



Innovations in Graduate Education

Cutting Edge/Forward-Thinking Ideas to Ensure the Success of Graduate Education in the Future

Arizona State University

Graduate College Presenters



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ASU Charter

ASU is a comprehensive **public research university**, measured not by whom it excludes, but by **whom it includes** and **how they succeed**; advancing **research and discovery** of public value; and assuming **fundamental responsibility** for the economic, social, cultural and overall health of the **communities it serves**.

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ASU Graduate Education

Meets today's
student needs

Leverages
streamlined
technology

Advances
innovative
thinking

Expands access

ASU Charter

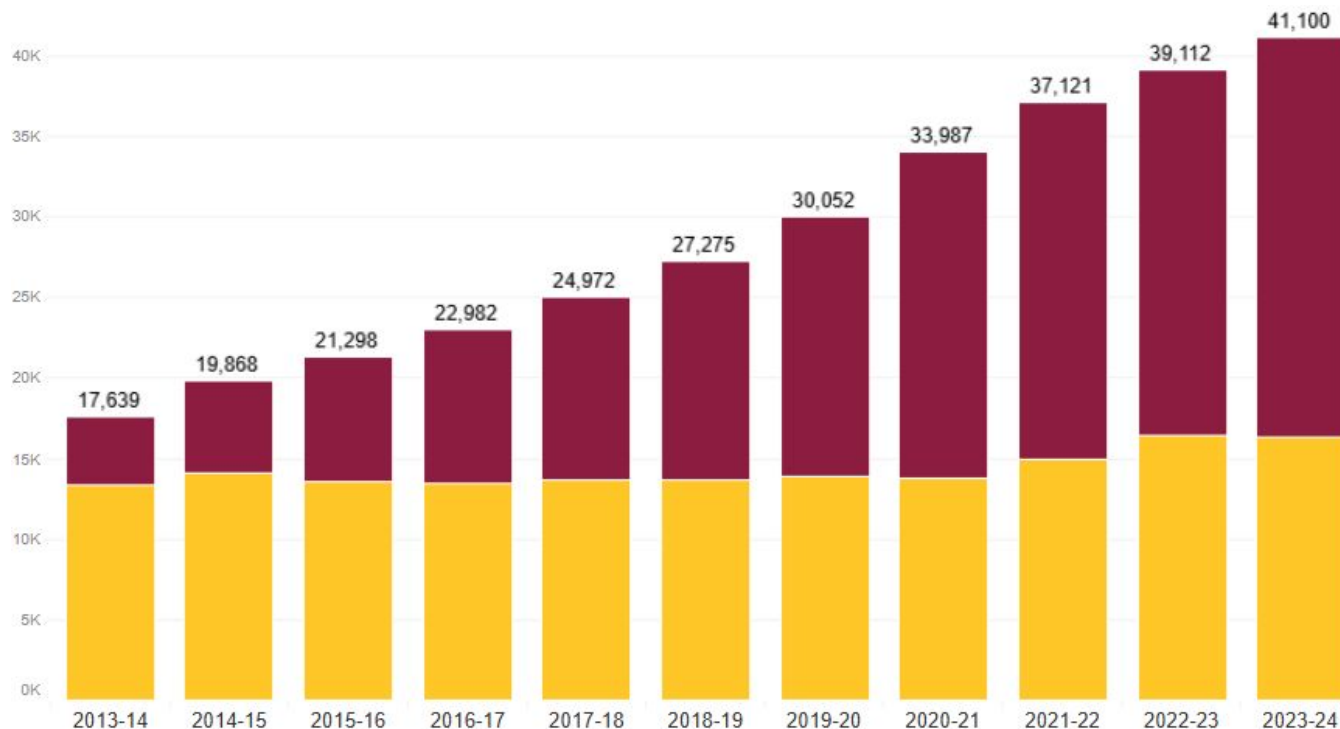
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Graduate Education Actions

