

Application Deadlines

- ☆ High school seniors: May 15th (for priority consideration, apply to SOU no later than February 1st)
- ☆ Fall term first-year students: October 15th of your first term at SOU

About the Program

The Accelerated Baccalaureate Program--known fondly around campus as the "Acc Bacc"--is a unique program that allows students to earn a bachelor's degree in just three years, saving a year's worth of tuition and other college expenses. It's very simple: by granting waivers for high school course work, the AccBacc program reduces the number of credits required for graduation. Acc Bacc students enjoy a normal courseload, have time to participate in extracurricular activities, and complete their college degree in just three years.

Please note that the Acc Bacc is not a program for transfer students. Students transferring a large amount credits will not likely benefit from Acc Bacc waivers.

Student's chosen major must be in an academic department that participates in the Accelerated Baccalaureate Program. The following majors are available to Acc Bacc students:

- Business Administration
- Communication
- Computer Science
- Criminal Justice
- Digital Cinema
- Economics
- Education Studies
- Emerging Media & Digital Arts (EMDA)
- English
- Environmental Science & Policy
- Gender, Sexuality & Women's Studies
- Health & Exercise Science
- History
- International Studies
- Mathematics
- Outdoor Adventure Leadership
- Political Science
- Psychology
- Sociology & Anthropology
- Spanish Language & Culture
- Sustainability

Students may choose to complete a minor or certificate program while pursuing their undergraduate degree. A minor can be from any department on campus.

Applications for the Accelerated Baccalaureate Program are reviewed by The Degree in Three faculty committee. This committee determines the appropriate number of credit waivers in each

area of SOU's general education requirements based on factors such as coursework, writing samples and letters of recommendation. Students who are accepted into the program are granted between 8-24 general education credits and 21 elective credits, and must successfully complete 135-151 additional credits at SOU.

To ensure normal progress toward degree completion, Acc Bacc students develops a three-year plan during their first term at SOU. Students who do not make normal progress for any reason (e.g., illness, change of major, academic problems) are required to switch the regular four-year degree program (180 credits); any credits waivers granted by the Acc Bacc committee are removed from the transcript.

Criteria for Admission

To be considered for the Accelerated Baccalaureate Degree Program, an applicant must meet the criteria listed below:

1. Possess superior GPA and/or standardized test scores, as defined below:
 - a. Have at least a 3.4 unweighted high school GPA (on a 4.0 scale).
2. Have already selected a major.

How to Apply

Before applying for the Acc Bacc Program, students must first be fully admitted to SOU. Please visit the Admissions office website at www.sou.edu/admissions for further information on applying for admission to the University.

To obtain current application materials, visit <https://sou.edu/admissions/apply/>.

To apply for the Acc Bacc Program, please prepare the following materials submission:

- The Accelerated Baccalaureate **application form**.
- A copy of your **high school transcript**.
- Proof of completed **AP, IB, CLEP or other advanced credit**.
- Your current **resume**, detailing any relevant awards, honors, extracurricular achievements and/or interests.
- A **personal essay** (minimum 500 words) addressing your interest in the Accelerated Baccalaureate program and the major you have chosen.
 - This essay should discuss the qualities and abilities you possess that would make you successful in the program (e.g., self-discipline, writing and critical thinking skills, academic accomplishments in your chosen major). The analytical and research qualities of this essay are used to assess your writing and critical thinking ability for a possible general education reduction in that area.

☐ **Two samples of exceptionally well-written work.**

- One sample should be a recent research paper or expository essay that demonstrates the ability to write skillfully, evaluate information critically and support a thesis statement effectively (please do not submit creative writing samples).
- Preferably, one sample should be related to the selected major. This sample is a written assignment or project (which may also include photographs, artwork, videos, or any other media) that demonstrates an ability, dedication and interest in your chosen major.
- Both samples should show mastery of a recognized style of documentation (MLA, APA, Chicago, etc.)

☐ **Two letters of recommendation.** Please use the **Accelerated Baccalaureate recommendation form** for all recommendations.

- Job or volunteer supervisors in an area related to the chosen major are acceptable.
- For High school applicants: At least two recommendation forms must be from a teacher. Select teachers who can talk about your abilities in different subject areas.
- For Fall-term first-year applicants: At least one recommendation should be from a recent high school teacher or counselor. An SOU faculty member or another high school teacher or counselor would also be a good choice.

For more information, please contact Dr. Deborah Brown, faculty administrator to the Degree in Three programs, at abp@sou.edu

Note: If a student leaves the program, all waived credits will be removed from your transcript and are not transferrable to other universities. Coursework must be completed within three years.