



THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA
The School of Theology and Religious Studies
Bachelor of Arts / Masters of Arts Five Year Program

Frequently Asked Questions

Why Does Someone Pursue This Program?

This program affords people an opportunity to obtain both a BA and an MA degree from CUA in an expedited fashion, five years total instead of 5.5-6 years. Most students who pursue this program are either looking to do Church related work (e.g., youth ministry, religious education / catechetics) or continue in doctoral studies. Students who graduate from the BA/MA program are trained and credentialed in Catholic theology (with or without the Certificate in Pastoral Ministry) and obtain this training / credentialing in less time and therefore for less tuition.

What is the Content of the Program?

Students Complete both BA and MA degrees without mitigating the intensity or quality of either program. The factor that enables one to do both degrees in only five years is the fact that University policies allow people who complete a BA/MA in five years to count up to **four** Masters level courses toward their BA degree. These courses must be designated *before the beginning of the term in which they are completed*.

A standard CUA BA in TRS consists of 40 courses, or 120 credits. During the senior year (and even in junior year), students in this program do four courses at the Masters level. That leaves only six courses (four if one does a thesis) to be completed in the fifth year, along with Masters comprehensive exams.

Any foreign language component for the Masters degree must be completed *before* the comprehensive exams are taken. In the case of a student who completes all degree requirements for both degrees by the end of year four, the Masters degree comprehensives may be submitted in fulfillment of the BA comprehensive requirement.

How does one enter the program?

CUA TRS majors can apply for the program in their junior year. The presumed GPA at the time of application is ≥ 3.5 . Students follow the standard application procedure for the Masters degree. The letters of recommendation requirement is waived, and GRE scores

need not be submitted until senior year. They must be submitted by the end of first term senior year. Students whose GRE scores are below standards OR whose Masters level course work is below standards (3.0?) may not remain in the BA/MA program. *The BA degree must be completed within four years of matriculation and the MA degree no later than five years after matriculation (i.e., one calendar year after the BA is received).* A student who does not complete the Masters degree within this time may not count the designated “double counted” courses toward the MA degree.

How is my GPA calculated?

The BA GPA includes the “double counted” MA courses completed by the time the BA is awarded, but not any further MA courses. The MAS GPA includes the double counted courses.