RUSSIAN STUDIES - BACHELOR OF ARTS (BA)

The major in Russian studies is an interdisciplinary program focusing on study of the current cultural and social context, and the literary, artistic, and historical aspects of Russian culture in the past and present. The aim of the language curriculum is to equip students to read, write, speak and understand Russian on a level allowing communication with natives and other users of the language. Before registering for a language course other than RUSS 1010, students should consult with the undergraduate faculty advisor (https://www.colorado.edu/gsll/russian/programs-degrees/russian-advising/) concerning appropriate placement.

Students interested in Russian studies should consider a double major in order to increase their career opportunities. Prospective teachers might combine Russian studies with a major in another foreign language, while those preparing for a career in government, business or social services should benefit from a combination of Russian studies and a social science or business major. Students structure their curriculum according to the departmental checklist for majors, in close consultation with a departmental advisor.

Study Abroad

The department strongly recommends that all Russian majors take part in the university summer language program in St. Petersburg. For more information on CU Study Abroad programs, visit the Education Abroad (http://abroad.colorado.edu/) website.

Courses Taught in English

A number of courses are offered in translation. These courses generally require no previous study in the language, history or culture of the area involved, and are open to all interested students, regardless of major.

Requirements

General Requirements

Students must complete at least 30 credit hours in Russian studies, at least 18 of which must be completed at the 3000 or 4000 level, with grades of C- or better (none may be taken as pass/fail).

- RUSS 1010 and RUSS 1020 do not count toward the 30 credit hours required for the major in Russian studies.
- Students may not receive credit for both RUSS 3060 and RUSS 4010 or RUSS 4020 and RUSS 4060. Choose either the RUSS 3060/RUSS 4060 sequence or the RUSS 4010/RUSS 4020 sequence.
- Beginning or middle-level language course requirements may be met by transfer credit or by testing out of the course. Students who enter the program at the third-year level must complete at least 18 credit hours in residence in courses numbered 3000 or above with grades of C- or better (none may be taken as pass/fail).
- Students who enter at and enroll in Russian language courses at the 3000- or 4000-level may not receive credit for lower-division Russian language courses, unless lower-division language coursework was completed prior to registration for 3000- and 4000-level Russian language courses.

- No course can be used for more than one category.

Students are required to structure their curriculum for the major in close consultation with the departmental advisor. (https://www.colorado.edu/artssciences-advising/christine-luft/) Students with advanced Russian language skills are strongly encouraged to meet with the undergraduate faculty advisor (https://www.colorado.edu/gsll/russian/programs-degrees/russian-advising/) to discuss language placement. Students who have Russian language transfer credit and/or students who are Russian language native or heritage speakers may enter the program at the upper-division level, up to RUSS 4010, with faculty permission.

In the case of advanced language placement, students will be required to meet with the Russian faculty advisor for Russian course substitutions and recommendations. Students who place out of Russian language courses required for the major must replace the credits with additional coursework in Russian Studies. Any substitutions to major coursework must be preapproved by the Russian faculty advisor.

Graduating Russian studies majors are asked to participate in an annual assessment exercise during their last (spring) semester at the university to help evaluate the quality of the Russian Studies major. Students may also be interested in learning their level of language competence from the standardized online test. Students cannot study for the exams, and they do not affect course grades or graduation in any way.

NOTE: Study abroad is recommended after the second year of language study.

Program Tracks

Track A: Russian Language and Culture

**Code** | **Title** | **Credit Hours**
---|---|---
RUSS 2010 | Second-Year Russian 1 | 4
RUSS 2020 | Second-Year Russian 2 | 4
RUSS 3010 | Third-Year Russian 1 | 4
RUSS 3020 | Third-Year Russian 2 | 4

**Russian Literature/Culture Course - the 19th Century and Earlier**

Select one of the following:

- RUSS 2211 Introduction to Russian Culture
- RUSS 2261 The Russian Short Story
- RUSS 2471 Women in Russian Culture: From Folklore to the Nineteenth Century
- RUSS 3601 Russian Culture Past and Present
- RUSS 3701 Slavic Folk Culture: Ideals and Values in the Contemporary World
- RUSS 3705 Crimes of Passion: Gender and Sexual Politics in Tolstoy's Russia
- RUSS 4301 American-Russian Cultural Relations
- RUSS 4431 Dostoevsky
- RUSS 4441 Tolstoy
- RUSS 4451 Chekhov
- RUSS 4481 Rogues to Revolutionaries: Russian Rebels, Past and Present
- RUSS 4811 19th Century Russian Literature
2 Russian Studies - Bachelor of Arts (BA)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RUSS 4861</td>
<td>Absurd and Supernatural in Russian Literature</td>
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</table>

