

# **The BA/MA Program in the Sciences At Wesleyan University**

Wesleyan has long been praised for the quality of the original research that goes on within the walls of the Exley Science Center. Both the faculty and the students are engaged in projects that reflect the essence of innovative scientific research. Wesleyan is able to provide an outstanding training in science for two reasons. The first is an overall commitment by the University to maintain top facilities and laboratories. The second is the commitment by the faculty not only to engage in cutting-edge research, but to include students in this high level of research at an early stage in their scientific careers. This overall commitment to the sciences and learning has led to the creation of the BA/MA Program.

## **WHAT IS THE BA/MA PROGRAM?**

The BA/MA Program illustrates Wesleyan's strong commitment to science; we believe that the best way to learn science is to do scientific research. Wesleyan's faculty, facilities, and research support allow students majoring in science to receive a Bachelor's degree in four years and a Master's degree at the end of the fifth year. The Master's degree is tuition free. This program is particularly appropriate for students who wish to:

- Strengthen understanding of a field of interest before continuing to a Ph.D. program. A year of close personal mentoring and laboratory group experience is valuable as preparation for a rigorous Ph.D. program.
- Pursue industrial science. A Master's degree allows students to establish a strong position upon entrance into industrial science. In terms of salary, employees with the Master's degree earn approximately \$10,000 or more per year over those possessing the Bachelor's degree.
- Enter the field of teaching. Teaching qualifications are enhanced tremendously by completing the program. The MA, plus a year of experience engaged in collaborative research with a faculty member, opens up a range of possibilities from teaching science, to holding administrative positions in science education.
- Strengthen preparation for medical school through an additional year of research and coursework, while taking advantage of Wesleyan's strong premedical advising program.

## **WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?**

A student may earn a Bachelor's degree in four years and a Master's degree at the end of the fifth year while building a more solid professional background through courses, seminars and high level research.

- The opportunity to work closely with a faculty member on a significant research project.
- Tuition for the fifth year of the Master's degree is waived.
- Summer research grants are available in most disciplines.

## **WHEN AND HOW DO STUDENTS ENTER THE PROGRAM?**

Students are encouraged to declare their interest in the program as early as sophomore year. They are normally accepted into the program at the end of the junior year. Admission to the program is based on faculty sponsorship and a comprehensive evaluation of academic performance.

**Please contact the Department you wish to apply to for further details.**

## The B.A./M.A. Program in the Sciences - A Five Year Plan

The Science programs at Wesleyan offer a variety of excellent research opportunities. In fact, the opportunity to carry on significant research is one of the strongest features of science at Wesleyan. Many undergraduates carry on research in their major department in close collaboration with a faculty member in the department, and those who do often report that undergraduate research has been the most valuable part of their Wesleyan education. However, in recent years, as the opportunities to do high-quality research have multiplied at Wesleyan, some students have felt the need for a more intensive involvement in research than is possible in the traditional four year undergraduate setting. In consultation with their major department, a number of such students have constructed programs of study through which they have been able to obtain the M.A. degree after a fifth year of study following their B.A. This additional year has provided them with the opportunity to devote a great deal of time to completing the research project they had begun as undergraduates.

Wesleyan's five-year B.A./M.A. is a formal curricular option for those students who feel the need for the intensive research experience which a fifth year of study can afford. The program will have a strong research orientation. However, it will also include course work, seminars, and, in some cases, teaching. Although it is anticipated that most individuals who enroll in this program will go on for further graduate study, the program will provide a strong professional background for either further advanced study or employment in industry. It should be clear that completion of both B.A. and M.A. requirements in five years will require careful planning of one's schedule of courses and research for the last two years of the program. A student hoping to enter this program will be expected to declare the intention to do so early enough in his/her academic career to permit the design of an acceptable program for the last two years with both the major department and a research advisor within that department.

The program will include the following features:

The M.A. will require six to eight credits in addition to the 32 necessary for the Wesleyan B.A. Of these credits, two to four (at the department's discretion) will be in advanced coursework; the remaining credits may be earned through research, seminars, research practica, etc. M.A. credit will only be awarded for academic exercises in which grades of B minus or higher have been earned. However, a student in the program who earns more than 32 credits in four years may apply any excess credits toward the M.A., **providing that they are in the major area or a related area and they have not been used to fulfill the undergraduate major requirement.**

Students enrolled in this program will receive the B.A. degree after four years and the M.A. degree at the end of the fifth year. However, this is a combined degree program; in order to be able to complete the two degrees in five years, it will be necessary for the student to submit a carefully worked out and integrated study plan for the final two years at the time of application to the program.

Students will be encouraged to declare their interest in the program as early as sophomore year, but application to (deadline for application is March 1<sup>st</sup>.) and acceptance into the program will normally be by April 7<sup>th</sup> of the junior year. For seniors that apply to the program the application deadline is December 1<sup>st</sup>. with acceptance to the program by January 15<sup>th</sup>). Admission to the program will be based on both departmental recommendation and academic record. Departments will set their own requirements for admission into the program, which will be administered by a committee of the Graduate Council (see #6)

Wesleyan will not charge tuition for the fifth year. Tuition will however be charged for credits being used to make up an "upon completion" requirement. Students needing more than one year to complete the MA component of the program will pay an extension fee of \$250 per semester.