- **Remove barriers to admission**
 - Offer automatic, **personalized graduate admission** for ASU undergraduate students into select master's programs
 - Offer **automated admission** to Accelerated Master's Program candidates to their master's degree program
- **Create new entry points/ways to earn master's degrees - Stackable Programs**
 - Certificate to master's degree
 - Microcertificate to master's degree
 - **Master of Advanced Study**

Graduate student enrollment



2023-24 Graduate Student Enrollment

Digital immersion

24,751

Campus immersion

16,349

Doctoral

4,821

Law

780

Master's

32,119

Non-degree

3,380

ASU Personalized Graduate Admissions

ASU Personalized Graduate Admissions

A new **automatic** entryway to admit qualified ASU undergraduate students to master's degrees.

ASU undergraduate students who meet the minimum admissions criteria for one or more degree programs are identified

Notification to students contain Personalized Graduate Admissions offer

Student chooses a program and selects start term

Student is automatically admitted to the selected program

ASUPGA Mappings

	Undergraduate Programs	Graduate Programs
The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences	BA Geography	MA Geography
	BS Geography	MAS Geographic Information Systems
	BS Geographic Information Science	MUEP Urban and Environmental Planning
	BSP Urban Planning	
College of Global Futures	BA Sustainability	MA Sustainability
	BS Sustainability	MS Sustainability
		MS Global Sustainability Science
		MSL Sustainability Leadership
		MSUS Sustainability Solutions

ASUPGA Mappings

	Undergraduate Programs	Graduate Programs
My College (The College)	BA Geography BS Geography BS Geographic Information Science BSP Urban Planning	MA Geography MAS Geographic Information Systems MUEP Urban and Environmental Planning
Not My College (CGF)	BA Sustainability BS Sustainability	MA Sustainability MS Sustainability MS Global Sustainability Science MSL Sustainability Leadership MSUS Sustainability Solutions

```

graph LR
    subgraph "My College (The College)"
        BA_G[BA Geography]
        BS_G[BS Geography]
        BS_GIS[BS Geographic Information Science]
        BSP_UP[BSP Urban Planning]
    end
    subgraph "Not My College (CGF)"
        BA_S[BA Sustainability]
        BS_S[BS Sustainability]
    end
    subgraph "Graduate Programs"
        MA_G[MA Geography]
        MAS_GIS[MAS Geographic Information Systems]
        MUEP[MUEP Urban and Environmental Planning]
        MA_S[MA Sustainability]
        MS_S[MS Sustainability]
        MS_GSS[MS Global Sustainability Science]
        MSL_SL[MSL Sustainability Leadership]
        MSUS_SS[MSUS Sustainability Solutions]
    end
    BA_G -- "3.0 GPA" --> MA_G
    BA_G -- "3.0 GPA" --> MAS_GIS
    BA_G -- "3.0 GPA" --> MUEP
    BS_G -- "3.5 GPA" --> MA_G
    BS_GIS -- "3.8 GPA" --> MAS_GIS
    BSP_UP -- "No GPA" --> MA_S
    BSP_UP -- "No GPA" --> MS_S
    BSP_UP -- "No GPA" --> MS_GSS
    BSP_UP -- "No GPA" --> MSL_SL
    BSP_UP -- "No GPA" --> MSUS_SS
    BA_S -- "No GPA" --> MA_S
    BS_S -- "No GPA" --> MS_S
    BS_S -- "No GPA" --> MS_GSS
    BS_S -- "No GPA" --> MSL_SL
    BS_S -- "No GPA" --> MSUS_SS
  
```

Invitation

Personalized Admission Offer

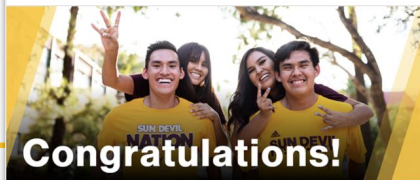
Congratulations! You have been offered admission to a master's degree program at Arizona State University.

