

Accelerated MA Degree Program in Political Science – Concentration in the United Nations and Global Policy Studies

(Adopted September 2017)

The Accelerated MA Program in Political Science – Concentration in the United Nations and Global Policy Studies offers high-achieving Rutgers undergraduates a path toward an MA degree in Political Science that is cost effective in terms of time and tuition. With adequate planning and preparation, students can complete the BA and MA in five years. Admission into the Accelerated MA Program provides students with the right to take graduate level courses while they pursue their undergraduate degree and apply those above and beyond MA credits towards their graduate degree once they receive their BA and are formally accepted into the MA Program.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The Accelerated MA Degree Program in Political Science is open to students enrolled at Rutgers University-New Brunswick. Interested students should apply for provisional admission to the MA Program in Political Science – Concentration in the United Nations and Global Policy Studies during the fall of their junior year. To maximize preparation, students should have already declared Political Science as their major and be well on their way toward completing that major. All students, whether or not they are Political Science majors, must have completed, with a grade of B or better, the following courses or equivalent of these courses prior to applying:

- ✓ 01:790:102 International Relations
- ✓ 01:790:103 Comparative Politics
- ✓ 01:790:327 International Political Economy
- ✓ 01:790:361 International Organizations

Students must have a minimum GPA of 3.5 in the major and 3.2 overall prior to applying and must maintain these levels to remain in the undergraduate portion of the accelerated master's program.

APPLICATION PROCESS

To be accepted into the Accelerated MA degree program, students must follow procedures laid down by the School of Graduate Studies. This means students need to formally apply via the Rutgers University Graduate Portal by submitting their Personal Statement, unofficial transcript, resume and two letters of recommendation (on university letterhead). In addition, an interview with the Director of the MA Program is required. Junior year provisional admission will be granted following review by the Program Director for Undergraduate Studies, the Program Director for Graduate Studies, and the Director of the MA Degree Program in Political Science, Political Science Department.¹ Refer to the specific rules concerning GRE exemption as laid out and modified by the School of Graduate Studies (hereby appended as Attachment A). Final official transcripts must be submitted in May, after students have received their BA degree from Rutgers University. An additional interview with the Director of the MA Program is required before the final decision of admission to MA degree program will be made.

ADMITTED, WHAT'S NEXT?

Upon provisional admission to Accelerated MA Degree Program, students will be able to take one MA-level course per semester which CANNOT be counted toward the 120 credits required for their Rutgers University BA and CANNOT be counted toward the Rutgers Political Science major. In accordance with the rules of the School of Graduate Studies, no course may count for credit toward both the BA and the MA degrees.

Thus admitted students can take one MA course in the second semester of their junior year, one course or one program during the Rutgers Summer Session between their junior and senior years, and one MA course per semester in their senior year. To take any MA course, students must submit the Undergraduate Student Graduate Course Permission Form obtained from MA Program office with the proper signatures.

¹ The explanatory SGS policy is attached below.

HOW TO PREPARE FOR THE ACCELERATED MA?

Ideally, students will have declared an interest in the Accelerated MA degree program during their sophomore year. This declaration will allow the MA Program to develop a student file and, with the Vice-Chair for Undergraduate Studies of the Political Science Department, to assist the student with appropriate course selection. We propose the following preparatory course sequence prior to applying to the Accelerated MA degree program:

- ✓ Freshman year: 01:790:102 International Relations, and 01:790:103 Comparative Politics
- ✓ Sophomore year: 01:790:327 International Political Economy, and 01:790:361 International Organizations.
- ✓ Junior year: Apply for provisional admission to the MA program
- ✓ Junior year/Senior year: take one MA course per semester, which should include both required introductory courses: 16:790:500 Introduction to the United Nations: Theory, Institutions and Policies; and 16:790:501 Theory and Method in the Study of Global Affairs.

Attachment A

Proposed SGS Policy (language as of December 2019, approved in principle December 2019):
School of Graduate Studies - Policy for Requesting GRE Waivers
Approved by Executive Council on September 25, 2017
Approved by the SGS Graduate Faculty on December 20, 2017
Department of Political Science, M.A. in Political Science United Nations and Global Policy Studies
Approved by Graduate Committee of the Department of Political Science – December 2019
Policy for Requesting GRE Waivers

Purpose:

To develop a more transparent, consistent policy and set of criteria to determine which categories of applicants may request a waiver of GRE scores during the admissions process for the M.A. Program in Political Science (UNMA).

Policy:

In accordance with the decision of the Graduate Committee of the Department of Political Science, GRE is preferred for all applicants to UNMA Program, meaning that following categories of applicants may be granted GRE waivers from the department if they meet the criteria:

- ✓ 1) For the following categories of students:
 - A) Rutgers University undergraduates who:
 - Have at least a 3.2 GPA in their major;
AND
 - Are applying for a masters degree in the same field (whether as part of an accelerated bachelors/masters, 4 + 1 or 3 + 2 program or not);
AND
 - Are applying within two years of completing their Bachelor's degree. AND
 - Have a 3.0 overall GPA in their Bachelor's degree
 - B) Applicants who:
 - Already have a master's degree in the same (or closely related) field from a university that uses English as its primary language of instruction;
AND
 - Have at least a 3.2 GPA (or equivalent) for their masters.
 - C) Applicants who:
 - Have at least five years of **relevant** work experience;
AND
 - Have an undergraduate degree from a university that uses English as its primary language of instruction
OR
 - Have an advanced degree from the US (such as a PhD, MD, or MBA)
 - D) Applicants who already have taken and can submit scores from the MCAT, LSAT, GMAT or other relevant comparable exam.

Process:

1. Graduate programs may request waivers for their programs or categories of applicants to their programs by April 1st of each year from their Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. If no new request is received, then the prior year's arrangement will stay in place.
2. Once the waiver(s) are approved, Graduate Admissions will be notified and will modify the online application accordingly.
3. Requests for individual waivers will still be reviewed by academic department and the relevant Senior Associate Dean on a case-by-case basis.