Students in this program will be expected to submit an M.A. thesis describing the research which they have carried out in partial fulfillment of the degree requirements. Many students in the program will choose not to write senior Honors theses because they will be writing a more substantial M.A. thesis based on the same project the following year. However, there will be no prohibition against writing a B.A. thesis should the student wish to do so. This would not relieve the student of the obligation to submit an M.A. thesis in the fifth year.

The program will be under the administrative supervision of a three-person committee of the Graduate Council, which will monitor the progress of students in the program toward completion of the degree requirements. The Graduate Office will maintain a roll of those enrolled in the program and will administer the academic records of students in the fifth year of the program.

Financial support other than tuition remission in the fifth year is not a formal component of this program. However, some students in the fifth year of the program may be able to find support either from research grant funds or as teaching assistants.

# Application for Admission to the BA/MA Program

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Last) (First) (Middle)

WesID# \_\_\_\_\_ DEPT: \_\_\_\_\_

Semester of Entrance  Autumn  Spring 20\_\_

Circle One: Sophomore Junior Senior

Permanent Address:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Street and Number) (City) (State) (Zip Code)

Permanent Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
(country/area code) and number

Present Address:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Street and Number or Wes Box) (City) (State) (Zip Code)

Present Address Valid Until \_\_\_\_\_ Present Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Place of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Citizenship:  U.S.A. Other \_\_\_\_\_ Legal Residence \_\_\_\_\_ Type Visa \_\_\_\_\_

- 1) If you have attended more than one undergraduate college, please attach a statement giving the reasons for your transfer.
- 2) List any work experience relevant to this application on an additional page.
- 3) Briefly describe any research which you have done on a separate sheet of paper.
- 4) Honors you have received:
- 5) Do you consider your transcript and college record an accurate indication of your academic ability? \_\_\_\_\_ If not, comment on an additional sheet.
- 6) On a separate sheet or sheets, please describe in detail your academic background, abilities, interests, and objectives. What attracted you to your chosen course of study and why do you feel that Wesleyan's program is suited to your needs?
- 7) List names, titles and addresses of at least three individuals who know your abilities and from whom you will request letters of recommendation.
- 8) Briefly describe the research you propose to conduct. Please comment on an additional sheet.
- 9) Copy of Undergraduate Transcript must be handed in.

**I certify that the information on this application is complete and accurate.**

Applicant's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



Students enrolled in this program will receive the B.A. degree after four years and the M.A. degree at the end of the fifth year. Departments may set their own requirements for admission into the program, which will be administered by the Graduate Council. The Graduate Office will maintain a roll of those enrolled in the program and will administer the academic records of students in the fifth year of the program.

**Applications are due to the Department on March 1<sup>st</sup> for juniors (December 1<sup>st</sup> for seniors). A decision will be announced by April 7<sup>th</sup> (decision for seniors will be announced by January 31<sup>st</sup>).** Should these dates fall on weekend days, all dates will be adjusted to the following weekday.

**Financial support other than tuition remission in the fifth year is not a formal component of this program.**

**A BA/MA candidate is not enrolled in the program until this form has been completed, signed in approval by the department chair and major adviser, and filed with the department.**

**Major Department:** The satisfactory completion of all courses listed above will fulfill departmental requirements for the B.A./M.A. I am authorized to sign for the department.

**Student:** I understand that this is an official record of my academic program of study.  
**ANY CHANGES IN THIS PROGRAM MUST BE APPROVED BY MY MAJOR ADVISER AND A NEW FORM MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE GRADUATE OFFICE.**

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Major Adviser's Signature & Date

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Student's Signature & Date

**Departmental Admission to BA/MA Program:**

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Department Chair's Signature & Date

**Final Approval by Director of Graduate Studies:**

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Director of Graduate Studies Signature & Date

***Note: Application, Program of Study and Letters of Recommendation are filed with the Department Administrative Assistant for processing.***



# BA/MA Deadline Schedule

## Deadlines for JUNIORS

Application due to Dept.  
For Approval:

March 1<sup>st</sup>.

Dept. submits to Grad Office

March 21<sup>st</sup>

Approval from Director of Grad Studies

April 7<sup>th</sup>

## Deadlines for SENIORS

Application due to Dept.  
For Approval:

December 1<sup>st</sup>

Dept. submits to Grad Office

January 12<sup>th</sup>

Approval from Director of Grad Studies

January 31<sup>st</sup>

Should these dates fall on weekend days, all dates will be adjusted to the following weekday.

# BA/MA Application Checklist

- **Complete application and proposed program of study with signatures of faculty advisor and department chair**
- **Official transcript**
- **Essay detailing your academic background, abilities, interests, and objectives**
- **Three letters of recommendation**
- **Research proposal**

All application materials should be submitted to the Administrative Assistant in the department to which you are applying. The department will hold your application until all materials are submitted and it is complete.

The departments will forward all complete applications to the Office of Graduate Student Services. The Office of Graduate Student Services and the Director of Graduate Studies will review the applications, and decisions will be made according to the deadlines indicated in the application.

Students will be notified (via campus mail) of their acceptance into the program. Upon notification, students are asked to send a letter to Allison Insall, Director of Graduate Student Services, to confirm their acceptance or decline the offer of admission to the BA/MA program.