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Majors and minors

WHAT IS A MAJOR AND WHAT IS A MINOR?

A major is a sequence of eight units from one discipline area that you will study over the course of your degree.

A minor is a sequence of four units from one discipline area. In the Bachelor of Arts, you need to choose to study either:

- 2 majors (of eight units each) OR
- 1 major (eight units) and 2 minors (of four units each) OR
- 1 major (eight units) and 1 minor (four units) and 40cp of elective units

WHICH MAJORS AND MINORS CAN I SELECT?

The list of majors and minors is available in the 'Majors and Minors' document in the Course Enrolment Guide and in the Handbook Course rules. The BA/MTeach program is slightly different from the regular Bachelor of Arts and offers different majors and minors, all of which articulate into Secondary Teaching Areas. On the Handbook course information page, check the campuses listed underneath each major and minor to ensure that it is available on your campus. When reading the Handbook, ensure you select the year you started the course.

HOW DO I RECORD MY MAJOR/MINOR IN THE STUDENT SYSTEM?

Once you have completed a semester in the Bachelor of Arts/Master of Teaching, you should register your major/s and minor/s in Student Connect.

You should also update this information if you change your major/minor at any time, as it helps us to monitor your progress through the course and provide advice.

In Student Connect, click on **My Enrolment** then click **Select your Major/s**.

CAN I CHANGE MY MAJOR OR MINOR LATER IN THE COURSE?

Yes, many students can do that, particularly if you are in the early stages of the degree. It is a good idea to check with your Course Coordinator about whether this will extend your degree or not. Changing your major or minor may require different unit choices and may potentially extend your degree.

You can apply to change your major or minor in Student Connect after the end of your first semester. In Student Connect, click on **My Enrolment** then click **Select your Major/s**.

CAN I COMPLETE BOTH ANCIENT AND MODERN HISTORY AS A STUDENT IN NSW?

Yes, this is possible. You will still need to select another subject area as your minor. This puts you onto the One Major, One Minor and Electives pathway but requires a specific sequence of History units. See the 'Information about studying history in NSW for teaching' document for more details and contact your course coordinator for assistance in mapping your units.

Electives

WHICH UNITS CAN I COMPLETE AS ELECTIVES?

Electives can be any unit from the National School of Arts and Humanities Unit List provided that prerequisite requirements are met. You **cannot** complete electives from Education, Health Sciences, Nursing, Law, Criminology, or any other unit not listed in the Arts Unit List.

CAN I CHOOSE AN ELECTIVE AS AN EXTRA UNIT IN MY MAJOR OR MINOR?

You may do this if there are more units on offer over the course of your degree than the major or minor requires. See the National School of Arts and Humanities Unit List for the yearly choice of units. You can discuss this with your Course Coordinator if you have any questions.

SHOULD I COMPLETE ALL MY ELECTIVES IN ONE AREA, OR SELECT EACH ELECTIVE AS THE MOOD TAKES ME?

That's up to you! Some students strategically develop an area they think will be useful in the workforce while others enjoy sampling different subject areas to give them a wider knowledge base.

Enrolling in units

HOW DO I FIND WHICH UNITS ARE AVAILABLE TO ENROL IN?

The units on offer are updated each year and the unit list will show you what you can choose in the current academic year. Always use the updated unit list. **You will find the current unit list in the Course Enrolment Guide.** This is one of the most important sources of information that you will need to complete your enrolment and changes each year.



HOW DO I KNOW THE LEVEL OF THE UNITS I'M ENROLLING IN?

The course map will guide you as to the level of the unit you need to choose.

If the map states 'Major 100 level', you must choose a unit code that starts with a '1' (for example, HIST115). These are sometimes referred to as first year or "introductory" units. You can enrol in up to two 100-level units in your major or minor sequence.

If the map states '200-level', choose a unit that starts with a '2' (for example, HIST251).

Don't enrol in a 200-level unit until you have completed at least one first-year unit from the same sequence, or any required prerequisite.

Students normally enrol in 300-level units towards the end of their degree and when they have completed any prerequisites that might be required. You must complete two 300-level units to complete a major.

CAN I BEGIN MY MASTERS UNITS IF I ONLY HAVE A FEW BACHELOR OF ARTS UNITS LEFT TO COMPLETE?

No. You need to complete all the requirements of your Bachelor of Arts degree before you can begin any of your Masters units. It's not possible to complete undergraduate and postgraduate units simultaneously. Contact your course coordinator for assistance in mapping your degree if you're concerned about this.

Prerequisite units

WHAT ARE PREREQUISITE UNITS?

A prerequisite is a unit you must complete before you can enrol in a higher-level unit.

The enrolment system will prevent you from enrolling in units for which you do not have the prerequisite. If you have transferred from another degree and believe you have met the prerequisites for higher-level units, you may need to apply for credit for your previous studies. More information is available at the following link: [How can I apply for credit?](#)

HOW DO I APPLY FOR A WAIVER OF PREREQUISITE UNITS?

You can find more information along with the prerequisite waiver form at the following link: [How do I apply for a prerequisite waiver?](#)

Special units

WHAT IS THE HUMA332 ARTS AND HUMANITIES SPECIAL PROJECT UNIT?

