

MASTER OF LIBERAL STUDIES

THE SCHOOL OF CONTINUING STUDIES

DEAN
Mary B. McIntire

DIRECTOR
TBA

Please refer to the program website <http://www.mls.rice.edu> for program information and academic policies.

DEGREE OFFERED: MLS

Fall 2005 marks the inaugural session of the Rice University Master of Liberal Studies program. The part-time interdisciplinary program is founded on the principle that, in an increasingly complex and fragmented world, a liberal arts education becomes all the more important. Though exploring the liberal arts at a highly integrated level is not frequently possible in a career-focused undergraduate curriculum, it is both possible and well suited to a master's level program designed for committed, energetic adults. Courses in the Master of Liberal Studies program will be taught by distinguished Rice faculty and invited visiting faculty who appreciate the opportunity to teach more-experienced adults.

The program is designed for working adults and does not follow the traditional university schedule of fall and spring semesters. Classes meet one evening per week for 10-11 weeks with two or three Saturday morning classes. Sessions are offered in the fall, winter, and spring.

Fall classes begin in September and end before Thanksgiving; winter classes begin in January and end in March; spring courses begin in April and end in early June. No classes are held in July or August. Courses will be taught by distinguished Rice faculty and invited visiting faculty who appreciate the opportunity to teach more experienced adults.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

For general university requirements for graduate study, see pages 56-58. The program consists of 33 credit hours, which include three core courses, seven electives, and a capstone course. A student may take only one course in his or her entering session. The core courses—one in humanities, one in social sciences, and one in natural sciences—are designed to acquaint first-year students with the contrasting perspectives and methodological approaches that define academic inquiry in the three broad fields. Core courses must be completed before electives may be taken. Electives may focus on just one "track" (science, social science, or humanities) or may be chosen more broadly. All courses will require research papers; some may require tests or oral presentations.

The capstone course is designed to help students integrate their knowledge through writing an extended paper or completing a project to be presented to the class orally. A thesis is not part of the degree program. The program can be completed

in approximately four years if one class is completed every session.

ADMISSION

Admission to graduate study is open to qualified students holding a bachelor's degree (or equivalent) from an accredited university or college. A minimum GPA of 3.0 from the applicant's undergraduate work is expected, though the admissions committee also gives consideration to applicants' postgraduate experience and recent accomplishments.

COURSES

Please refer to the Master of Liberal Studies website for current course listings, <http://www.mls.rice.edu>