**Russian Literature/Culture Course - the 20th and 21st Centuries**

Select one of the following:

- RUSS 2221 Introduction to Modern Russian Culture
- RUSS 2261 The Russian Short Story
- RUSS 2501 Russia Today
- RUSS 3211 History of Russian Cinema
- RUSS 3241 Red Star Trek: Russian Science Fiction Between Utopia and Dystopia
- RUSS 3251 Arctic Noir: Environment, Landscape and Literature of the Far North
- RUSS 3301 Contemporary Issues in Russian Film
- RUSS 3333 Spies Like Us: Espionage in the Culture of the Cold War and Beyond
- RUSS 3601 Russian Culture Past and Present
- RUSS 4120 Russia after Communism: Post-Soviet Politics and Culture
- RUSS 4211 Stalinism: Culture and Society
- RUSS 4251 Russian Queer Culture
- RUSS 4321 Mythological Russia
- RUSS 4471 Women in 20th-21st Century Russian Culture
- RUSS 4481 Rogues to Revolutionaries: Russian Rebels, Past and Present
- RUSS 4821 20th Century Russian Literature and Art
- RUSS 4831 Contemporary Russian Literature
- RUSS 4861 Absurd and Supernatural in Russian Literature

**Advanced Language Courses**

Select two of the following:

- RUSS 3060 Advanced Russian for Heritage Speakers (Part 1)
- RUSS 4010 Advanced Conversation and Composition 1
- RUSS 4020 Advanced Conversation and Composition 2
- RUSS 4060 Advanced Russian for Heritage Speakers (Part 2)

**Upper-Division Courses**

Select one of the following:

- RUSS 4050 Professional Russian
- RUSS 4230 Russian Cultural Idioms
- RUSS 4220 Open Topics: Russian Culture in Russian
- RUSS 4850 Russian Film and Society (taught in Russian)

6 credit hours of upper-division study-abroad Russian language class

**Track B: Russian Culture and Literature**

**Required Courses**

- RUSS 2010 Second-Year Russian 1
- RUSS 2020 Second-Year Russian 2
- RUSS 4811 19th Century Russian Literature
- RUSS 4821 20th Century Russian Literature and Art

**Aspects of Russian/Soviet/Post-Soviet Culture**

Select two of the following (one must be upper-division):

- RUSS 2211 Introduction to Russian Culture
- RUSS 2221 Introduction to Modern Russian Culture
- RUSS 2222 Sports and the Cold War
- RUSS 2501 Russia Today
- RUSS 3221 Space Race in Russian and American Culture
- RUSS 3333 Spies Like Us: Espionage in the Culture of the Cold War and Beyond
- RUSS 3601 Russian Culture Past and Present
- RUSS 3701 Slavic Folk Culture: Ideals and Values in the Contemporary World
- RUSS 4120 Russia after Communism: Post-Soviet Politics and Culture
- RUSS 4221 Stalinism: Culture and Society
- RUSS 4301 American-Russian Cultural Relations
- RUSS 4321 Mythological Russia

**2000-Level Literature/Film Courses**

Select one of the following:

- RUSS 2231 Fairy Tales of Russia
- RUSS 2241 The Vampire in Literature and the Visual Arts
- RUSS 2261 The Russian Short Story
- RUSS 2471 Women in Russian Culture: From Folklore to the Nineteenth Century

**3000/4000-Level Literature/Film Courses**

Select two of the following:

- RUSS 3211 History of Russian Cinema
- RUSS 3241 Red Star Trek: Russian Science Fiction Between Utopia and Dystopia
- RUSS 3251 Arctic Noir: Environment, Landscape and Literature of the Far North
- RUSS 3301 Contemporary Issues in Russian Film
- RUSS 3705 Crimes of Passion: Gender and Sexual Politics in Tolstoy's Russia
- RUSS 4251 Russian Queer Culture
- RUSS 4431 Dostoevsky
- RUSS 4441 Tolstoy
- RUSS 4451 Chekhov
- RUSS 4471 Women in 20th-21st Century Russian Culture
- RUSS 4831 Contemporary Russian Literature
- RUSS 4481 Rogues to Revolutionaries: Russian Rebels, Past and Present

