Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Combined Bachelor’s/Master’s Degree Programs Description

The Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (GSAS) offers combined degree programs through select departments. A combined Bachelor/Masters degree program is a five-year program conducted jointly by the School of Arts & Sciences and GSAS. The program permits students to complete the 120 credit-hour undergraduate degree and 30 credit-hour master degree in five years. The below policy currently does not apply to the Master of Fine Arts, Occupational Therapy, School Psychology, and Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning degrees.

The combined degree program is demanding and is intended for academically exceptional Tufts undergraduates. Applicants are urged to seek academic advising as early as possible.

Admission process and criteria

Admission to the graduate degree portion of the program is separate from the undergraduate degree portion. Admission to the graduate program is normally during the junior year. There are several criteria for admission to the program:

- Students must apply and be admitted to the graduate program by the end of the spring semester of their junior year
- Competitive applicants will have an overall minimum 3.5 GPA
- Applicants are required to submit 2 letters of recommendation, are exempted from the GRE requirement, and are not required to pay the graduate application fee
- Individual departments and programs may have additional admission requirements

Students seeking admission to the graduate program should consult with their undergraduate major advisors, the Associate Dean of Undergraduate Education, and their prospective graduate advisor before applying to the graduate school. Contact with the department’s graduate director, prior to application, is also highly advised.

Tuition and financial aid

Combined-degree students are responsible for payment of the undergraduate tuition and the graduate tuition. The graduate degree scholarship committee will take the undergraduate degree scholarship package into consideration when making decisions. Tuition for the graduate program covers the graduate curriculum, starting with up to two Tufts graduate summer courses, if required for the degree, taken after the student’s senior year. For approved shared graduate-level course credit-hours, described below, the graduate tuition will be reduced by the cost of the shared credit-hours up to six credit-hours. Graduate continuation fees are applicable after one year. There is a one year residency requirement for the graduate program. Students are not eligible for graduate teaching assistantships unless the bachelor’s degree is completed.

General curriculum—see specific program for details

Graduates of a GSAS combined degree program will complete all the academic requirements for both the undergraduate degree and graduate degree. Participating combined degree programs may permit admitted and enrolled students to apply up to six credit-hours of > 100-level Tufts
coursework, taken as part for the undergraduate degree requirements, towards the master’s degree requirements. These shared graduate-level course credit-hours must be part of the master’s degree requirements and must adhere to the policies in the graduate student handbook. Refer to the specific program curriculum for further details, as students are subject to the individual department and program guidelines.

**Degrees conferred**

Graduates of a combined degree program receive a bachelor’s degree from Tufts (BA, BS) and a master’s degree from Tufts (MA, MS, MAT). Degrees are conferred upon completion of requirements for each portion of the program, e.g., a degree will be conferred once the BA requirements are completed and a degree will be conferred once the MA requirements are completed.

**Additional admission requirements:**

Interested students should apply in Fall of their junior year. In exceptional cases we will consider students applying in their senior year. The Philosophy Department recommends that at least one of the two letters of support come from a member of the Philosophy Department.

**Degree requirements:**

Students must complete the requirements for their undergraduate major and the standard requirements for the Philosophy M.A. degree. Following GSAS policy, only two courses (six Carnegie units) may count towards both the undergraduate and M.A. degrees. (Only Tufts 100 or 200 level Philosophy courses may count towards the M.A. degree.) The Philosophy M.A. degree requirements are reproduced below.

The coursework consists of eleven (11) upper-level philosophy courses (courses numbered 100 or above). Thus, students must earn eleven (11) credits. We do not accept transfer courses. The eleven (11) courses must include: Phil 103 Logic (students with proven strength in logic may be able to be exempt from the logic requirement); and Phil 297 Graduate Writing Seminar (this course is designed to help students prepare a writing sample in order to apply to doctoral programs).

Coursework must satisfy a breadth requirement. Two courses are required in each of these three (3) areas: 1. Normative philosophy 2. History of philosophy 3. Metaphysics and epistemology

All upper-level philosophy courses, except the graduate writing seminar, fall into at least one of three distribution areas. See the Course Distribution list found on the Department of Philosophy website for allocation. Students are not required to concentrate their coursework in a particular area. Nonetheless, students may well focus more on some areas but not others in the courses they take. While deciding which courses to take, students should be aware that some are offered regularly and some are not.

Area of Strength Exam: In addition to coursework, students must also pass one of three “area of strength” exams. The exams are: 1. Ethics 2. Epistemology 3. Metaphysics

Before the start of each academic year, a list of topics and/or core texts for each of the exams will be made available. This content will vary from year to year. Students should take the exam in their second or third semester. Before taking the exam of their choice, they must have completed a course in that area. Students must register for the “area of strength exam” course during the semester in which they plan to
take the exam. The “area of strength” course has no designated course content and is, in effect, a transcript record of when the exam was taken. It is not worth any credits.

We recommend students take five courses towards the M.A. degree in their senior year. Only a maximum of two courses may also count towards their bachelor’s. Therefore, students should reserve the additional courses the taken in their senior year to count towards only their M.A. degree. Courses not counting towards the bachelor’s degree can be reserved for graduate credit through the Registrar’s Office, http://students.tufts.edu/registrar/student-forms.

**Proposed program of study:**

Freshman through junior years: completion of undergraduate distribution, foundation, and most major requirements.

Senior year: Phil 103 (Logic) in the Fall plus four to five 100 level Philosophy courses over the course of the year. Area of Strength exam taken at the end of senior year.

Plus one M.A. year: Graduate Writing and Pedagogy Seminars in the Fall plus four to five 100 or 200 level Philosophy courses over the course of the year.