

**Accelerated MA Degree Program in Political Science –
Concentration in the United Nations and Global Policy Studies
(Originated 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 admissions committee for 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. Final official transcripts must be submitted in May, after students have received their BA degree from Rutgers University. An additional interview with the admissions committee for 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.

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; and 16:790:501- Theory and Method in the Study of Global Affairs.