



# SCHOOL OF



## ENGLISH AND COMMUNICATION

### *Master of Arts (MA)*

The Master of Arts (MA) in English and Communication challenges students to develop integrated competencies in the highly sought skills of reading, writing, and speaking. The program focuses attention on the many uses of language and on the nature of language itself. It requires students to become familiar with the connections between the written and the spoken word, and with the varied ways that language is shaped to serve aesthetic, social, and practical ends. By fostering research and analytic skills, the master's degree program prepares students for careers not only in teaching, but also in law, public relations, business, publishing – in any field where integrated competencies in reading, writing, and speaking are especially valued.

The courses in the MA program are taught from a variety of disciplinary perspectives: literary history and theory, rhetoric, speech communication, linguistics, and composition studies. What unites these courses is the notion that all texts and utterances exist as part of discursive systems. Students' experience is also united by taking four core courses that develop the critical skills necessary to complete a master's thesis.

### *Requirements for Admission*

General Graduate Admission Requirements (see page 42)

Additional Admission Requirements

1. Applicants shall have earned a bachelor's degree with a major in English, Communication, or Writing from an accredited college or university. Outstanding applicants who hold degrees in other areas may be admitted, but they should be aware that additional coursework might be required.
2. Submission of three letters of reference, at least two of which shall be from undergraduate professors in the academic discipline of the baccalaureate degree.
3. A minimum grade point average of 3.00 (A=4.0) in the most recent 60 semester hours of undergraduate study.

4. A writing sample, preferably a recent essay written for an upper-level English or Communication course that shows evidence of scholarly research and writing.
5. Each student must demonstrate competence in a foreign language equivalent to that required for the awarding of the Bachelor of Arts degree at SUNY Potsdam.

The English and Communication Department at SUNY Potsdam is home to scholars of literature, rhetoric, speech communication, composition, and linguistics, making it unique within the SUNY system. Thus, our program is not a traditional program in literature and/or communication. It best serves students who wish to study in more than one of these disciplines. Students' thesis projects can be rooted in one of these disciplines, or they may cross or blur disciplinary boundaries.

A comprehensive approach to these distinct yet related fields defines the core graduate experience at Potsdam, making our MA program ideal for:

- Students who need the specialized skills an MA offers for their careers: teaching at community colleges; editing and publishing speeches, documents, and multimedia; and working for business, governmental agencies, and/or the corporate world in a multitude of capacities.
- Students who are preparing themselves for the pursuit of a PhD.
- Public school teachers who are pursuing a master's in English and Communication for Professional certification.
- Public school teachers who may already possess a master's degree but are looking to enhance their knowledge and skills.

# ARTS & SCIENCES

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## ENGLISH & COMMUNICATION (MA) COURSE REQUIREMENTS

This program is currently being revised. For information on current requirements, please contact the Office of Graduate Studies or the Department of English and Communication.

A minimum of 33 credit hours with an overall grade point average of 3.0 or higher is required for the granting of the Master of Arts in English and Communication. At least 27 of the 33 credit hours must be taken at the 600 level. Upon admission into the program, students should meet with the Director of Graduate Studies in the English and Communication Department for advising.

### The 33 credit hours are divided as follows:

Required Courses 12

GECD 601	Introduction to Research Methods
GECD 602	Introduction to Discourse Studies
GECD 603	Semiotics
GECD 604	Professional Writing

Electives English and Communication 15  
Students will select, with prior adviser approval, five graduate English and Communication courses, at least nine hours of which must be completed at the 600 level. Six hours may be taken at the 500 level in any courses offered by the Department of English and Communication.

GECD 690 Thesis 6

The Master's Thesis and Committee. Each candidate must show evidence of his or her ability to research a discursive problem and write the findings clearly and correctly. To meet this requirement, the student prepares a Master's thesis (50-100 pages), which should demonstrate the student's ability to interpret closely and critically on a subject agreeable to the student and the adviser of his or her Master's thesis.

The Master's Committee consists of an adviser and two readers. At least two members of the committee must be active members of the department, including the adviser.

*All courses are 3 credits unless noted.*

# [potsdam.edu/academics/AAS/Math](http://potsdam.edu/academics/AAS/Math)

## MATHEMATICS

### *Master of Arts (MA)*

The Master of Arts (MA) in Mathematics program is designed to develop the student's ability to work independently and to enable him or her to obtain basic knowledge in algebra, real and complex variables, and topology so that mathematics literature can be read with understanding and enjoyment. The successful completion of this program should prepare a student to enter a second-year doctoral program in mathematics, to begin a career as an industrial mathematician or as a faculty member at a junior or community college.

### *Requirements for Admission*

General Graduate Admission Requirements (see page 42)  
Additional Admission Requirements/Notations

1. A baccalaureate degree granted by an accredited college or university with preparation substantially equivalent to that required of mathematics majors at this institution.
2. Three letters of recommendation, two of which must be from members of the mathematics faculty with whom the applicant has taken courses.
3. A minimum grade point average of 2.75 (A=4.0) in the most recent 60 semester hours of undergraduate study.
4. A minimum grade point average of 3.0 or higher in all undergraduate coursework in mathematics.

A student who does not satisfy one or more of the above may be provisionally admitted.

