

Applications for the Accelerated Graduation Program, AY 2017 Fall Semester

July 2017, Academic Office

1. What is the Accelerated Graduation Program?

APU offers an accelerated graduation program that enables students to graduate in the shortest period of time – three years or three years and one semester. This course is designed to encourage the academic efforts of ambitious students who wish to graduate early, while at the same time fulfilling their various coursework needs at APU.

Students who aim for early graduation must first register for the Accelerated Graduation Program, proceed with taking extra classes and fulfill specific requirements. Furthermore, each student must have a clear image in their minds of their future plans, and be ready to make the continuous efforts to achieve those goals.

Once you have been accepted for the Accelerated Graduation Program, the maximum number of credits you can register will increase. Second-year students may register for 300 and 400 level subjects (with some exceptions). Students who wish to take subjects in their non-basis language must fulfill the designated requirements for the curriculum that they are following.

● Notes

Transfer from a non-4 year university or 3rd year transfer students will be ineligible to register for the Accelerated Graduation Program.

● Regarding International and Domestic Student Exchange

Students who are thinking of apply for international (overseas partner universities) or domestic (Ritsumeikan University, AIU, etc.) Student Exchange Programs should consult with the APU Student Exchange Coordinator regarding whether it will be possible for you to do both before submitting an application for the Accelerated Graduation Program. [Accelerated graduation program students are not permitted to participate in Exchange Programs in their final semester.](#)

2. AY 2017 Fall Semester Application and Selection Procedures

1) Initial Application (during the student's second semester)

Students in their 2nd semester are eligible to apply to begin the Program from their 3rd semester. Screening will be conducted upon the completion of the 4th semester. Those students who do not meet the criteria will be removed from the Accelerated Graduation Program.

<Eligibility Requirements>

***Completion of at least 32 credits by the end of the 2nd semester, and a cumulative GPA of at least 3.20.**

<Re-evaluation Criteria>

*Completion of at least 74 credits by the end of the 4th semester, and a cumulative GPA of at least 3.20.

*Completion of all required language courses by the end of the 4th semester. However, students must have completed the full language course for eligibility.

2) Supplemental Application (during the student's 4th semester)

Applications to the Accelerated Graduation Program are also accepted in the 4th semester for entrance into the Program in the 5th semester. Applications will be accepted from new applicants and from applicants who were previously unsuccessful.

<Eligibility Requirements>

*Completion of at least 64 credits by the end of the 4th semester, and a cumulative GPA of at least 3.20.

*Completion of all required language courses by the end of the 4th semester.

<AY 2017 Fall Semester Application period>

● Where and When to Submit Applications:

• Time: **Monday, July 10, 10:00 – Friday, July 14, 16:30 (end) 2017**

• Download the "Applications for the Accelerated Graduate Program" form from Academic Office website.

Complete and survey, and attach the form to submit.

•Your file name should be **your “ ID number(8 digits)_Name(your name as shown on your students ID card).doc or .docx**.

●**Announcement of Selected Registrants**

Successful applicants will be announced on the same day as the release of grade reports
(Monday September 11, 2017).

※Applicants will be notified of results in the **Action Required** section of the Campus Terminal.

3. Graduation Selection Period Survey Application

In regards to graduating by the 6th or 7th semester, all students registered to the “Accelerated Graduation Program” will have a “Graduation Selection Period Application” to fill out every semester. It is necessary for all students registered to the “Accelerated Graduation Program” to select a Graduation Selection Period through this regular application. Inquiries will be done through Action Required of the Campus Terminal on the semester results release day.

4. Graduation Assessment

Students registered for the Accelerated Graduation Program, will be asked to complete a survey each semester to confirm the student’s semester of graduation. Students registered in this program are required to notify the University of the Semester that they intend to graduate by filling out the survey. Students will be able to graduate early if they have fulfilled the following conditions, and if upon the interview, they are considered suitable for early graduation.

<Eligibility Requirements>

*Submission of the Graduation Assessment Application at the beginning of the semester of intended graduation

*Completion of at least 124 credits in the requisite fields

*Cumulative GPA of 3.20 or higher

*Completion of at least 20 credits of Lecture/Seminar subjects held in non-basis language (excluding J/E classes)

*Must have passing marks for an interview taken during their intended semester of graduation

Students will not be able to graduate in their 6th or 7th semester if they do not fulfill all of the above requirements. If you do not fulfill the requirements, you will only be permitted to graduate after your 8th semester like other regular students.

***Announcement of Graduation Assessment Results**

Results will be announced on the graduation results release date of the semester of their intended graduation.

5. Research Projects and Courses

Students registered for the Accelerated Graduation Program differ in how they approach their research projects (3rd & 4th year seminars) compared to regular students. Especially for students intending on graduating in their 6th semester, the year starting from their 5th semester must be spent writing and completing their undergraduate theses.

For those students who are intending on registering for a research project, please refer to the “Undergraduate Academic Handbook”, and check the Research Project page for details. Also, make sure to work with an instructor-in-charge to get advice and help in organizing yourself an appropriate study plan.

6. Scholarships

International students receiving a reduction in tuition fees who have become Accelerated Graduation Program students should confirm the content of the scholarship reduction in the Student Office's "The Guide to Scholarships."

7. International Student Residency Status

Please note that for Accelerated Graduation Program students can apply to extend their student visa only until the end of their 6th or 7th semester accordingly.

※ If you have any questions regarding your residency status, please consult with the Student Office.

8. Cancellation of Accelerated Graduation Program

Once students are registered in the Accelerated Graduation Program, students are not allowed to cancel the program for any reason.

Students' registration will be revoked if students do not meet necessary conditions at a rescreening at the end of the 4th semester or students do not pass an Accelerated Graduation Assessment at the end of the 7th semester.