Upon review of your academic achievements, this offer for personalized graduate admission is a result of your accomplishments and hard work.

[View my Personalized Graduate Admissions offer](#)

This customized offer includes descriptions of the degree programs to which you have been offered admission, an overview of the required coursework and possible career outcomes. To accept this offer, select the program, campus and semester for which you want to enroll. Space is limited, and **the deadline to accept or decline your offer is June 1, 2024.**

This decision is important, and you have a lot to consider. We have prepared some [frequently asked questions](#) and a short [video](#) with more information.



Dear %First Name%% %Last Name%%,

You are being offered admission to a master's degree program at Arizona State University.

We reviewed your academic achievements and are excited to offer you admission to select ASU master's degrees. You do not need to apply! We are thrilled to recognize your accomplishments with this invitation, which reflects your hard work.

Next steps

- ☒ **No need to apply!**
You do not need to apply or pay the application fee. You already have a pending offer.
- ☒ **View your Personalized Graduate Admissions offer.**
See a list of the graduate degree programs offering you admission.
- ☒ **Accept or decline your offer by May 2 at noon.**
Space is limited. The deadline to respond is Friday, May 2, 2025 at 12 p.m., Arizona time. You will be unable to accept your offer after the deadline has passed, so take action now!

[View Your Personalized Graduate Admissions Offer](#)

We hope that you continue your education at ASU.

Refer to the [FAQs](#) for info about your offer, cost of attendance and funding opportunities. [Email us](#) if you have any unanswered questions.

Wishing you continued success!




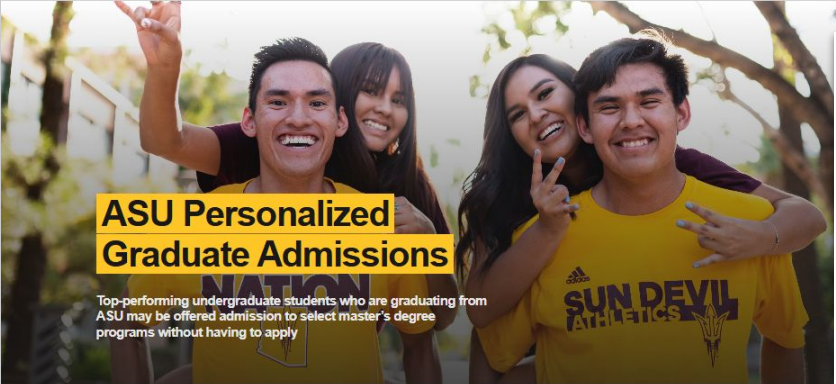
Elizabeth Wentz
Vice Provost and Dean
Graduate College

Libby Wentz

Website

<https://graduate.asu.edu/personalized-graduate-admissions>

**Graduate College**
[Home](#) [Future Students](#) [Current Students](#) [Resources for Faculty and Staff](#) [Postdocs](#) [About](#)



ASU Personalized Graduate Admissions
Top-performing undergraduate students who are graduating from ASU may be offered admission to select master's degree programs without having to apply

On This Page: [About](#) [Participating programs](#) [Value of a master's degree](#) [Making the decision](#) [Cost of attendance](#) [FAQ](#) [Contact](#)

About ASU's Personalized Graduate Admissions
ASU Personalized Graduate Admissions is a streamlined opportunity for ASU undergraduate students to continue their studies at ASU to pursue a graduate degree. We review the academic achievements of qualified ASU undergraduate students and offer them admission into participating master's degree programs. Students do not need to apply.
Admission invitations are emailed to highly qualified ASU undergraduate students each semester. Students can accept or decline their customized offer using a personalized link in their email.