**Total Credit Hours**

33

1 Students may not receive credit for both RUSS 3060 and RUSS 4010 or RUSS 4020 and RUSS 4060. Choose either the RUSS 3060/4006 sequence or the RUSS 4010/4020 sequence.
RUSS 4861  
Absurd and Supernatural in Russian Literature

Elective  
Select one of the following:  3

- Any one 3000- or 4000-level RUSS or GSLL culture/literature or language course, or a course in another department pertaining to Russia, upon consent of advisor.
- Upper-division study-abroad language class.

Total Credit Hours  32

Track C: Russian Major for Heritage Speakers

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<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
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</table>
| RUSS 3060 | Advanced Russian for Heritage Speakers (Part 1)  
RUSS 4060 | Advanced Russian for Heritage Speakers (Part 2) (or any other upper-division Russian language course)  
| or RUSS 4010 | Advanced Conversation and Composition 1  
or RUSS 4020 | Advanced Conversation and Composition 2  
or RUSS 4050 | Professional Russian  
or RUSS 4210 | Topics in Russian Culture  
or RUSS 4230 | Russian Cultural Idioms  
or RUSS 4850 | Russian Film and Society (taught in Russian) |

Russian Literature/Culture Course - the 19th Century and Earlier  
Select one of the following:  3

- RUSS 2211  Introduction to Russian Culture  
RUSS 3601  Russian Culture Past and Present  
RUSS 4811  19th Century Russian Literature

Russian Literature/Culture Course - the 20th and 21st Centuries  
Select one of the following:  3

- RUSS 2221  Introduction to Modern Russian Culture  
RUSS 3601  Russian Culture Past and Present  
RUSS 4821  20th Century Russian Literature and Art

RUSS 2000-level course  

- RUSS 2222  Sports and the Cold War  
RUSS 2231  Fairy Tales of Russia  
RUSS 2241  The Vampire in Literature and the Visual Arts  
RUSS 2471  Women in Russian Culture: From Folklore to the Nineteenth Century  
RUSS 2501  Russia Today

Russian Culture  
Select three of the following:  9

- RUSS 3211  History of Russian Cinema  
RUSS 3241  Red Star Trek: Russian Science Fiction Between Utopia and Dystopia  
RUSS 3251  Arctic Noir: Environment, Landscape and Literature of the Far North  
RUSS 3301  Contemporary Issues in Russian Film  
RUSS 3333  Spies Like Us: Espionage in the Culture of the Cold War and Beyond

RUSS 3701  Slavic Folk Culture: Ideals and Values in the Contemporary World  
RUSS 4221  Stalinism: Culture and Society  
RUSS 4301  American-Russian Cultural Relations  
RUSS 4321  Mythological Russia  
RUSS 4471  Women in 20th-21st Century Russian Culture  
RUSS 4481  Rogues to Revolutionaries: Russian Rebels, Past and Present  
RUSS 4831  Contemporary Russian Literature

Elective  
One other 3000- to 4000-level RUSS or GSLL culture/literature or language course, or a course in another department pertaining to Russia, upon consent of advisor.  3

Total Credit Hours  32

1 Students may not receive credit for both RUSS 3060 and RUSS 4010 or RUSS 4020 and RUSS 4060. Choose either the RUSS 3060/RUSS 4060 sequence or the RUSS 4010/RUSS 4020 sequence.

Graduating in Four Years

Consult the Four-Year Guarantee Requirements (https://www.colorado.edu/advising/programs-requirements/germanic-slavic-languages-literatures/) for information on eligibility. The concept of "adequate progress" as it is used here only refers to maintaining eligibility for the four-year guarantee; it is not a requirement for the major.

Recommended four-year plans of study appear on the Four-Year Plans (p. 4) tab. To maintain adequate progress in Germanic or Russian studies, students should meet the following requirements:

- Begin to study the language in the freshman year, or have received AP credit.
- In consultation with the major program advisor before the end of the drop/add period in the first semester, plan a tentative schedule of courses to be taken over eight semesters.
- Discuss progress toward the degree each semester with the major advisor.

