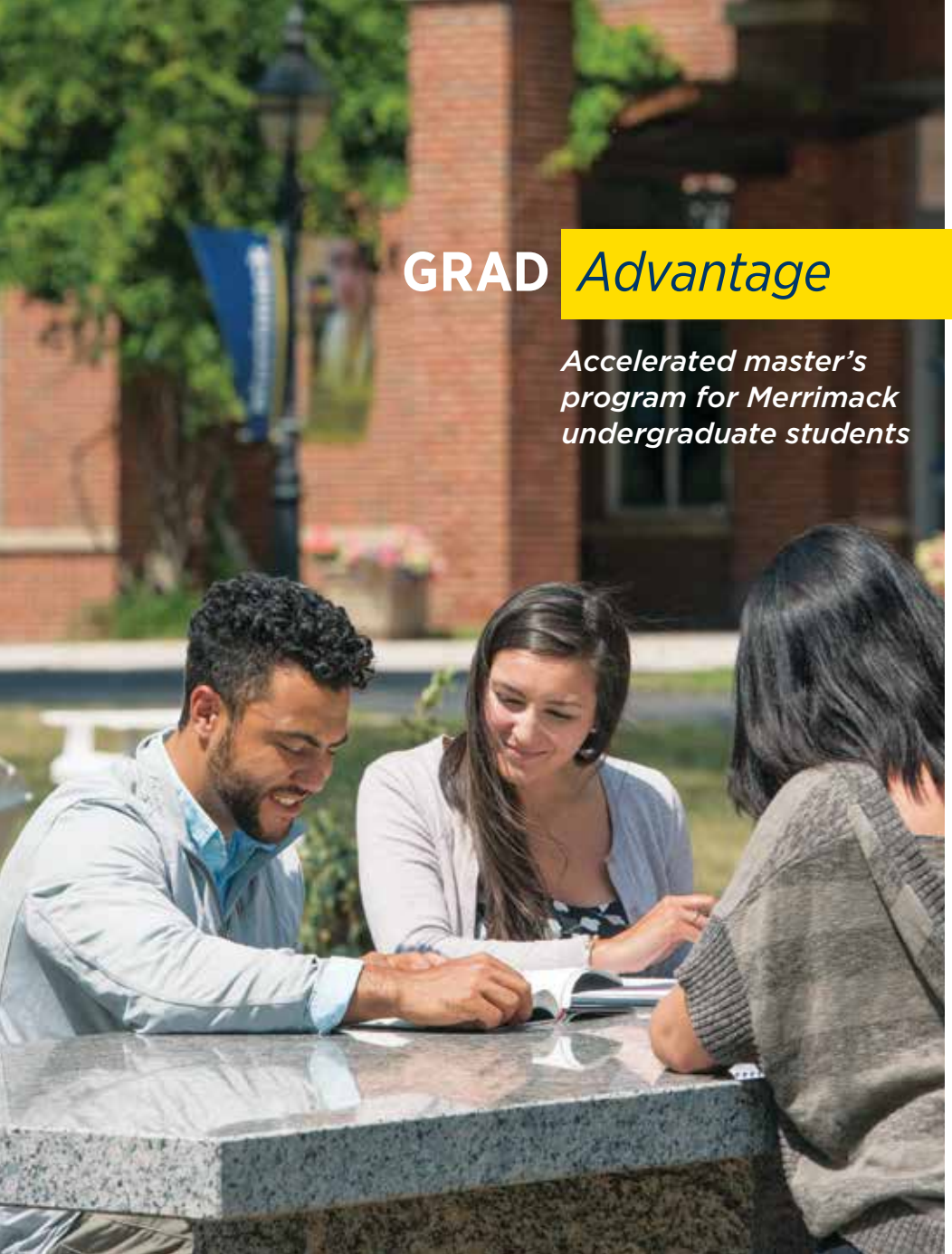




MERRIMACK COLLEGE

## GRAD *Advantage*

*Accelerated master's  
program for Merrimack  
undergraduate students*



An innovative offering, the Merrimack GRAD *Advantage* program allows you to take up to two graduate degree courses during your senior year, covered by a GRAD *Advantage* scholarship. With its accelerated format, this program gives you a head start on obtaining an advanced degree, so you can begin your career—and boost your earning potential—sooner.

> [www.merrimack.edu/gradadvantage](http://www.merrimack.edu/gradadvantage)

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## Here's how it works...

- 1** You may take up to two graduate courses in a qualifying Merrimack master's degree program during the fall or spring semester of your senior year, as long as you maintain an undergraduate GPA of 3.0 or higher. Tuition for these courses is 100% covered under the GRAD *Advantage* scholarship.
- 2** To apply, simply complete an Intent to Pursue form and our free online application. Your application requirements, such as personal statement and resume, will be waived. The Office of Graduate Studies will review your application, and once approved, you'll be on the path toward obtaining your master's degree.
- 3** After graduation, you can continue in your chosen master's degree program as long as you maintained an undergraduate GPA of 3.0 or higher, and earned a B or better in the graduate course(s) you took during your senior year.
- 4** Even if you choose not to take courses through GRAD *Advantage* as an undergraduate, you may still take graduate courses up to one calendar year after you graduate. After one year, however, you must apply via the standard application process, which is subject to a different scholarship amount.