Frequently Asked Questions

About ASU Personalized Graduate Admissions

My admission offer

Evaluating your admission offer

Accepting your admission offer

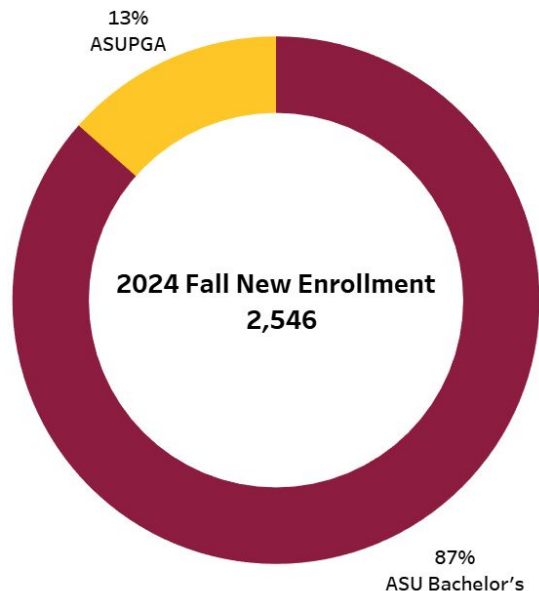
Cost of attendance and funding

Graduate student success

Requesting program changes

International students

Master's enrollment growth via ASUPGA



*Note: This captures new master's enrollment from ASU undergraduate students. It does not include new enrollment from students with bachelor's degrees from other universities.

Inspiring students

- ◆ Inspired students who had not initially planned on attending graduate school to consider it.
- ◆ Introduced students to degrees they had not previously considered.
- ◆ Many students found the offer to graduate school rewarding as it acknowledged their hard work.

“ It exposed me to a program that I was not considering and turned out to be a better fit.”

“ The recognition of my hard work during my undergraduate studies by offering this process.”

Stackable Programs

Council of Graduate Schools report

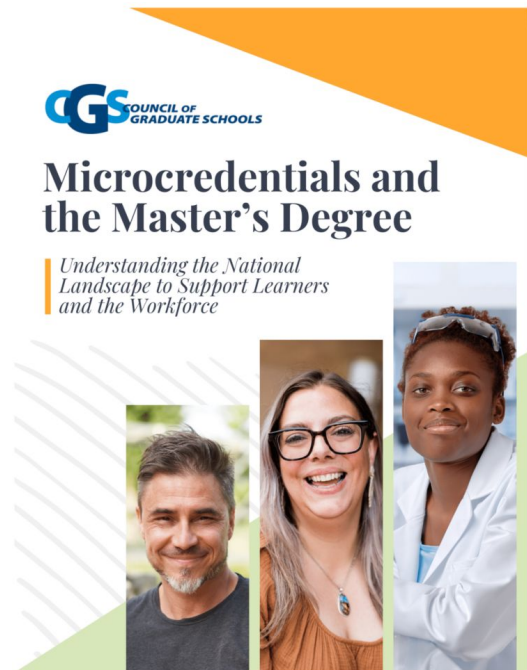
Microcredentials and the Master's Degree

Key findings

- Projected growth is expected to come from microcredentials
- Academic units driving their creation
- “Stacking” certificates into degrees is still in development at many institutions.

[Report: Microcredentials and the Master's Degree](#)

[Webinar: Making the Case for Incremental Credentialing in Graduate Education](#)



Goals and benefits of stackables

Students

- Flexibility and lower cost educational opportunities
- Create on-ramps into graduate degrees
- Test the waters without a long term commitment

Industry

- Responsive to industry needs for upskilling and workforce development
- Partnerships with industry create single-company cohorts

ASU

- Agility and speed to create new academic offerings
- Competitive with other universities
- Formalize curricular focus areas and specializations
- Create modular, stackable microcertificates

