



Graduate School of Arts & Sciences

Dual Degree BA/MA and BA/MS Application Guide

BA/MA and BA/MS Program Guidelines

- The [College of Arts & Sciences \(CAS\) Bulletin](#) and the [Graduate School of Arts & Sciences \(GRS\) Bulletin](#) have short descriptions of the individual BA/MA and BA/MS programs.
- Each department has a designated BA/MA or BA/MS advisor who can be contacted for questions and advice about degree requirements and the plan of study. Please note that departmental requirements vary from a total of 36-40 semester courses (a total of 144-160 credits). In all cases, there are at least eight courses required at the 500--level or above, and these courses must be passed with a grade of B- or better. Students are strongly urged to review total credit requirements with their program to ensure all requirements are fulfilled.

Registration and Financial Aid:

- Since federal regulations stipulate that persons receiving undergraduate financial aid must be registered in undergraduate programs, all BA/MA and BA/MS students will remain registered in CAS for eight semesters. Students will, however, be able to enroll in graduate- level courses, as required by the program. In this way, students will remain eligible for undergraduate forms of financial aid for at least eight semesters. BA/MA and BA/MS students continuing work toward one or both degrees will only be registered with the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences upon completion of 32 courses (128 credit hours) in CAS.
- If you will be continuing your dual-degree program for more than eight semesters, please meet with the undergraduate financial aid office to discuss your options for financial aid in your ninth semester. You may be eligible to appeal for undergraduate financial aid. However, if you are not, you may qualify for federal aid as a graduate student. Please contact our office at grsaid@bu.edu if you have any questions about this.

To Be Eligible to Apply Students Must:

- Must be a current CAS or Pardee Undergraduate Student.
*The BA/MA and BA/MS programs are not open to students outside of CAS and the Pardee School or to Boston University Dual Degree Program (DDP) students.
- Have a 3.0 cumulative GPA at the time of application
(Some departments may have higher requirements; Political Science applicants must meet a GPA requirement of at least 3.5)
- Apply in the spring of the **sophomore** (fourth semester of enrollment) year for admission into the program at the start of the **junior** (fifth semester of enrollment) year.
*The latest you may apply in the spring semester of your **junior** year (sixth semester of enrollment), with a one-time exception for current students who are in your senior year (7th semester of enrollment) in the Computer Science Department.

Application documents:

1. Plan of Study that includes major GPA verification signed by Faculty Director
2. Unofficial transcripts that show current GPA
3. Two letters of recommendation written by professors.
4. Some programs require additional documents such as a **Personal Statement**. Please inquire with your department/program for more information. These other required documents should be uploaded to the application form below.

Example:

First Name:	Rhett
Last Name:	The Terrier
Email Address:	grs@bu.edu
Personal Message to your Recommender	BA/MA Application

*Check the two permission boxes (required to submit)

5. Online application form and questionnaire
Students will get instructions on how to submit your application from the GRS Masters Admissions team.

Steps to Apply:

1. Prepare your supporting application documents

Prepare your Plan of Study, Unofficial Transcripts, and Personal Statement (please inquire with your department/program for more information).

2. Request Letters of Recommendation

Identify two professors and Ask two faculty members in the field of proposed study to submit recommendations for you using the [Recommendation for Admission form](#). Once you have their agreement, you will enter their name and contact information into the online application system. The system will automatically email instructions for the recommendation to the professor.

3. Make an appointment with your Undergraduate Advisor

The purpose of the meeting is to make sure the requirements of your bachelor's degree will be met and to make sure the graduate-level classes you've provisionally selected will fulfill the requirements of the master's degree. You will need to bring your Plan of Study to the meeting (digitally or on paper).

4. Email the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Admissions Administrator to request your invitation code to apply for the program

Email your **signed** Plan of Study to the GRS Assistant Director of Master's Admissions (grs@bu.edu), who will provide you with the application code to submit your application through the online application system.

** Please note: The BA/MA, BA/MS application is not an available option without the code. The BA/MA and BA/MS is only available to current BU CAS students who intend to pursue a dual degree in CAS/GRS. Please do not apply to or submit your application for another program.*

5. Submit your application

The application will only be available for candidates who have gone through the previous steps to receive an invitation code and a fee waiver code. Be sure to fill out all the questions carefully and check for mistakes before submitting. Once you submit your application, changes cannot be made. ****Do not submit without code provided by GRS Master's Admissions Team.***