

BA or BS-MALD Combined Degree Program

Overview

The combined-degree program is offered jointly by the undergraduate schools (Arts and Sciences or Engineering) and The Fletcher School. It offers an opportunity for a limited number of highly qualified Tufts undergraduates to earn both the bachelor's degree in their selected major and the Master of Arts in Law and Diplomacy (MALD) degree. A total of 16 Fletcher courses (48 SHUs/credits) are required for the MALD degree. As many as four of these courses (12 SHUs) may be used in fulfilling requirements for the BA/BS degree. Degrees are conferred upon completion of requirements for each portion of the program; that is, a bachelor's degree will be conferred once the BA/BS requirements are completed and a master's degree will be conferred once the MALD requirements are completed.

Program Structure

Typically, the program lasts six years (12 semesters) and will not reduce the time usually required to pursue the two degrees separately. An undergraduate who is able to complete the AS&E eight-semester residency requirement by December of senior year may be able to complete the combined-degree program in five and a half years. Interested students should consult their undergraduate Advising Dean about this program.

Fletcher courses may be taken over a period of up to three years. The student must be a full-time Fletcher student during at least three semesters. While matriculated at Fletcher, students will pay Fletcher tuition and may receive Fletcher financial aid.

After being admitted to Fletcher, combined-degree students may take up to four Fletcher courses (12 SHUs) while still registered in AS&E and have these courses count toward the 16 courses (48 credits) required for the Fletcher degree. Fletcher courses taken through cross-registration before starting the combined-degree program are not eligible for Fletcher credit. Cross-registration for courses at Harvard or at other institutions in the greater Boston area will not be approved until the student has completed at least eight Fletcher courses (24 credits), including those taken while still an undergraduate.

No more than four Fletcher courses (12 SHUs) can be taken each semester, but students still completing undergraduate requirements may take a combination of Fletcher and undergraduate classes totaling 16 SHUs or fewer. The student's program must be coordinated in such a fashion as to satisfy both the Fletcher and undergraduate requirements.

Admissions

Students may apply for the combined-degree program once they have completed and received grades for 80 SHUs. All BA/BS-MALD applicants are required to participate in an on-campus evaluative Fletcher admissions interview. Applicants should contact the Fletcher Admissions Office to arrange an interview with an admissions staff member.

Once admitted, students may begin taking Fletcher courses at the start of the following semester, whether it begins in January or September. The application deadline for January enrollment is October 15. The application deadline for September enrollment is January 10.

Combined-degree applicants should be aware that the scholarship model used at The Fletcher School is different from the one used in the undergraduate programs. For students who apply for financial aid, scholarships are awarded on the basis of merit and need. There are no merit-only scholarships. Additionally, Fletcher is not able to meet full need for all of the student's tuition and living expenses. Finally, undergraduate housing is not an option for full-time Fletcher students, and graduate housing in Blakeley Dormitory is not guaranteed.

Additional information about the Fletcher admissions process and financial aid can be found on the Fletcher website at www.fletcher.tufts.edu. Applicants will follow all of the usual MALD instructions, but SAT/ACT scores will be accepted instead of GRE scores and no application fee is required.

BA or BS-MALD Combined-Degree Program, Additional Information

Completing your undergraduate degree

It is very important that students interested in the combined degree consult advisors **before applying** to understand how the program could be structured. Students should confirm with the Registrar, Advising Deans, and major advisor that they have a plan for completing all remaining undergraduate requirements.

How long does it take to complete the Combined-Degree Program?

Students in the combined-degree program need to fulfill an eight-semester residency requirement at Arts and Sciences or Engineering and at least three semesters at Fletcher. The fourth Fletcher semester can be fulfilled by cross-registering for four courses while the student is enrolled at AS&E. Most students need at least five and a half and often six years to complete the combined degree. Students who have one or two AS&E course requirements remaining after their eighth semester of residency can take a fifth course during the Fletcher semesters but then cannot earn the bachelor's degree until they also complete their Fletcher degree. BA and BS students can apply to Fletcher after they have completed and received grades for courses totaling 80 SHUs at Tufts.

TIME TO COMPLETION OF BA OR BS-MALD COMBINED DEGREE	
6 Years	Two sequential degrees. (No study time advantage to applying to the Combined Degree.)
5-1/2 Years	<p>If all AS&E requirements are completed before the eighth AS&E semester:</p> <p>Years 1, 2 & 3: AS&E student</p> <p>Year 4: AS&E student in the fall; cross-register for 4 Fletcher courses as an AS&E student in the spring</p> <p>Year 5: Fletcher student, both semesters</p> <p>Year 6: Fall semester only needed to complete MALD degree</p>
5 Years	<p>If all AS&E requirements are completed before the seventh AS&E semester and the student has advanced standing from prematriculation and/or summer school credits.*</p> <p>Years 1, 2 & 3: AS&E student</p> <p>Year 4: Cross-register for 4 Fletcher courses as an AS&E student in the fall; Fletcher student in the spring</p> <p>Year 5: Fletcher student</p> <p>*A total of 5 courses and 15 SHUs are needed to fulfill the 8th semester of residency for students who matriculated prior to Fall 2018. For students matriculating after Fall 2018, a total of 5 courses and 17 SHUs are needed to fulfill the 8th semester of residency.</p>