

**Accelerated MA Degree Program in Political Science –  
Concentration in the United Nations and Global Policy Studies  
(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 opportunity to take graduate level courses in the UNMA program while they pursue their undergraduate degree and apply those credits towards their graduate degree once they receive their BA and are formally accepted into the MA Program.

Please note: graduate level courses may NOT be counted toward the 120 credits required for the BA if the student would like to apply them to a graduate program in the Rutgers School of Graduate Studies.

**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 may be granted following review by the Vice-Chair for Undergraduate Studies and the Director of the MA Program in the Political Science – United Nations and Global Policy Studies, Political Science Department.<sup>1</sup> Rutgers University students with an overall GPA of 3.5 or higher will not be required to submit GRE scores in years when the School of Graduate Studies grants a waiver. Final official transcripts must be submitted in May, after students have received their BA degree. A second interview with the Director of the MA Program is required in the final semester of the student's BA program to confirm continued eligibility and formal admission to MA degree program.

## **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.

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<sup>1</sup> The explanatory SGS policy is attached below.

Admitted students are eligible to take one MA course in the second semester of their junior year, one course (or one study-abroad 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. The department does not encourage students to enroll for more than 15 credits when they are taking an MA-level course.

### **HOW TO PREPARE FOR THE ACCELERATED MA?**

Ideally, students will have notified the UNMA Program office of their interest program during their freshman or sophomore years. This declaration will allow the office to develop a student file and, with the Vice-Chair for Undergraduate Studies of the Political Science Department or the Undergraduate Advisor, 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: 16:790:525 Introduction to the United Nations: Theory, Institutions and Policies; and 16:790:518 Theory and Method in the Study of Global Affairs.

## Attachment A

### **Proposed SGS Policy (language as of August 1, 2017, approved in principle 9/25/17):**

Graduate programs and tracks may request GRE waivers as follows:

1. For all applicants to their program if GREs are not considered in the admissions review process.
2. 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.
  - b. Applicants who:
    - i. 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
    - ii. Have at least a 3.2 GPA (or equivalent) for their masters.
  - c. Applicants to terminal masters programs who:
    - i. Have at least five years of **relevant** work experience; AND
    - ii. Have an undergraduate degree from a university that uses English as its primary language of instruction OR
    - iii. Have an advanced degree from the US (such as a PhD, MD, or MBA)

### **Proposed Process:**

1. Graduate programs may request waivers for their programs or categories of applicants to their programs by April 1<sup>st</sup> of each year from their Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.
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 the relevant Senior Associate Dean on a case-by-case basis.