



The Combined Bachelor's/Master's Program in WRD Information Sheet for Interested Students

Application Deadlines

To begin in Autumn Quarter, for Spring Graduation: April 15

To begin in Winter Quarter, for Autumn Graduation: November 15

To begin in Spring Quarter, for Winter Graduation: February 15

Overview

Undergraduate majors at DePaul who meet admission requirements are eligible to combine any DePaul major with the MA in WRD at cost and time savings. Combined-Degree students take up to three graduate courses as seniors, allowing for the completion of the MA in nine subsequent graduate courses rather than 12. Combined-Degree students will receive their Bachelor's degree at the completion of their undergraduate requirements (which will include the three graduate courses as undergraduate electives). The three graduate courses taken while one is an undergraduate will process at the rate of undergraduate tuition. DePaul's substantial [Double Demon Scholarship](#), which reduces graduate tuition by a full 25%, can be applied to the cost of the final nine graduate courses.

Program Description: The Combined Bachelor's/Master's Program in Writing, Rhetoric, & Discourse

The MA in Writing, Rhetoric, & Discourse is grounded in the theory and practice of symbolic expression. WRD understands *rhetoric* to function as a productive and analytic art—a system for creating and interpreting the social and cultural knowledge that sustains, shapes, and alters the way people interact personally, professionally, and publicly. The program combines theoretical and historical understanding of writing and rhetoric with opportunities to write in varied contexts. Combined program students are able to pursue the [Teaching Apprenticeship Program](#) (TAP) and earn the [TESOL Certificate](#) concurrently with the MA degree. MA WRD students may also pursue DePaul's graduate certificate in [Digital Humanities](#) as an elective sequence.

What constitutes eligibility, and how do I apply?

Applicants must be DePaul majors in any college in the junior year (between 88 and 132 hours). You may enter the Combined Bachelor's/Master's Program in WRD regardless of the quarter in which you intend to graduate. See the deadline schedule at the top of this document relative to your anticipated graduation date.

You must have a minimum GPA of 3.20 overall at time of application. By the deadline, forward to the Combined Degree Coordinator (CDC):

- the *department's* application form
- the Graduate Admissions application form
- a personal statement indicating the value of the Combined BA/MA in WRD to your academic and professional goals
- an official DePaul transcript, available through Campus Connect, current at the time of application. For ordering information, see [here](#)

Applicants are advised to consult with the CDC ([Professor Ceraso](#)) before submitting the application and/or if you are in need of necessary forms. The CDC will assist you in arranging to speak with the MA WRD director as well.

The CDC will present applications to the Graduate Committee for consideration. The Graduate Committee will advise the program director on selection; the director's decision shall be considered final. Successful applicants will be notified prior to registration for the quarter in which they intend to begin, and they will be advised to consult immediately with the CDC about arranging their class schedules.

What happens once I am accepted?

Enrollment in the Combined-Degree program is a bit more complicated than enrollment as a conventional undergraduate. Once your application is approved, you will move into Combined Program status at the *undergraduate* level. When you have completed your undergraduate requirements, you'll be entered into the MA in WRD. These cumbersome steps are necessary to ensure that you pay only undergraduate tuition prior to completing your undergraduate degree. You will complete these steps in close collaboration with Professor Ceraso, so you needn't worry.

What graduate courses are available to me as a senior?

During the senior year, students accepted to the program may take only one graduate course in each quarter. Combined Program students must enroll in the Proseminar at the earliest opportunity. Other eligible courses will be determined by the Graduate Committee and announced on a quarterly basis prior to registration. A combined-degree student's three graduate courses taken during the senior year will count toward a Writing and Rhetoric major's undergraduate degree as major electives and toward the graduate degree category satisfied by the course. (For example, a Combined Program student taking WRD 505, Contemporary Rhetorics, would receive credit for the course in the Rhetoric and Discourse domain in the graduate program.) A non-Writing and Rhetoric major's graduate courses taken as an undergraduate would count toward Open Electives, or as major electives with the agreement of the student's major advisor. *Combined Program students must achieve a minimum grade of B in each graduate course taken as an undergraduate to continue the Combined Program in good standing.*

Are there any financial incentives available to Combined Program students?

Yes! As undergraduates, Combined Program students are able to take up to three graduate courses at the rate of undergraduate tuition. As undergraduates, tuition waivers and graduate assistantships are unavailable. However, upon completion of the undergraduate degree, Combined Program students who meet requirements are eligible to apply for financial assistance offered by the department, such as fellowships and assistantships. Further, as DePaul grads, all Combined Program students are eligible upon completion of the undergraduate degree for DePaul's [Double Demon scholarship](#), which will allow you to take your final nine graduate courses at a 25% discount, significantly reducing the cost of the graduate portion of the Combined Program.

I'm interested. What are my first steps?

The first step is to carefully review this document, the department's application form, and the [MA program requirements](#). If you are pre-junior status, feel free to contact Professor Ceraso to let him know of your interest. Stay connected during each advising period to be sure that your undergraduate course choices are optimal for entry into the Combined Program.

If you are already a junior (88-132 hours), schedule an appointment with Professor Vandenberg as soon as possible to discuss your academic and career goals—an MA program is a specialized degree, and you want to make sure it will lead in the direction you intend to go. When you are ready to meet, or if you have questions prior to meeting, please contact

Professor Antonio Ceraso, Combined Degree Coordinator, aceraso@depaul.edu, 773/325 4869.