

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 Science Tower. 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.

IMPORTANT DEADLINES:

For Juniors: Applications due to the Biology Department March 1st. Decisions announced by April 7th.

For Seniors: Applications due to the Biology Department December 1st. Decisions announced by January 15th.

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 is now introducing the five-year B.A./M.A. as 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. A student in the program who has been awarded the undergraduate degree "upon completion" because of having earned fewer than 34 credits in four years may not use any of the six to eight additional credits to fulfill the "on completion" 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.

Student will be encouraged to declare their interest in the program as early as sophomore year, but application to the Biology Department should be made by March 1st of the junior year, with decisions made by April 7th. The application deadline for Seniors is December 1st, with decisions made by January 15th. 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.

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 five years to complete the program will pay tuition for the additional time required.

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 B.A./M.A. Program

BIOLOGY DEPARTMENT AND NEUROSCIENCE & BEHAVIOR PROGRAM
ROOM 257 HALL-ATWATER
WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY MIDDLETOWN, CONNECTICUT 06459

Mrs.
Name Ms
Mr. (Last) _____ (First) _____ (Middle) _____

Semester of Entrance Autumn Spring 200_ Soc. Sec. No _____

Circle One: Freshman Sophomore Junior Senior Dept: _____

Permanent Address: _____
(Street and Number) (City) (State) (Zip Code)

Permanent Telephone _____

Present Address: _____
(Street and Number) (City) (State) (Zip Code)

Present Address Valid Until _____ Present Telephone _____

Date of Birth: _____ Place of Birth: _____

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

If Married, Give Name of Spouse _____ No. of Children ____

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.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

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: _____

program and will administer the academic records of students in the fifth year of the program.

Applications are due March 1st of the applicant's junior year. A decision will be announced by mid-March. The deadline for Seniors is December 1st with decisions made by January 15th.

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

A B.A./M.A. candidate is not enrolled in the program until this form has been completed, signed in approval by the department chair and major advisor, and filed in the Graduate Office (130 Science Tower).

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 ADVISOR AND A NEW FORM MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE BIOLOGY OFFICE.

Major Advisor's Signature and Date

Student's Signature and Date

Departmental Admission to B.A./M.A. Program:

Department Chair's Signature

Date

Final Approval by Director of Graduate Studies:

Director of Graduate Office Signature

Date