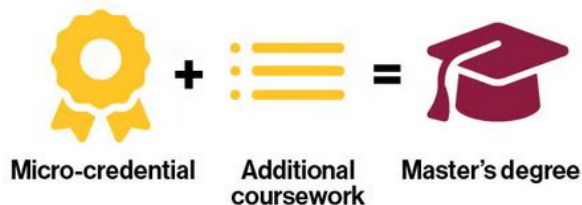
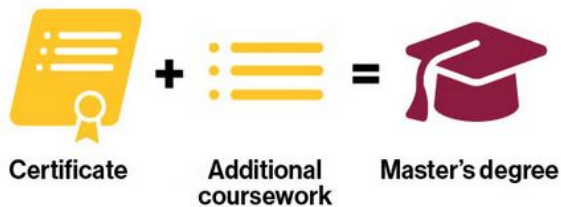
Microcertificates

- **9** credit hours of graduate coursework
- Quick response to industry needs
- 23 in the pipeline going through governance
- Can be stacked in to a graduate degree

Stackable credentials

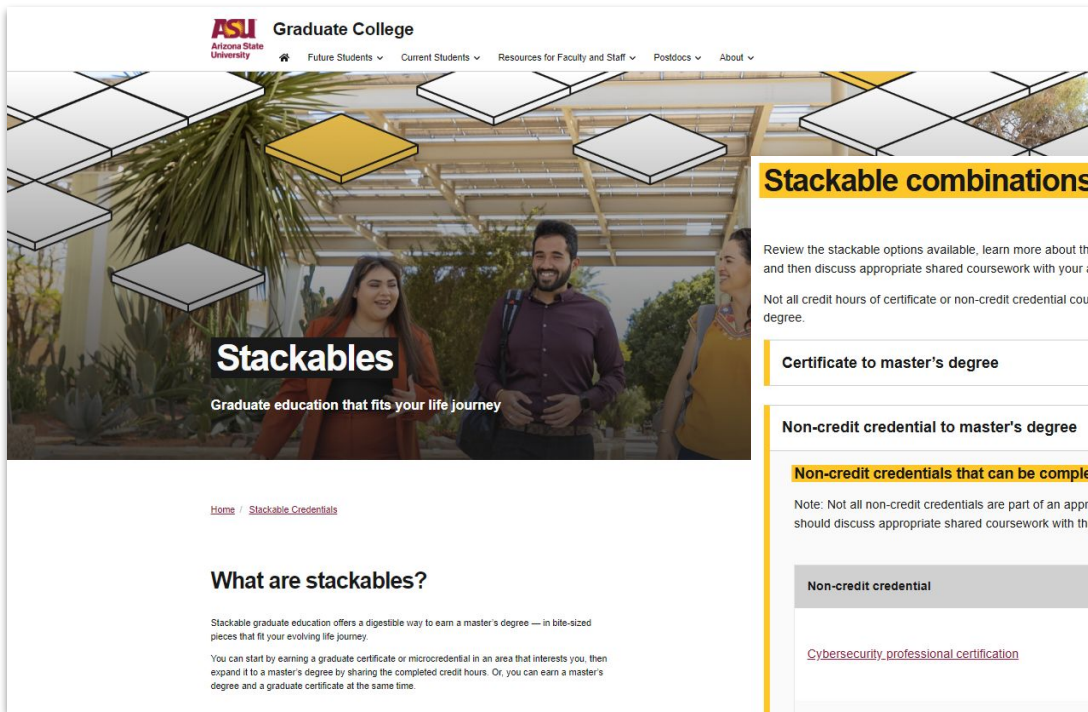
Stackable credentials offer a digestible way to earn a master's degree—in bite-sized pieces—that fit a student's evolving life journey.

Launched Fall 2025



Website

<https://graduate.asu.edu/stackable-credentials>



The screenshot shows the ASU Graduate College website. The header includes the ASU logo and navigation links for Future Students, Current Students, Resources for Faculty and Staff, Postdocs, and About. The main banner features a photo of three students and the text 'Stackables: Graduate education that fits your life journey'. Below the banner, there is a breadcrumb trail 'Home / Stackable Credentials' and a section titled 'What are stackables?' which explains the concept of stackable graduate education.