NOTE: Although these requirements apply only in cases in which students are seeking to graduate under the terms of the four-year guarantee, they are good advice for all majors. Consult the program advisor about the major at any time.
Recommended Four-Year Plans of Study

Through the required coursework for all tracks of the major, students can complete all 12 credit hours of the Arts & Humanities area of the Gen Ed Distribution Requirement. Depending on the courses selected from options, students can potentially complete some credit hours in the Social Sciences area of the Gen Ed Distribution Requirement and the Global Perspective component of the Gen Ed Diversity Requirement.

**Track A: Russian Language and Culture**

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<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Year One</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>RUSS 1010 and 1020 (which do not count toward the major)</td>
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<tr>
<td>RUSS course on 19th century or earlier periods</td>
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<td>Gen. Ed. Skills course (example: QRMS)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Gen. Ed. Distribution/Diversity course (example: Social Sciences/Global Perspective) (if needed)</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gen. Ed. Skills course (example: Lower-division Written Communication)</td>
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<td>Gen. Ed. Distribution course (example: Natural Sciences with lab)</td>
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<td>Elective/MAPS</td>
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<td><strong>Year Two</strong></td>
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<td>RUSS 2010 &amp; RUSS 2020</td>
<td>Second-Year Russian 1 and Second-Year Russian 2 (or Study Abroad)</td>
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<td>RUSS course on 20th-21st centuries</td>
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<td>Gen. Ed. Distribution course (example: Natural Sciences)</td>
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<td><strong>Year Three</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>RUSS 3010 &amp; RUSS 3020</td>
<td>Third-Year Russian 1 and Third-Year Russian 2 (or Study Abroad)</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gen. Ed. Skills course (example: Upper-division Written Communication)</td>
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<td>Gen. Ed. Distribution course (example: Natural Sciences)</td>
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<td>Gen. Ed. Distribution/Diversity course (example: Social Sciences/US Perspective)</td>
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<td>Upper-division Elective</td>
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<td>Elective or Upper-division Elective (if needed)</td>
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<td>RUSS 4010 &amp; RUSS 4020</td>
<td>Advanced Conversation and Composition</td>
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<tr>
<td>or RUSS 3060 and RUSS 4060</td>
<td>or Advanced Russian for Heritage Speakers (Part 1) and Advanced Russian for Heritage Speakers (Part 2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>RUSS 4210 or RUSS 4230 or RUSS 4851 or RUSS 4050</td>
<td>Topics in Russian Culture or Russian Cultural Idioms or Critical Thinking: Russian Film and Society (taught in English) or Professional Russian</td>
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<td>Gen. Ed. Distribution course (example: Social Sciences)</td>
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<td>Upper-division Elective</td>
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**Track B: Russian Culture and Literature**

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<td><strong>Year One</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>RUSS 1010 and RUSS 1020 (which do not count toward the major)</td>
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<td>RUSS 2000-level Aspects of Russian/Soviet/Post-Soviet Culture course</td>
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<td>Gen. Ed. Skills course (example: QRMS)</td>
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<td>Gen. Ed. Skills course (example: Lower-division Written Communication)</td>
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<td><strong>Year Two</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>RUSS 2010 &amp; RUSS 2020</td>
<td>Second-Year Russian 1 and Second-Year Russian 2 (or Study Abroad)</td>
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<td>RUSS 2000-level Russian literature or film course</td>
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<td>Gen. Ed. Distribution course (example: Natural Sciences)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Year Three</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>RUSS 4811</td>
<td>19th Century Russian Literature</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>RUSS 4821</td>
<td>20th Century Russian Literature and Art</td>
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</table>
RUSS Upper-division Aspects of Russian/Soviet/Post-Soviet Culture course 3
Gen. Ed. Skills course (example: Upper-division Written Communication) 3
Gen. Ed. Distribution course (example: Natural Sciences) 3
Gen. Ed. Distribution course (example: Social Sciences) (if needed) 3
Upper-division Elective 3
Upper-division Elective 3
Upper-division Elective 3
Elective 3

Year Four
Two 3000-4000 level RUSS literature or film courses 6
Elective 3000-4000 level RUSS or GSLL culture, literature or language course 3
Gen. Ed. Distribution course (example: Social Sciences) (if needed) 3
Upper-division Elective 3
Upper-division Elective 3
Upper-division Elective 3
Upper-division Elective 3
Upper-division Elective 3
Elective 3

