

## Accelerated Bachelor of Arts in Writing Arts/Master of Arts in Writing Dual Degree Program

### Definitions

The discussion below uses the following definitions:

*BA/MA program:* The complete accelerated Bachelor of Arts in Writing Arts/Master of Arts in Writing Dual Degree Program, at the completion of which a student receives both a BA in Writing Arts and an MA in Writing. A student enrolled in this program takes a minimum of 138 credits in order to receive both degrees rather than the minimum of 150 credits when obtaining the degrees separately.

*BA/MA year:* This is normally the student's senior year. During the BA/MA year, the student who is accepted into the program enrolls in 12 credits of graduate writing courses, as proscribed below.

*MA/BA year:* This is the student's "+1" year. During this year, the student completes the requirements for the graduate degree, as well as any other necessary requirements for the BA.

### Procedures Overview

Procedures for applying and fulfilling the requirements of the BA/MA are listed below:

Step	Date	Procedure
1.	Student's junior year, preferably when he/she has completed 60-75 credits and no later than March 1 of the junior year.	Student applies to the Department of Writing Arts for accelerated BA/MA dual degree program. See below for procedures.
2.	Upon acceptance into the BA/MA program	Graduate program advisor and student fill out a Change of Program form.
3.	Spring of junior year	Student goes physically to the Graduate School office to register for fall classes of BA/MA year. <i>This must be done every semester from now on!</i>
4.	When student has completed requirements for undergraduate degree (120 credits and fulfilled major/gen ed requirements, with exceptions listed below)	Transition Form completed by student and signed by graduate advisor before being turned into the Graduate School office. <i>This represents an official enrollment into MA/BA program.</i>
5.	When student has met obligations of both BA and MA	Student applies for graduation for both degrees.

## **Program Details**

This program allows highly motivated students to begin taking graduate courses in their senior year, accelerating their graduate studies while still at the undergraduate level and while paying undergraduate tuition and fees. The program is also known as the accelerated BA/MA or the 4+1 degree because it allows interested and qualified students to complete the department's bachelors and masters degrees in five years rather than the normal six.

### **Requirements for Application**

To apply to the program, student must have:

- Successfully completed 60-75 credits of course work
- 3.5 GPA in the major (which consists of the required courses and related electives) and a 3.0 GPA overall
- Completed at least 3 courses offered by the department that are in the major
- Completed Introduction to Writing Arts (WA07.200)
- Completed at least 15 credits at Rowan University while matriculated in the BA in Writing Arts, of which at least one is an undergraduate course in creative writing from the list on page 5.

### **Application**

Admission to the program will be based on the student meeting the above-listed criteria and an application packet consisting of the following:

- Two letters of recommendation, at least one of which must be from a Writing Arts professor
- Writing sample of 8-10 pages that demonstrates writing ability generally and within the desired MA track, which is either Creative Writing/Journalism or Composition Studies.
- 300-500 word statement of purpose for attending the program

This application packet must be submitted to the Graduate Advisor of the Writing Arts Department. No action will be taken until the file is complete.

### **Admission**

Final admission decisions will be made by a committee from Writing Arts consisting of the chair, the undergraduate coordinator and the graduate advisor.

### **Satisfactory Progress Towards Graduation**

In order to graduate from the accelerated BA/MA program, students must meet the following requirements:

1. Complete all requirements for the BA in Writing Arts including the following: Up to 12 semester hours of Rowan graduate writing courses, including Core I and Core II,

during the student's senior year, which is also considered the first year of the BA/MA program.

Note: Portfolio Seminar should be taken as soon as possible after other undergraduate requirements are fulfilled. However, given the equivalencies for courses that portfolio papers must be drawn from, this may not be possible until near the end of the program.

If the student takes Portfolio Seminar during the BA/MA year, undergrad tuition and fees apply. If the student takes Portfolio Seminar during the MA/BA year, graduate tuition and fees apply.