ASU Graduate College

Future Students ▾ Current Students ▾ Resources for Faculty and Staff ▾ Postdocs ▾ About ▾

Stackables

Graduate education that fits your life journey

[Home](#) / [Stackable Credentials](#)

What are stackables?

Stackable graduate education offers a digestible way to earn a master's degree — in bite-sized pieces that fit your evolving life journey.

You can start by earning a graduate certificate or microcredential in an area that interests you, then expand it to a master's degree by sharing the completed credit hours. Or, you can earn a master's degree and a graduate certificate at the same time.

Stackable combinations

Review the stackable options available, learn more about the individual programs in degree search and then discuss appropriate shared coursework with your academic advisor before enrolling.

Not all credit hours of certificate or non-credit credential coursework may overlap with the master's degree.

Certificate to master's degree ▾

Non-credit credential to master's degree ^

Non-credit credentials that can be completed and transcribed for academic credit before enrolling in a master's degree.

Note: Not all non-credit credentials are part of an approved, transcriptable pathway. Students should discuss appropriate shared coursework with their academic advisor before enrolling.

Non-credit credential

+ additional coursework =

Graduate degree

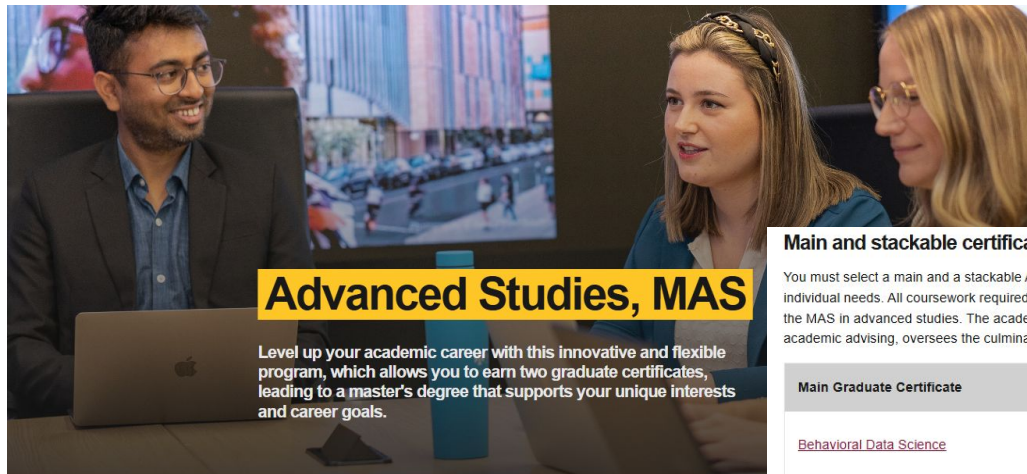
[Cybersecurity professional certification](#)

+ additional coursework =

[Computer Science MCS](#) or
[Computer Science \(Cybersecurity\) MCS](#)
Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering

Website

<https://graduate.asu.edu/advanced-studies-mas>



Advanced Studies, MAS

Level up your academic career with this innovative and flexible program, which allows you to earn two graduate certificates, leading to a master's degree that supports your unique interests and career goals.

On This Page: [Program description](#) [Degree requirements](#) [Admission](#) [Program hand](#)

Program description

The [MAS in advanced studies](#) provides you with the opportunity to focus your studies on two advanced knowledge areas by enrolling in official ASU graduate certificates and completing a culminating experience to earn a master's degree. This individualized learning provides you with an opportunity to complete your master's degree incrementally and provides flexibility if you need to complete your program in stages to advance your skills for the workplace. Obtain specific knowledge and advanced skills from multiple knowledge areas, based on your chosen certificates.

Main and stackable certificates

You must select a main and a stackable ASU graduate certificate for your program based on your individual needs. All coursework required for both certificates must be completed to be awarded the MAS in advanced studies. The academic college offering the main certificate provides academic advising, oversees the culminating event, and awards the master's degree.

