

LIBERAL STUDIES

THE SUSANNE M. GLASSCOCK SCHOOL OF CONTINUING STUDIES

DEAN

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Please refer to the program website at www.mls.rice.edu for program information and academic policies.

DEGREE OFFERED: MASTER OF LIBERAL STUDIES

The part-time Master of Liberal Studies (MLS) is an interdisciplinary program that provides adults in the Houston area a unique opportunity to challenge themselves intellectually. Designed for those who love to learn new ideas and discuss them with others, the MLS program allows students to explore timeless and timely human questions within the humanities, social sciences, and sciences. Though exploring the liberal arts at a highly integrated level is not always possible in a career-focused undergraduate curriculum, it is both possible and well suited to a master's level program. Courses in the MLS program are taught by distinguished Rice faculty and invited visiting faculty who appreciate the opportunity to teach 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 one or two 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.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

For general university requirements for graduate study, see Graduate Students section, pages 2–3. The MLS 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 MLS faculty and students. 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. Students are allowed to take up to seven years to complete the degree.

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, www.mls.rice.edu.