Proposed New Degree or Credit-Bearing Certificate: Academic Component

NOTE: The Library Impact Statement is required for the review of a new degree program. Proposers should contact the Library as early in the proposal development process as possible.

Title of Degree or Credit-Bearing Certificate (e.g., Bachelor of Arts in History):

BA/MA in English

1. Please provide the name, title, email address, and phone number of the primary contact person for this academic program:

   Erin Murphy, Associate Professor of English and Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies; Director of Graduate Studies in English
   ermurphy@bu.edu
   (617) 358-2557

2. Please briefly describe the proposed new degree:

   The BA/MA program will allow qualified English undergraduate majors to complete an MA degree concurrently with their BA.

3. Please provide a rationale for the proposed new degree:

   There was previously a BA/MA in English at Boston University, but it went dormant in 1998. We are reviving it at this time due to increasing student demand and our desire to make the MA degree more accessible to BU undergraduates.

4. Please describe how the proposed new degree advances the Strategic Plans of the department, school/college, and University:

   This program contributes to the breadth of options available to CAS students (consistent with the CAS Strategic Plan), taking advantage of existing resources to do so. It thereby helps “to develop the special undergraduate educational environment that combines our commitment to a
liberal arts and sciences education with professional opportunities, while creating flexible educational opportunities to leverage the depth of CAS and our other schools and colleges.” (BU Strategic Plan, #2). It also contributes to goal #3 of the BU Strategic Plan: To expand and enhance the College of Arts and Sciences as the core of the University and our undergraduate programs.

5. Please list the program requirements for the proposed new degree (denote new courses in bold print):

The combined BA/MA degree requires 38 4-credit courses (152 credits). The requirements combine those of the BA and MA degrees. However, up to 8 of the English credits taken for the MA may be used to satisfy the elective requirements for the BA, thereby reducing the total number of required courses from 40 to 38. Students may also use one of the 500/600-level English courses to satisfy the requirements of both the major and the MA degree.

Requirements for the major in English (Unchanged)
The major consists of 11 four-credit courses. These include:

- CAS EN 220 Seminar in Literature
- CAS EN 221 Major Authors I
- CAS EN 322 British Literature I
- CAS EN 323 British Literature II

Of the remaining seven classes, at least six of these must be numbered 300 or higher. One course numbered EN 121–199 may count toward the seven additional courses, provided it was taken before or concurrently with EN 220. Of the seven additional courses, at least one course numbered 300 or higher must fall in each of the following four groups.

Group 1.

American Literature before 1900: CAS EN 327, 471, 479, 533, 534, 545, 571, 587, 591, or courses specified as equivalent in any year.

Group 2.

Concepts and Methods of Literary Study: Any literature course listed from CAS EN 404, EN 406 through EN 490, or from EN 493 through EN 498, or courses specified as equivalent in any year.

Group 3.

British or American Literature before 1800: CAS EN 363, 364, 372, 521, 527, 529, 530, 566, 568, or courses specified as equivalent in any year.
Group 4.

Diverse Literatures in English: CAS EN 326, 370, 371, 386, 572, 584, 586, 587, 588, or any courses specified as equivalent in any year.

Note: Students may not satisfy the requirement for multiple groups with a single, overlapping course.

Requirements for the MA in English

The MA in English requires 32 credits. Course requirements are as follows:

- Eight graduate-level courses. Of these eight semester-courses, at least six must be 700-level graduate seminars, and up to two may be 500- or 600-level courses. (One of the 500/600-level courses taken may be used to fulfill both the BA and MA requirements, reducing the total number of additional English courses taken for the BA/MA to seven.)
- Demonstration of a reading knowledge of one foreign language at an intermediate level. For BA/MA students, this requirement would be satisfied by fulfillment of the CAS undergraduate Foreign Language Requirement.
- Of the eight required classes, at least one course must focus primarily on critical theory, critical method, or the history of criticism (courses that fulfill this requirement are so identified in their course descriptions).

6. Please list program learning outcomes:

The learning outcomes combine those for both the BA and MA. Students graduating with a BA/MA in English are expected to demonstrate:

1. A critical understanding of English and American literary culture and its traditions.

2. A critical understanding of at least one area of literary study outside of the English and American canons.

3. A deepened understanding of literary culture through study abroad, if that is feasible

4. Advanced research and writing skills, including an ability to work productively with the critical literature and perform original critical analysis.

5. Either a broad knowledge of literature, theory and research across several sub-disciplines in the field or an in-depth knowledge of one area of expertise.

6. The ability to follow ethical guidelines for work in the field.

7. Write and speak effectively to professional and lay audiences about issues in the field.
7. For master’s or professional doctorate degrees, please describe what this program prepares students for after they have graduated:

We expect our BA/MA students to use the degree for a diverse array of ends, parallel to those of our MA students. Some will use it as an educational credential, for pursuit of higher-level degrees in English. Many will use it as a credential for secondary school teaching, which often requires an MA for licensing purposes.

The BA/MA also offers strong preparation for careers in the fields of information technologies or various other professional pursuits, including writing, publishing, and interpretation.

8. Please describe how the proposed new degree relates to existing programs at the University:

It provides greater access to our current MA for BU English majors.