Main Graduate Certificate	+ Stackable Graduate Certificate =	Master of Advanced Study
Behavioral Data Science	+ graduate certificate + culminating experience =	Advanced Studies, MAS New College of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences
Biological Data Science	+ graduate certificate + culminating experience =	Advanced Studies, MAS New College of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences
Biomimicry	+ graduate certificate + culminating experience =	Advanced Studies, MAS College of Global Futures

MAS in Advanced Studies Example

**Lean Six Sigma Black Belt (Certificate) + Computer-Assisted Language Learning (Certificate) =
MAS in Advanced Studies**

<u>Lean Six Sigma Black Belt (Cert)</u> 15 Credit Hours	<u>Computer-Assisted Language Learning (Cert)</u> 15 Credit Hours
Required Core (6 credit hours) IEE 570 Advanced Quality Control (3) IEE 581 Six Sigma Methodology (3)	Required Core (6 credit hours) APL/ENG/SLC 557 (3) APL 558/SLC 510 (3)
Electives (6 credit hours)	Restricted Electives (3 credit hours) Select a second language acquisition course w/ dept approval
Culminating Experience (3 credit hours) IEE 585 Six Sigma Capstone (3)	Electives (6 credit hours)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Lean Six Sigma as the main certificate◆ 30 Credit hours for the MAS with a capstone course as the culminating experience	

MAS Participating Programs

The numbers...

- **121** active academic graduate certificates
- **35** main graduate certificates

Accelerated Master's Program Admissions

Accelerated Master's Program (AMP)

The AMP offers highly committed undergraduate students the option to combine undergraduate degree requirements with graduate coursework, resulting in faster degree completion.

- Up to 15 graduate credits can be completed as an undergraduate
- 919 current students in the master's portion
- 194 participating master's programs

<https://acceleratedmasters.asu.edu/>



Accelerated Applicant Tool

–Used to search for and identify prospective students and track participants

–Students are added as Prospects or Candidates

–Students receive an email and messaging on their MyASU

–Advisors use the Comments box to identify shared coursework

Search Accelerated App

Result

Search by Student

Student ID

First Name

Last Name

Additional Search Criteria

Undergraduate

Academic Plan

Academic Org

Admit Term Range

To

Graduate

Academic Plan

Academic Org

Tracking Tool Status

If searching for students not added to the tracking tool, do not check any status.

☐ Prospect

☐ Candidate

☐ Applicant

☐ Student

☐ Graduated

☐ Withdraw

Search

Clear All

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Automated Admission Process

Once the UG student applies to graduate, advisors can change the status to Applicant and select the following:

- Admit term
- Campus
- Semester

Then admit the student—no graduate application or application fee required!

The screenshot shows a web form titled "Accelerated Plan". In the top right corner, there is a red box with the word "NEW" in white. The form contains the following fields and values:

- Effective Date: 08/26/2025
- Effective Seq: 1
- *Graduate Acad Plan: ARURBMUEP (with a search icon)
- Urban and Environmental Planning (with a crosshair icon)
- Accelerated Degree: ACCBSPMUEP
- BSP in Urban Planning/MUEP in Urban and Environmental Planning
- *Status: Applicant (dropdown menu)

A yellow warning box in the center states: "IMPORTANT: Adding a student as an applicant will create an admissions record into the graduate program. Select the Campus and Admit Term the student will be admitted into."

Below the warning box are the following fields:

- Campus: Tempe (dropdown menu)
- Admit Term: 2025 Fall (dropdown menu)
- Comments: (empty text area)
- Updated By: (empty text field)
- Updated Date/Time: (empty text field)

At the bottom right, there is a blue "Admit" button. A red arrow points from the "Comments" field to the "Admit" button.

Questions



Lessons Learned

- Have to adjust technology to meet the project needs
- Requires flexibility with ideas while also keeping policy in mind
- Collaboration is required with units, admissions, registrar offices, financial aid
- Application and admission process—technology challenges

