CAL STATE EAST BAY

FAST
Falcon Accelerated Success Track

FAST Programs Information Session

FAST Programs Session Agenda

FAST Programs Definition

- **What is a [FAST Program](#)?**

  - **Falcon Accelerated Success Track (FAST) Programs**

- Joint (blended) Bachelor's and Master's degree

  - Also referred to as 4+1 programs

- Why is it fast?

  - Double counting of up to 12 units between programs allowed

  - Minimum of 138 total units required (BS 120 + MS 18)

    Rather than 150 total units (BS 120 + 30 MS)

University Mascot
Perry the Peregrine Falcon

Example Programs

- BS + MS in Biological Sciences

- BS Business Administration + MBA/MS Business Analytics/MS Marketing Analytics

- BS Civil Engineering+ MS Construction Management

- BS + MS in Computer Science

- BS Data Science + MS Statistics

- BS Economics + MBA/MS Business Analytics

- BS Environmental Science + MS Environmental Geosciences

- BA Global Studies + MA History

- BS + MS in Kinesiology

Note: *not every department has a FAST program, but offerings are expected to grow; see FAST website for full list of currently eligible programs*
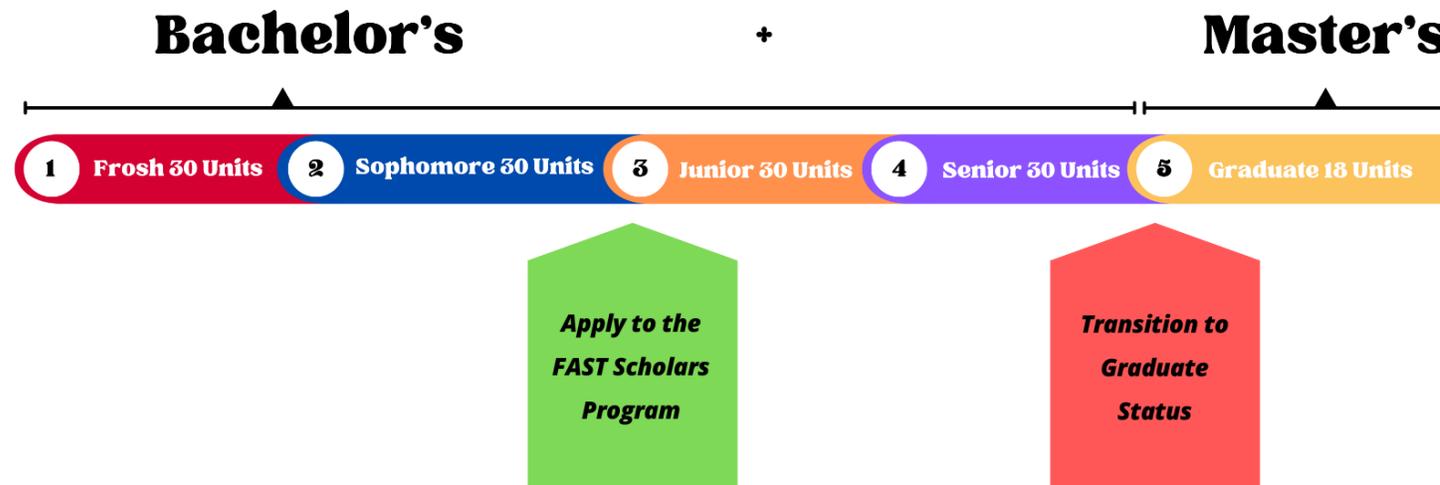
Benefits of FAST

Falcon Accelerated Success Track

- Provide an accelerated route to a graduate degree, earning both Bachelor's and Master's degrees in a shorter time and at lower cost

- No "formal" application made through Cal State Apply; no application fee

- Accepted to graduate program in junior year rather than Spring of senior year and so can plan for future more easily

- Can provide a meaningful capstone experience where a senior project could be incorporated into a graduate thesis/project

How does it work?

- Essentially, fewer units (up to 12 less) are required for the undergraduate major (so only 120-12 = 108 units required)

- Graduate degree requirements unchanged - typically 30 units

- Start taking graduate courses in senior year (see Example roadmap)

Bachelor's + **Master's**

| 1 Frosh 30 Units | 2 Sophomore 30 Units | 3 Junior 30 Units | 4 Senior 30 Units | 5 Graduate 18 Units |

Apply to the FAST Scholars Program

Transition to Graduate Status

FAST Program Admission Policies

- Internal campus application with no fee

- Bachelor's students may apply after they have earned **60-90 units**

- Applicants must have a **2.5 GPA** to apply to a FAST program

- Applicants must have completed **all lower division General Education** and **lower division major** coursework prior to applying to the blended program

- Programs may specify more stringent admission requirements

How to Apply to a FAST Program

- Currently enrolled undergraduate students at CSUEB attend information workshop or meet with FAST Program Advisor

- Student makes request to FAST Program Advisor to submit application on your behalf

- Advisor checks student's eligibility and submits application to University Registrar

- Application routed for approval (student, FAST Program Advisor, Undergrad Advisor if different, International Programs, Registrar)

- Effective immediately like a change of concentration

FAST Program Retention Policies

- **While in undergraduate career:**

  - Must maintain a 3.0 GPA in all upper-division and graduate-level work while in program

- Students must have completed **all** university-wide undergraduate requirements (upper division GE, overlays, Code and University Writing Requirement) BEFORE transitioning into the FAST graduate degree objective status.

