be approved by the department head.

5. I understand that I will continue to be eligible to receive institutional aid for a total of 10 semesters once accepted into the accelerated program. Students must maintain full-time status, which is a minimum of 12 credits each fall and spring semester, in order to continue to receive institutional aid. The 12 credits may be a combination of graduate and undergraduate work. ***Graduate level enrollment can impact eligibility for federal and state grant aid, as well as federal student loan eligibility. Students should review full policy wording at rmu.edu/finaid.***

Athletic scholarships are determined annually by individual coaches following NCAA regulations. If you are a student-athlete you should have already discussed your interest in the accelerated program with Dr. Kevin Deitrick or Danny Bonaventura.

6. I understand that to earn my accelerated bachelor's and master's degrees, I must meet the enrollment and graduation standards of the accelerated degree program at the undergraduate level, as well as meet the college's graduation requirements to receive an undergraduate and graduate degree.

7. I understand that I will complete the requirements for the approved master's degree only. Once my accelerated degree is complete, I can apply through the Office of Graduate Admissions to earn a second master's degree according to the Change of Graduate Degree Program Policy and Graduate Second Master's Degree Policy.

Financial Aid

RMU Financial Aid Office
Revere Center, Lower Level
412-397-6250
finaid@rmu.edu

Students will continue to be eligible to receive institutional aid for a total of 10 semesters once accepted into the accelerated program. Students must maintain full-time status, which is a minimum of 12 credits each fall and spring semester, in order to continue to receive institutional aid. The 12 credits may be a combination of graduate and undergraduate work.

If you have additional questions about Financial Aid please contact you counselor based on last name initial:

Last Names starting with A-G:	**Last Names starting with H-O:**	**Last Names starting with P-Z:**
Chris Schmidt schmidt@rmu.edu 412-397-6256	Dustin Coffman coffman@rmu.edu 412-397-6259	Dawn Geregach geregach@rmu.edu 412-397-6258

Important Financial Aid Information

Grants

Eligible students will continue to receive their federal Title IV aid until the student has earned the total number of credits normally required for the bachelor's degree, generally 120 credits but depends on the program of study.

For PA state state grant recipients, once the student is accepted into the program, state grants are reviewed each term until they earn the bachelor level credits. The grant amount will be determined based on registered undergraduate courses. If the student carries at least 12 undergraduate credits, full PA state grants will be considered for eligible students. Part-time PA state grants may be awarded in the fourth year if the student carries at least six undergraduate credits.

Loans

Graduate and undergraduate loans differ in the amount of money that a student is able to borrow. Accelerated program students are eligible to borrow at the graduate level once they have earned the bachelor level credits. Students can apply for graduate level loans using the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Repayment obligation for undergraduate loans will be deferred until after the graduate degree is complete.

Institutional Aid

Students are eligible to receive institutional aid for a total of 10 semesters once accepted into the integrated program. Students must maintain full-time status, which is a minimum of 12 credits each fall and spring semester, in order to continue to receive institutional aid. The 12 credits may be a combination of graduate and undergraduate course work.

Athletic Scholarship

These are determined annually by individual coaches following NCAA regulations.

If you have additional questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to your Financial Aid Counselor directly. ***If you are a student-athlete you should have already discussed your interest in the accelerated program with Dr. Kevin Deitrick or Danny Bonaventura.***

Contact information, as well as full financial aid policy wording related to the Accelerated Program can be found RMU.EDU/FINAID.