9. Please place the proposed program in the context of comparable programs at peer institutions:

Several peer institutions offer a BA/MA, including:

- Boston College
- Emory University
- Northeastern University
- Rutgers University
- State University of New York, Albany
- University of Indiana at Bloomington
- University of Southern California
- University of Virginia
- Vanderbilt University

Of the 9 schools above, 6 require that BA/MA students take the same requirements for both the BA and the MA but 3 (Emory, SUNY Albany and BC) allow students to count credits for both the BA and MA, reducing the total number of credits required. By allowing students to count only one 500/600-level class for both the BA and MA, our proposed degree would fall within the range of our peers. In all the programs above, students typically apply for the BA/MA in their junior year.
10. Please list the program’s faculty:

Amy Appleford, Assoc. Prof.
Joseph Bizup, Assoc. Prof.
Laurence Breiner, Prof.
Julia Prewitt Brown, Prof.
Archie Burnett, Prof.
William C. Carroll, Prof.
Robert Chodat, Assoc. Prof.
Bonnie Costello, Prof.
Aaron Fogel, Assoc. Prof.
Jonathan Foltz, Asst. Prof.
Anna Henchman, Assoc. Prof.
William Huntting Howell, Assoc. Prof.
Gene Andrew Jarrett, Prof.
Xuefei Jin (Ha Jin), Prof.
Karl Kirchwey, Prof.
Laura Korobkin, Assoc. Prof.
Sanjay Krishnan, Assoc. Prof.
Maurice S. Lee, Prof.
Robert Levine, Prof.
William Loizeaux, Writer-in-Residence
Elizabeth Loizeaux, Prof.
11. Please provide an administrative plan for the proposed new degree:

The BA/MA will be administered through the same structures as our terminal MA, with the English Graduate Committee and Director of Graduate Studies primary assuming responsibility for all aspects of program administration.

12. Please provide an advising plan for the proposed new degree:

Like other BA and MA students, BA/MA students will be assigned an academic advisor from among the members of the English faculty, with advisors assigned based on student interests. The Director of Graduate Studies will also monitor the progress of BA/MA students closely.

13. For a proposed graduate program, please provide the admissions standards involved:
Applications must be received by **January 30th of the junior year**. If the application does not meet the deadline a *Request for Waiver of Application Deadline* must be completed and signed by the department chairperson and submitted with an application. Applicants must have completed **AT LEAST five English courses**, including **AT LEAST one course at the 300-level or above**, by the time of application. They must have received a GPA of 3.5 or above in these courses. Applicants must also have an overall GPA of 3.0 to be considered for the program. The applicant must include the BU transcript, two faculty recommendation letters, and a personal statement indicating their purpose for entering the program with the application forms.

14. Please document any implications that the formation of the proposed new degree has on professional accreditation or licensure at the program or school/college level:

Not Applicable

15. For a proposed undergraduate program, please provide sample pathways through the new degree or certificate:

Not Applicable

16. If the new program includes a new course or courses, please indicate who will teach the course and how the rest of that faculty member’s course load will be affected (courses(s) redistributed to other faculty, taught less frequently, no longer taught, etc.). Please be specific about affected courses. This information should be reflected in the budget form that accompanies the proposal, e.g. the cost for a new faculty member to teach the new course or a redistributed course [NOTE: new courses will need Course Inventory Forms submitted to the Office of the Registrar]:

No new courses are proposed

17. Please list other resources needed including new staff, IT, technology enhanced classrooms, office space, and other facilities. This information should be reflected in the budget:

No new resources are required

18. What charges (tuition, fees, etc.) are to be applied to this program? How will the charges be structured?

Normal BU tuition and fees will be charged.

19. Please describe the proposed enrollment or the enrollment required to cover the start-up costs of the proposed new degree:
No applicable – there are no start-up costs.

20. Please provide the bulletin copy (exactly as it will appear) for the proposed new degree including all text connected to the program (requirements, description, program goals/outcomes)[NOTE: this bulletin copy is in a final form and cannot be changed]:

BA/MA Program

This dual bachelor’s/master’s degree program provides successful undergraduate students the opportunity to complete a master’s degree in either eight or nine semesters, depending on their accumulated AP credits and/or summer courses. This is a highly selective and rewarding program offered jointly by the College and the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences.

The last two years of undergraduate study are integrated with the first year of graduate work, reducing the time required to earn the two degrees. Successful completion of the BA/MA Program may lead to enhanced career employment opportunities, professional training, or doctoral studies. BU English MAs have successfully pursued a variety of public, private, and not-for-profit career paths, including employment in teaching, not-for-profit administration, publishing, writing, research, and technology.

Students must complete at least 38 courses (152 credits).

Application Procedure

Applications must be received by January 30th of the junior year. If the application does not meet the deadline a Request for Waiver of Application Deadline must be completed and signed by the department chairperson and submitted with an application.

Application Requirements

Applicants must have completed AT LEAST five English courses, including AT LEAST one course at the 300-level or above, by the time of application. They must have received a GPA of 3.5 or above in these courses. Applicants must also have an overall GPA of 3.0 to be considered for the program. The applicant must include the BU transcript, two faculty recommendation letters, and a personal statement indicating their purpose for entering the program with the application forms.

Program Requirements

In addition to the requirements for the English major (see website for details) eight courses must be passed with a grade of B- or better for the MA. One 500 or 600-level class may count toward both the BA and MA, reducing the number of additional MA classes to seven. A grade point average of at least 3.0 must be maintained for these classes. These classes must include two 500/600-level classes and six 700-level classes. Courses at the 500/600-level taken prior to admission into the BA/MA program may be used to fulfill MA requirements. Student must have senior status to take 700-level classes.
In addition to the total number of classes for the MA, students must fulfill the following specific requirements:

- Demonstration of graduate-level reading proficiency in one classical or modern foreign language prior to completion of the degree. This requirement will be satisfied by fulfillment of the CAS undergraduate Foreign Language Requirement.

- Completion of at least one course that focuses primarily on critical theory, critical method, or the history of criticism. For examples of these courses, please see the English Department website.