- Students pay undergraduate tuition and fees until they move to graduate status
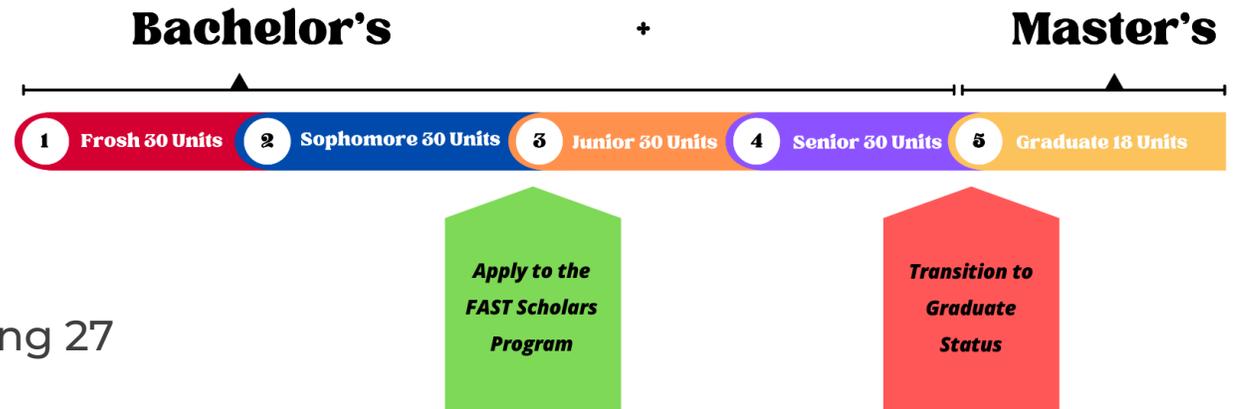
FAST Program Retention Policies

- **While in graduate career**, regular graduate program policies apply

  - 3.0 GPA required

  - 5-year rule

  - Student applies for graduation for master's degree as usual

Sample Timeline

FAST
Falcon Accelerated Success Track

- **AY 25-26 - Junior Year**

  - Apply to FAST program

- **AY 26-27 - Senior Year**

  - Start taking double-counted courses

  - Graduate with bachelor's degree in Spring 27

  - Transition to graduate career at end of Spring 27

- **AY 27-28 - Graduate Year**

  - Take graduate courses as graduate student

  - Graduate with master's degree Spring 28

Bachelor's + **Master's**

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Sample Timeline

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Bachelor's + Master's

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Transition to Graduate Status

FAST Scholar Responsibilities

- Meet with FAST Program Advisor each semester

- Maintain 3.0 GPA in upper division and graduate courses

  - Use Degree Audit Report (DAR) to verify - [Example DAR](#)

- Register for and complete double-counted courses on roadmap timeline

- Apply for bachelor's graduation after they have completed 90 program-applicable units

- Complete graduate degree requirements as usual

Considerations for International Students

- **GRE/GMAT** waived for FAST applicants to graduate programs

- F1 Students can do **CPT** at both undergraduate and graduate levels (first semester CPT at graduate level)

- The student and advisor must initiate **I-20 change of level** into the graduate program the semester prior to moving into the graduate program to ensure that the I-20 form will be changed prior to the beginning of the first semester in graduate status.

- No **OPT** after undergraduate program

- **OPT** (and **STEM OPT** if eligible) after graduate program

FAST Program Offramps

- **Off-ramps** = paths by which FAST Program Scholars may leave the FAST program and complete their bachelor's degree alone

- Why necessary?

  - You decide against earning a master's degree

  - Student is unable to maintain necessary 3.0 GPA in upper division and double-counted courses

  - Student does not complete university undergraduate degree requirements (upper division GE, UWR) by 120-unit deadline

  - Student does not take double-counted courses as required

- We want to ensure that you earn your bachelor's degree even if you leave FAST program

FAST Program Offramps

- How implemented?

  - Student files a request with Registrar to leave the FAST program

    - Same Change of Concentration/Major form already in place

    - Takes effect immediately

    - Guaranteed that you can use any double-counted courses you have already taken towards your bachelor's degree

  - FAST Program Advisor will contact University Registrar if you are unable to meet retention requirements

What to do now?

FAST
Falcon Accelerated Success Track

- No action needed before admission+ enrollment in CSUEB undergraduate program and completion of at least 60 semester units

- Look over [FAST program website](#)

  - Once enrolled at CSUEB, Discuss FAST programs with FAST Program Advisors

  - Note the general eligibility requirements:

    - 60-90 units, complete lower division major and GE courses, 2.5 GPA

  - Check the requirements for your intended FAST program

- At beginning of Fall semester, if eligible, meet with your FAST Program Advisor and ask them to apply on your behalf

- First application period begins first day of Fall semester 2025

Resources

- [Cal State East Bay Falcon Accelerated Success Track (FAST) Program Handbook and Coordination Guide](#)

- [Graduate Studies Fast Program Webpage](#)

CONTACT US

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