Credit Hours 30

Track C: Russian Major for Heritage Speakers
Course Title Credit Hours
Year One
RUSS 3060 Advanced Russian for Heritage Speakers 8
& RUSS 4060 (Part 1) and Advanced Russian for Heritage Speakers (Part 2)

One of the RUSS courses on 19th century or earlier periods OR Study Abroad 3
Gen. Ed. Skills course (example: QRMS) 3
Gen. Ed. Distribution/Diversity course (example: Social Sciences/US Perspective) 3
Gen. Ed. Skills course (example: Lower-division Written Communication) 3
Gen. Ed. Distribution course (example: Natural Sciences with Lab) 4
Elective 3
Elective 3

Credit Hours 30

Year Two
One of the RUSS courses on 20th-21st centuries 3
One of the 2000-level RUSS culture courses 3
Gen. Ed. Distribution course (example: Natural Sciences) 3
Gen. Ed. Distribution/Diversity course (example: Social Sciences/Global Perspective) (if needed) 3
Gen. Ed. Distribution course (example: Natural Sciences) 3
Elective 3
Elective 3
Elective 3
Elective 3
Elective or Upper-division Elective (if needed) 3

Credit Hours 30

Total Credit Hours 120

Learning Outcomes
The following areas are central to the undergraduate degree in Russian:

• An awareness of the fundamental outlines of the history of Russophone literature and culture from the Middle Ages to the present day.
• Familiarity with the major Russian creative writers and/or familiarity with major historical, political and socio-economic currents of the nineteenth, twentieth and twenty-first centuries
• Familiarity with the historical context of Russian literature and culture.
• An awareness of basic critical methodologies as they relate to the study of Russian literature, culture, history and/or politics.

In addition, students with a degree in Russian are expected to acquire the ability to:

• Comprehend contemporary Russian, written or spoken, to a degree permitting sophisticated analysis of cultural texts.
• Be able to communicate competently in Russian.
• Analyze Russian texts and give a reasoned response to them in literate English.
• Write and converse in Russian at their own intellectual level.

Bachelor’s–Accelerated Master’s Degree Program(s)
The Bachelor’s–Accelerated Master’s (BAM) degree program options offer currently enrolled CU Boulder undergraduate students the opportunity to receive a bachelor’s and master’s degree in a shorter period of time. Students receive the bachelor’s degree first, but begin taking graduate coursework as undergraduates (typically in their senior year). Because some courses are allowed to double count for both the bachelor’s and the master’s degrees, students receive a master’s degree in less time and at a lower cost than if they were to enroll in a stand-alone master’s degree program after completion of their baccalaureate degree. In addition, staying at CU Boulder to pursue a bachelor’s–accelerated master’s program enables students to continue working with their established faculty mentors.

BA and MA in Russian Studies
Highly motivated undergraduates majoring in Russian studies at CU Boulder have the opportunity to enter a BAM program, thereby earning both the BA and the MA in five years. The accelerated degree program offers a unique academic credential designed to produce skilled graduates for a variety of occupations.

Admissions Requirements
In order to gain admission to the BAM program named above, a student must meet the following criteria:
• Have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher and a minimum GPA of 3.25 for all Russian Studies courses
• Have completed a minimum of 75 credit hours of coursework
• Transfer students must have completed a minimum of 24 credit hours at CU Boulder

It is recommended that applications be submitted the spring semester of the third year of study, but late applications will also be considered. Two letters of recommendation indicating strong potential for advanced, intensive work in Russian also required. Students should have completed most of their MAPS/Gen Ed requirements by the end of the sophomore year. Only CU Boulder students may apply.

Program Requirements
Students may take up to and including 12 hours while in the undergraduate program, which can later be used toward the master’s degree. However, only 6 credits may be double counted toward the bachelor’s degree and the master’s degree. Students must apply to graduate with the bachelor’s degree, and apply to continue with the master’s degree, early in the semester in which the undergraduate requirements will be completed.

BAM students are expected to take graduate courses in the fourth and fifth years only.

If you are interested in the BAM degree program, please contact the Russian MA program (https://www.colorado.edu/gsll/graduate/). For more information, visit the BA/MA Degree in Russian Studies (https://www.colorado.edu/gsll/russian/undergraduate/concurrent-bama-degree-russian-studies/) webpage.