2. Complete all requirements for the MA in Writing degree.
3. Full-time status:
  - a. Student must maintain full-time status each semester as an undergraduate student (minimum enrollment of 12 semester hours) during the BA/MA year of the program. Any student who fails to maintain full-time status during the BA/MA year of the program will be admitted back into the BA in Writing Arts program, subject to the requirements of that program.
  - b. Student must maintain full-time status each semester as a graduate student (minimum enrollment of 9 semester hours of graduate courses) during the MA/BA year of the program. Any student who fails to maintain full-time status during the MA/BA year of the program will be dropped from the dual program and must apply for graduation from the BA. In addition, if the student wishes to obtain an MA in Writing, he or she has to apply to the traditional 30-credit MA program.
  - c. A student with extenuating circumstances may request an exception to full-time status by obtaining written approval of the MA Graduate Advisor, Coordinator of the Undergraduate Major, and any other approvals that are required under university policy.
4. Satisfactory progress:
  - a. Student must complete four graduate writing courses by the end of BA/MA year, including Core I and Core II.
  - b. Student must earn at least a B in those four graduate courses.
  - c. Student must maintain a 3.5 GPA in the major and a 3.0 GPA overall.
  - d. Student must complete the BA/MA program requirements within four consecutive semesters of enrolling in the program.
  - e. Any student who fails to make satisfactory progress, as defined above, during the BA/MA year of the program will be admitted back into the BA in Writing Arts program, subject to the requirements of that program.  
Any student who fails to make satisfactory progress, as defined above, during the MA/BA year of the program will be dropped from the dual program and must

- apply for graduation from the BA. In addition, if the student wishes to obtain an MA in Writing, he or she has to apply to the traditional 30-credit MA program.
- f. A student with extenuating circumstances may request an exception to the satisfactory progress stipulations by obtaining written approval of the MA Graduate Advisor, Coordinator of the Undergraduate Major, and any other approvals that are required under university policy.

### **Graduation**

After completion of all requirements listed in 1-4 under *Satisfactory Progress Towards Graduation*, students must apply to receive simultaneously a Bachelor of Arts in Writing Arts and a Master of Arts in Writing. These are awarded as separate diplomas.

### **Tuition Costs**

Students enrolled in the BA/MA year of the program will pay undergraduate tuition and fees for all courses—whether the courses are undergraduate or graduate—until they are accepted into the MA/BA year. Upon transition into the MA/BA year, students will pay graduate tuition and fees for all courses, and all graduate requirements apply. Under no circumstances are students allowed to take more than 12 graduate credits while they are enrolled into BA/MA program as undergraduate students.

### **Transfer credits**

Students may transfer up to 6 credits from other institutions into the required and related electives banks of the undergraduate portion of the BA/MA program. No courses may be transferred into the MA/BA.

### **Structure of Program**

Students who enter the accelerated BA/MA program are expected to complete the following during what would be the BA/MA year:

Fall semester: Core I and another MA-level course

Spring semester: Core II and another MA-level course

During the MA/BA year, students need to enroll in the following:

Fall semester: Seminar I and two other MA-level courses

Spring semester: Seminar II and two other MA-level courses

### **Equivalencies**

In most cases, it is assumed that undergraduate students will place double-counted graduate courses they take as part of the BA/MA in the Free Electives bank of the undergraduate degree requirements. However, the Department of Writing Arts has determined that students may make the substitutions listed below, *during the BA/MA year only*, thus fulfilling undergraduate and graduate requirements simultaneously.

<b>This graduate course</b>	<b>can replace this undergraduate course</b>
MAWR01.554—Core I: Theories and Techniques for Writers	WA01.401—The Writer’s Mind
MAWR01.555—Writing for Electronic Communities	WA01.301—Writing, Research, and Technology
MAWR01.556 Perspectives in the Assessment of Writing	WA01.405—Evaluating Writing
MAWR01.557—Advanced Feature Writing for Print Media	JRN02.312—Magazine Article Writing

In addition, any of the following graduate courses can be used to fulfill requirements in the Writing in Professions undergraduate bank:

- MAWR01.546 Contemporary Rhetoric
- MAWR01.549 Issues in Composition Studies
- MAWR01.560 Managerial Communication
- MAWR01.564 Information Architecture
- MAWR01.618 Special Topics (topics vary)

Undergraduate students who have completed any of the following courses:

- CRWR 07290 Creative Writing I
- CRWR 07291 Creative Writing II
- CRWR 07309 Writing Children’s Stories
- CRWR 07391 Fiction Writing
- CRWR 07395 Writing Poetry

may take and apply any of the following graduate courses to the undergraduate Creative Writing bank:

- MAWR01.558 Fiction Workshop
- MAWR02.505 Poetry Workshop
- MAWR02.510 Writing for Broadcast
- MAWR02.515 Creative Nonfiction Workshop
- MAWR02.521 Writing the Nonfiction Book
- MAWR02.522 Nonfiction Workshop
- MAWR01.618 Special Topics (courses vary)