

# BA/MA COMBINED DEGREE PROGRAM IN INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Department of International Studies offers a BA/MA combined degree program open to all majors. This is a rigorous interdisciplinary program focused on the social sciences and humanities.

## PROGRAM ADVANTAGES

**Save time.** It is possible to earn both a bachelor's and master's degree in as little as five years (compared to six or more years if completed separately).

**Save money.** The first three graduate courses during senior year will be taken at the less expensive undergraduate tuition rate while counting for both the bachelor's and master's degrees. The Double Demon Scholarship—which covers 25 percent of tuition—will apply for the remaining MA courses.

**Develop a rigorous advanced academic training through writing a thesis:** Work closely with a faculty advisor to develop a research project and turn it into an MA thesis.

## CURRICULUM

Graduate courses are offered in the evenings on the Lincoln Park Campus. Students complete three graduate courses, one in each quarter of their senior year, that count towards both the bachelor's and master's degrees. Once students earn their bachelor's degree (end of senior year), they matriculate as graduate students and take nine additional courses to complete the MA degree (1 in summer, 3 in autumn, 3 in winter, and 2 in spring). Students are also required to complete an MA thesis (50 - 80 pages).

### Senior Year

#### *Fall quarter*

Student takes INT 401 Critical Social Theory during fall quarter. Student also takes a special section of INT 301 senior seminar, which will provide an opportunity to begin thesis research.<sup>1</sup>

#### *Winter quarter*

Student takes one graduate course from INT 404-INT 410.

#### *Spring quarter*

Student takes one graduate course from INT 404-INT 410. After this quarter, the student will have completed the Bachelor's degree and matriculates as a graduate student for summer term.

### Graduate Year

(The fifth and final year of the program)

Student takes 1 course in the summer following senior year, 3 courses per quarter in both fall and winter, and 2 courses in spring quarter. Student writes and defends thesis by the end of the summer following their 5<sup>th</sup> year.

## THESIS COMPONENT

Students begin researching a topic of interest in preparation for the MA thesis during the undergraduate senior seminar. This topic will be further refined during the graduate courses taken in senior year and the summer research methods course. By the end of autumn quarter of their 5<sup>th</sup> year, students are expected to

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<sup>1</sup> History majors may be exempted from INT 301 if they are able to begin their thesis research in HST 390.

assemble a thesis committee consisting of a primary advisor and two readers and defend a thesis proposal. Under the guidance of a thesis advisor, students continue writing the thesis throughout the 5<sup>th</sup> year, with the goal of defending by the end of that summer.

### **PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS**

In order to maintain good standing within the program, students must:

- Take only three graduate courses as a senior
- Maintain a 3.0 GPA (B or better) in the three graduate courses taken during senior year. A grade below a B- will not be accepted for graduate credit. (If these requirements are not met, the student will not be allowed to continue as a graduate student in the BA/MA program).

If the student takes the graduate courses in the senior year and decides not to continue with the MA program, the graduate courses will continue to count as major requirements or open electives towards their undergraduate degree.

### **ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

To apply for the BA/MA combined degree program students must have junior status and a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or higher. (Applicants from International Studies BA must have completed INT 201, INT 202, and INT 203, all with grades of B+ or higher).

Students who meet the above criteria must submit the following to the Graduate Admission Office at [graddepaul@depaul.edu](mailto:graddepaul@depaul.edu) by April 15th of their junior year:

- International Studies BA/MA Application Form
- Official undergraduate transcript
- Statement of Purpose
- Writing sample (please submit a research paper that demonstrates your ability to synthesize and analyze scholarly work.)
- Two letters of recommendation from professors (for INT majors, at least one from the International Studies faculty)

### **BA/MA STATEMENT OF PURPOSE PROMPT**

A graduate application statement of purpose is a unique form of writing. It must indicate that you have a research interest, that you have an idea of how to approach it in a scholarly way, and that you are clear about the difference between undergraduate and graduate work. Essentially, you will be presenting your goals for the next two years. The questions below are meant to assist you in developing your 800-word statement.

- Describe your intellectual interests. Discuss and explain any related background or experience that you may have in these areas.
- How are these interests related to the work you are doing in your undergraduate major or minor?
- What topics might you examine in an MA thesis? Choose two and write 250-300 words about each.

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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