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## Why choose Merrimack's GRAD *Advantage*?

**Accelerated application.** A streamlined admission process helps you seamlessly transition into a master's degree program.

**Stay on track.** Through continued advising, you may take up to two graduate classes during your senior year.

**Earn a more affordable degree.** Stay at Merrimack for your master's degree and save up to 20% off of total graduate tuition.

**Start early, finish early.** By accessing graduate courses early, you can go on to complete your master's in as little as one year.

**Everyone knows your name.** You'll continue to feel at home with Merrimack's close-knit community, familiar campus, and friendly faculty and advisors.

## WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW?

### Am I eligible for the program?

As long as you hold a 3.0 GPA and meet all prerequisites, you can apply for the GRAD *Advantage* program.

### How do I enter GRAD *Advantage*?

Start working with your academic advisor to plan your courses around the program—ideally as early as freshman year. Next, return your completed Intent to Pursue form to your intended program's contact, and complete the free online application. *Please note: Not all graduate programs participate; visit [www.merrimack.edu/gradadvantage](http://www.merrimack.edu/gradadvantage) for the most up-to-date listing.*

### What if I am interested in a fellowship?

All Merrimack fellowship programs have a separate application process and admission requirements. Fellowships do not qualify for the GRAD *Advantage* program.

### How long does it take?

The time it takes to complete your graduate study depends on the master's degree you pursue, and whether or not you attend full time or part-time. For specific program requirements and deadlines, visit [www.merrimack.edu/graduate](http://www.merrimack.edu/graduate).

### How does the scholarship opportunity work?

The Merrimack GRAD *Advantage* scholarship program covers the cost of two graduate courses taken during your senior undergraduate year. The value of this scholarship varies based on the number of credits each course provides. If it's fully applied to your senior year courses, the scholarship will no longer apply after graduation; if not, it will be prorated and applied to your graduate studies based on your credit load. You'll need to inform the Office of Graduate Studies if your credit load changes at any point during the academic year, as this directly impacts your scholarship amount.

### Can I still get financial aid?

Graduate students enrolled at least half time (a minimum of four credits per semester) may also qualify for financial aid in the form of Unsubsidized Federal Stafford Loans.





## PROGRAM TIMELINE

### Freshman Year

Think ahead! Planning is the key to graduating with both your bachelor's and your master's degrees. Think about your future career goals and talk with your academic advisor about exploring those options.

### Sophomore Year

One year closer! Continue to work with your academic advisor to evaluate your academic progress.

### Junior Year

**Fall Semester** – Before you register for spring courses, ask your advisor if you're eligible for

the GRAD *Advantage* program and what you can do now to make sure that your schedule allows you to take up to two graduate courses during your senior year.

**Spring Semester** – Check in with your academic advisor to be sure you are on track to meet the GRAD *Advantage* requirements, and that you are registering for the appropriate senior year courses. Complete the Intent to Pursue form and ask your graduate program contact to review your transcript, and sign off on your senior year graduate course(s).

*Note: Even if your undergraduate requirements don't leave space in your schedule for graduate courses, you may still qualify for the GRAD Advantage scholarship after you graduate.*

### Senior Year

**Fall Semester** – Work with your advisor to register for your spring semester classes, and complete the online graduate application. Keep in mind that you can only take up to five courses per semester at the undergraduate tuition rate, and graduate courses do not count toward your bachelor's degree.

**Spring Semester** – Begin your graduate course(s).

## **Program Contacts:**

### **Accounting**

Kim Valente  
valentek@merrimack.edu

### **Athletic Training**

Lindsey Mattos  
mattosl@merrimack.edu

### **Clinical Mental Health Counseling**

Azara Santiago-Rivera  
santiagoal@merrimack.edu

### **Computer Science**

Vance Poteat  
poteatv@merrimack.edu

### **Criminology and Criminal Justice**

Thomas Nolan  
nolant@merrimack.edu

### **Engineering (Civil and Mechanical)**

Maureen Sakakeeny  
sakakeenym@merrimack.edu

### **Health Sciences**

Lindsey Mattos  
mattosl@merrimack.edu

### **Management**

Kim Valente  
valentek@merrimack.edu

### **Public Affairs**

Anne Flaherty  
flahertya@merrimack.edu

### **School Counseling**

Christine Shaw  
shawc@merrimack.edu

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

**Office of Graduate Studies**

**graduate@merrimack.edu**

**978-837-3563**

**[www.merrimack.edu/gradadvantage](http://www.merrimack.edu/gradadvantage)**



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315 Turnpike Street, North Andover, MA 01845