
Liberal Arts and Sciences

In the College of Arts and Letters

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John R. Adams Professorship in Graduate Interdisciplinary Studies

The Adams Professorship was named in honor of the late John R. Adams, who came to San Diego State University in the 1920s as a professor of humanities. He served for many years as the Director of the Humanities Division, and then as the university archivist.

Committee on Graduate Liberal Arts and Sciences

The Master of Arts degree in Liberal Arts and Sciences is administered by its director and advised by the Graduate Liberal Arts and Sciences Committee. Faculty assigned to teach courses in the program are drawn from departments throughout the University.

General Information

The College of Arts and Letters offers a graduate Liberal Arts and Sciences program that is one of two in the western United States. The Master of Arts degree in Liberal Arts and Sciences is an interdisciplinary program. Even though this approach to graduate education is over thirty years old in the United States, its interdisciplinary nature has kept it vital and flexible. Students are encouraged to customize their degree by selecting coursework relevant to their interests.

The Master of Arts in Liberal Arts and Sciences degree is an interdisciplinary program intended to provide an alternative approach to

continued adult learning by offering a program that crosses disciplinary boundaries and aims for breadth and scope. It provides the unique combination of a highly individualized program of study centered around personal interests combined with a strong grounding in interdisciplinary methods for problem solving.

The student body is drawn from diverse backgrounds, thus adding to the unique character of the program.

Admission to Graduate Study

Applicants seeking admission to the program leading to the Master of Arts degree in Liberal Arts and Sciences should contact the program coordinator requesting appropriate application materials. Detailed information concerning application procedures will be sent to the applicant along with the appropriate application forms.

In addition to satisfying the requirements for admission to the University with classified graduate standing as described in Part Two of this bulletin, the student seeking admission must: (1) have a grade point average of 3.0 or better on work completed during the last 60 units for the baccalaureate degree, (2) have a score of 1000 or better on the GRE General Test (combined verbal and quantitative), and (3) complete a statement of purpose essay. A personal interview with a member of the Graduate Liberal Arts and Sciences Committee is recommended.

Students who do not meet all of the above requirements for admission with classified graduate standing may be admitted with conditional classified graduate standing upon the recommendation of the MALAS director and Graduate Liberal Arts and Sciences Committee. Students so admitted will be advised as to the nature of their deficiency and the time to be allowed to achieve full classified graduate standing.

Advancement to Candidacy

All students must satisfy the general requirements for advancement to candidacy as described in Part Two of this bulletin. In addition, the students must (1) satisfactorily complete 12 units, with a minimum grade point average of 3.0, including 9 units of core seminars as stipulated (MALAS 600A, 600B, 600C, 600D) and (2) if selecting Plan A, have a thesis or project proposal which has received the approval of the Graduate Liberal Arts and Sciences Committee and its director.

Specific Requirements for the Master of Arts Degree in Liberal Arts and Sciences

(Major Code: 49017)

In addition to meeting the basic requirements for the Master of Arts degree in Liberal Arts and Sciences as described in Part Two of this bulletin, the student must complete a graduate program of at least 30 units in residence at San Diego State University in the MALAS program, of which at least 15 must be in 600- and 700-numbered courses. The total program must include:

1. Nine units of either MALAS 600A, 600B, 600C, or 600D.
2. Three units of MALAS 601.

3. A theme of study composed of 15 units of graduate course work, selected with the approval of the MALAS director which normally must be in at least two of the following areas: social sciences, humanities, natural sciences, and fine arts, with no more than six units in any given discipline. Some 500 level courses may be used in partial fulfillment of this requirement, if approved by the MALAS director. MALAS 798, where applicable, may be included as satisfying 3 of the 15 units for the thematic component. Under special circumstances, and with permission of the MALAS director, a student may compose a theme that deviates in structure from the criteria stipulated above. This theme may include up to a maximum of 12 units of 600A, 600B, 600C, and 600D, in any combination.

Students may select either Plan A or Plan B in consultation with the MALAS director. In addition to meeting the distribution requirements given above, students electing Plan A must complete MALAS 799A (Thesis or Project). Students electing Plan B must complete MALAS 795 (Studies in the Liberal Arts and Sciences) and pass a written comprehensive examination in lieu of the thesis.

All programs must be approved by the MALAS director in consultation with the Graduate Liberal Arts and Sciences Committee.

Courses Acceptable on Master's Degree Program in Liberal Arts and Sciences (MALAS)

GRADUATE COURSES

600A-600B-600C-600D. Interdisciplinary Study in Liberal Arts and Sciences (3-3-3-3)

Prerequisites: Admission to Master of Arts degree in Liberal Arts and Sciences program and consent of MALAS director.

Interdisciplinary seminars to explore issues that require integration of the perspective of various areas of the liberal arts and sciences. Each course may be repeated with new content. See Class Schedule for specific content.

- A.** Social Sciences and Humanities
- B.** Social Sciences and Natural Sciences
- C.** Humanities and Natural Sciences
- D.** Fine Arts and Social Sciences, Humanities, or Natural Sciences

601. Seminar in Interdisciplinary Thinking (3)

Prerequisite: Admission to Master of Arts degree in Liberal Arts and Sciences program and approval of director.

Introduction to MALAS curriculum and interdisciplinary commitment, especially to connection between fine arts, humanities, sciences, and social sciences. See Class Schedule for specific content.

795. Studies in Liberal Arts and Sciences (1-3) Cr/NC

Prerequisite: An officially appointed examining committee and advancement to candidacy.

Individual preparation for comprehensive examination for students taking the Master of Liberal Arts and Sciences under Plan B. Maximum credit three units.

798. Special Study (1-3) Cr/NC/RP

Prerequisite: Advancement to candidacy and consent of MALAS director

Individual study on a given topic through interdisciplinary perspectives. Maximum credit three units.

799A. Thesis or Project (3) Cr/NC/RP

Prerequisite: An officially appointed thesis committee and advancement to candidacy.

Preparation of a project or thesis for Master of Arts degree in Liberal Arts and Sciences.

799B. Thesis or Project Extension (0) Cr/NC

Prerequisite: Prior registration in Thesis or Project 799A with an assigned grade symbol of RP.

Registration required in any semester or term following assignment of RP in MALAS 799A in which the student expects to use the facilities and resources of the University; also student must be registered in the course when the completed thesis or project is granted final approval.