### MATHEMATICS COURSE REQUIREMENTS (MA)

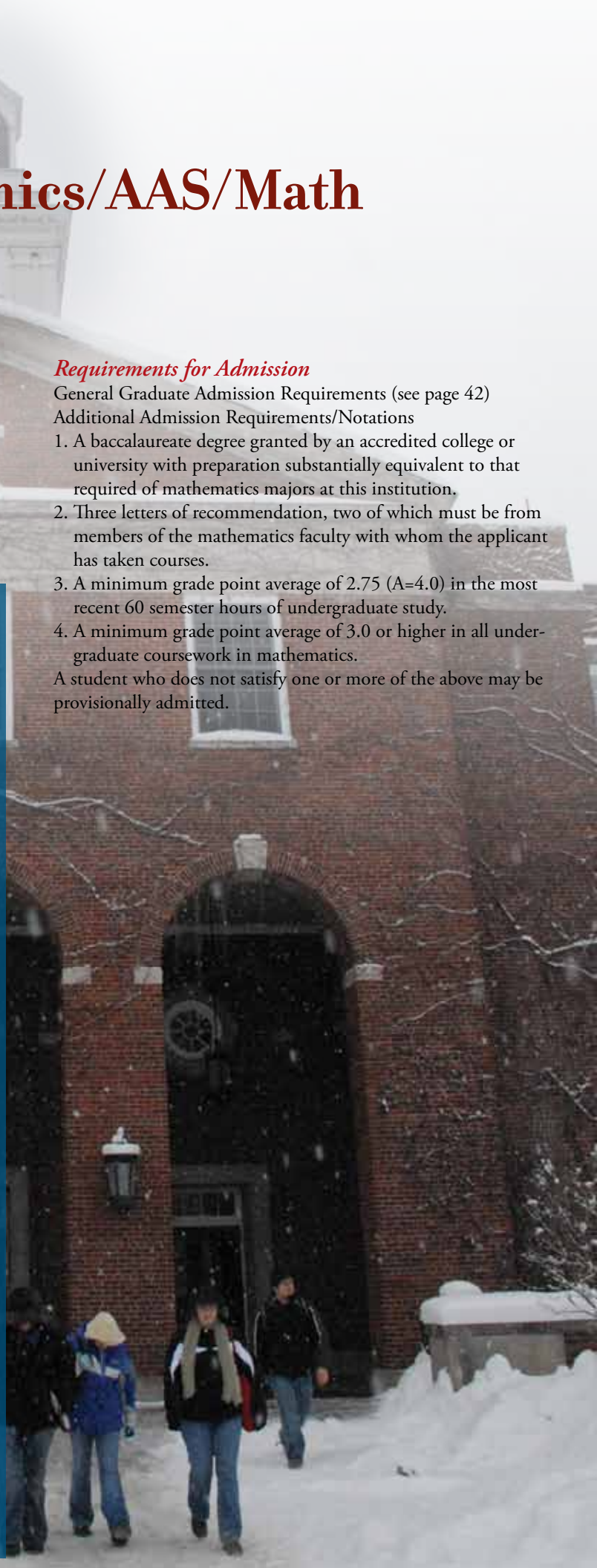
The master's degree requires a minimum of 30 graduate credit hours of coursework; a minimum of 24 hours of coursework must be in mathematics, and the hours outside the core are to be selected with the approval of the student's graduate committee. A maximum of six of the nine hours outside the core may be earned by writing a master's thesis. Only students with superior achievement and keen interest in a topic will be encouraged to write a master's thesis. A thesis is not required.

A minimum of 30 credit hours with an overall grade point average of 3.0 or higher is required for the granting of the Master of Arts in Mathematics as well as the passing of written examinations in two areas: Algebra, Real Analysis, Complex Analysis or Topology, with one being in Algebra or Topology. Under certain conditions these examinations may be waived. A policy statement on these examinations may be obtained from the Mathematics Department. A language examination is not required. However, students wishing to pursue a doctoral program usually find it necessary to pass a proficiency examination in one or two foreign languages, namely French, German or Russian.

### The 30 credit hours are divided as follows:

Required Courses	18
MATH 661	Topology I
MATH 671	Abstract Algebra I
MATH 672	Abstract Algebra II
MATH 681	Complex Variables I
MATH 691	Real Variables I
MATH 698	Seminar
ONE of the following:	3
MATH 662	Topology II
MATH 682	Complex Variables II
MATH 692	Real Variables II
Mathematics Electives	9
Courses selected with prior adviser approval	

*All courses are 3 credits unless noted.*





## Four-Year Bachelor/Master Degree Program in Mathematics

### *Bachelor of Arts (BA)/Master of Arts (MA)*

Some students are able to develop their mathematics ability to a high level at an early age. Hence, this program is designed so that our best mathematics majors can progress toward the frontiers of mathematics as rapidly as their ability and motivation will permit them, working for the BA and MA in mathematics simultaneously. In general, the BA/MA candidate's grade point average is expected to be at least 3.0 and the grade point average in mathematics is expected to be at least in the 3.5–4.0 range.

In addition to pursuing regular undergraduate courses, these students may earn undergraduate credits by 1) entering college with advanced standing credits, 2) completing graduate courses and receiving credit for corresponding undergraduate courses, and 3) examinations. At the end of the four years, successful candidates are able to complete all requirements for the BA and MA simultaneously.

Students usually enter this program at the beginning of the junior year. These students must qualify for the undergraduate honors program. They are expected to complete the equivalent of the following mathematics courses during the freshman and sophomore years:

- MATH 151 Calculus I (4 credits)
- MATH 152 Calculus II (4 credits)
- MATH 253 Multivariate Calculus (4 credits)
- MATH 340 Set Theory and Logic
- MATH 375 Linear Algebra I

Students interested in more information about this opportunity should consult the Chair of the Mathematics Department.

*All courses are 3 credits unless noted.*