The special project unit will focus on different projects in different years. There are two internships on offer. One is an internal internship for the *Scroll* magazine and students may apply from any degree or major in the National School of Arts and Humanities, especially (but not limited to) those with skills in any of English, Creative Writing, Communication, Media, Graphic Design, Visual Arts. The other internship is open only to students majoring in Sociology – so is not an option for BA/MTeach students. Priority will be given to final year students, and GPA will be considered. This unit will count as an elective in your degree.

WHAT IS HUMA330 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT?

HUMA330 is a community engagement unit involving either 25 hours of direct service in a community organisation or a classroom-based community engaged project. Students will apply for a placement or project through the Community Engagement In Place portal, so you will have choice of options. If you have a disability or additional needs that need to be considered in the choice of placement, please contact the community engagement team prior to the start of semester.

HUMA331 will not be offered in 2026, so students will need to complete HUMA330.

You must complete the Community Engagement requirement of the Bachelor of Arts as part of your degree. For more information about any of the special units, please contact your Course Coordinator.

WHEN WILL I BEGIN COMPLETING TEACHING PLACEMENTS?

Your Bachelor of Arts does not include any teaching placements. All these units are in the Masters portion of your program, so you will begin completing placements from the second semester of Year 3 (if completing both degrees in 4 years, on the accelerated map) or later. More information about your Professional Experience units is available via the Course Enrolment Guide (under the Course Information tab) or here: [Master of Teaching PEP Calendar](#)

Study part of your Bachelor of Arts at our campus in Italy

The Bachelor of Arts is one of the key degrees at ACU that is designed to offer students the opportunity to spend a full semester in Italy. For some students, this can also fit into the BA/MTeach map. All units are taught for ACU students by ACU staff, in English, so you do not need to have Italian language skills to take this option. Students stay in the ACU accommodation during their study in Rome.

To plan for this opportunity, it is a good idea to speak to your course coordinator for advice on course mapping early in your degree. The Rome Semester usually fits most easily in Semester 2 of your second year in this degree, as you are only mapped to complete Arts units then - but your course coordinator can assist you with this planning.

For more information on studying at ACU in Rome, see the website here: [ACU Rome Campus](#)

The Rome Campus Semester offers units that really make use of the city of Rome, its art, history, architecture and people.

In 2026 this will include the following units in semester 2 (each unit runs for three weeks):

- ITAN101 Introductory Italian
- ENGL333 Global Literary Cultures
- HUMA254 The Idea of the City: A Study of Rome
- HUMA207 More than a Museum: Modern Rome
- HUMA252 Art, Politics and Society in Renaissance and Baroque Rome
- HUMA319 Rome Field School: Landscapes Past and Present
- THEL214 Cults, Gods and Religion in Ancient Rome
- PHCC320 The Just Society

The Vice Chancellor's travel grant and HELP loans make overseas study a more affordable option.

CAN I DO A SINGLE ELECTIVE ON THE ROME CAMPUS? HOW DO I APPLY?

Yes, students can take units in Rome as electives or sometimes as a single unit in your major or minor. Some of the units run after the end of semester 2, such as HUMA252 Art Politics and Society in Renaissance and Baroque Rome which normally runs in December. You can find out more in the Study Overseas web page (log in required): [ACU Rome Campus](#)

Duration of degree

HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE TO COMPLETE MY DEGREE?

There are several ways to study the Bachelor of Arts/Masters of Teaching degree.

Full-time Accelerated:

This mode allows students to finish the Bachelor of Arts degree in 2.5 years and the Masters of Teaching in 1.5 years, making it a four year program in total. This program uses summer and winter units to speed up your degree and is displayed in the Course Handbook maps.

Full-Time (Standard)

This mode allows students to finish the Bachelor of Arts degree in 3 years and the Masters of Teaching in 2 years, making it a five year program in total. Students do not need to complete summer or winter units in this mode, but can do so if they wish to.

Part-Time

This mode allows students to finish the Bachelor of Arts and Masters of Teaching degrees over up to 8 years. Students may choose to study only in standard semester time or can spread three or four units per year over semester 1 or semester 2, summer and/or winter (as available).

Choose the right course map

In the 'Course maps' tab of the Course Enrolment Guide you will find various versions of the course map. Select and follow the appropriate map for your circumstances, noting the year and semester you started the course.

CAN I DECIDE NOT TO CONTINUE ON TO THE MASTER OF TEACHING?

Yes, it's possible to exit your program at the end of the Bachelor of Arts portion and graduate with this degree only, provided you have met all the requirements. Graduating with only a Bachelor of Arts will not qualify you to teach in secondary schools – even though you have completed some undergraduate education units – but can be a pathway into many other careers.

WILL I GRADUATE TWICE OR ONLY AFTER COMPLETING MY MASTER OF TEACHING?

It's up to you whether you attend two graduation ceremonies – one when you complete of your Bachelor of Arts, after 2.5 to 3 years, and another when you complete your Master of Teaching, at the end of your 4 to 5 years. But you will technically graduate twice, if you meet the requirements of both degrees, and so are eligible to attend both ceremonies if you wish!