

Application Deadlines

- ★ High school seniors: May 15th (for priority consideration, apply to SOU no later than February 1st)
- ★ Fall term freshmen: 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 you to earn your bachelor's degree in just three years, saving you a year's worth of tuition and other college expenses. It's very simple: by granting you waivers for your high school course work, the Acc Bacc program reduces the number of credits required for graduation. Acc Bacc students enjoy a normal course load, 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... if you're transferring too many credits, our waivers would not be to your benefit.

Your chosen major must be in an academic department that is able to participate in the Accelerated Baccalaureate Program. The following majors are available to Acc Bacc students:

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| ★ Business Administration | ★ Foreign Language & Literature: Spanish ** |
| ★ Communication | ★ Health, Physical Education & Leadership |
| ★ Computer Science | ★ History |
| ★ Creative Writing | ★ International Studies |
| ★ Criminology and Criminal Justice | ★ Mathematics |
| ★ Economics | ★ Outdoor Adventure Leadership |
| ★ Elementary Education | ★ Political Science |
| ★ Emerging Media & Digital Arts (EMDA) * | ★ Psychology |
| ★ English | ★ Sociology & Anthropology |

* EMDA degree seekers are required to submit a digital art portfolio in addition to the Acc Bacc application portfolio.

** Spanish degree seekers may require an in-person interview in addition to the Acc Bacc application portfolio.

You may also choose to complete a minor or certificate program while pursuing your undergraduate degree, to support your career goals and major studies. Your minor can be from any department on campus.

Applications for the Accelerated Baccalaureate Program are reviewed by a faculty committee comprised of professors from each discipline. This committee determines the appropriate number of credit waivers in each area of SOU's general education requirements, based on factors such as coursework and letters of recommendation. Students who are accepted into the program are granted 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, each Acc Bacc student 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 rendered invalid. There is no “penalty” for leaving the Accelerated Baccalaureate Program; you simply become a regular, four-year student.

Criteria for Admission

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

1. Possess superior GPA and/or standardized test scores, as defined below:
 - a. Cumulative high school GPA of **3.4**; *or*
 - b. Cumulative high school GPA of **3.2** *and* a combined SAT score of at least **1150** on the Critical Reading and Mathematics sections with neither section below 500; *or*
 - c. Cumulative high school GPA of **3.2** *and* a composite ACT score of **25** with scores of at least 22 on both Mathematics and English sections.
2. Have already selected your major.

How to Apply

Before applying for the Acc Bacc Program, you 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 www.sou.edu/abp/apply.html.

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

- The Accelerated Baccalaureate **application form**.
- A copy of your **high school transcript**.
- Proof of completed **AP, IB, CLEP or other advanced credit**.
- A copy of your **SAT and/or ACT scores**.
- 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 your writing ability, your ability to critically evaluate information from different sources and your ability to present a clear, effective argument to support your thesis statement (please do not submit creative writing samples).
 - Preferably, one sample should be related to the major you've selected. This sample is a written assignment or project (which may also include photographs, artwork, videos, or any other media) that demonstrates your ability, dedication and interest in your chosen major.
 - Both samples should show mastery of a recognized style of citation (MLA, APA, Chicago, etc.)
- **Three letters of recommendation.** Please use the **Accelerated Baccalaureate recommendation form** for all three recommendations.
 - If you have a job or volunteer in an area related to the major you've chosen, you may want to ask your supervisor to complete a recommendation form.
 - High school applicants: At least two recommendation forms should be from your teachers. One of these needs to be from a current teacher; the other could be from another current teacher or one you had last year. You want to select teachers who know you well and can talk about your abilities in different subject areas. Choosing a teacher who can talk about your preparation for the major you've selected would be an excellent choice. Do not choose two teachers from the same subject area.
 - Fall-term freshmen applicants: At least one recommendation should be from a high school teacher or counselor you had during your senior year. Choosing an individual who can talk about your preparation for the major you've selected would be an excellent choice. If there is an SOU faculty member or another high school teacher or counselor who knows you well and can talk about your abilities in different subject areas, he/she would also be a good choice.