MASTER OF LIBERAL STUDIES (MLS) DEGREE

Program Learning Outcomes for the MLS Degree

Upon completing the MLS degree, students will be able to:

1. Appreciate major perspectives and methods of the liberal arts by demonstrating a broadened understanding of some basic concepts in the humanities, social sciences, and sciences.
2. Appreciate the connection of the liberal arts to their lives and the larger world.
3. Demonstrate a capacity for analytical thinking.
4. Demonstrate good writing skills.
5. Practice critical listening and good discussion and oral communication skills.
6. Demonstrate academic research methods.

Requirements for the MLS Degree

The MLS degree is a non-thesis master's degree. For general university requirements, see Non-Thesis Master's Degrees (https://ga.rice.edu/graduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/regulations-procedures-non-thesis-masters-degrees/). For additional requirements, regulations, and procedures for all graduate programs, please see All Graduate Students (https://ga.rice.edu/graduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/regulations-procedures-all-degrees/). Students pursuing the MLS degree must complete:

- A minimum of 12-13 courses (34-37 credit hours) to satisfy degree requirements.
- A minimum of 34 credit hours of graduate-level study (graduate semester credit hours, coursework at the 500-level or above).
- A minimum of 30 graduate semester credit hours must be taken at Rice University.
- A minimum of 24 graduate semester credit hours must be taken in standard or traditional courses (with a course type of lecture, seminar, laboratory, lecture/laboratory).
- A minimum residency enrollment of one fall or spring semester of part-time graduate study at Rice University.
- A maximum of 1 course (3 graduate semester credit hours) from transfer credit. For additional program guidelines regarding transfer credit, see the Policies (p. 3) tab.
- A minimum overall GPA of 2.67 or higher in all Rice coursework.
- A minimum program GPA of 3.00 or higher in all Rice coursework that satisfies requirements for the non-thesis master's degree with a minimum grade of B- (2.67 grade points) in each course.

The courses listed below satisfy the requirements for this degree program. In certain instances, courses not on this official list may be substituted upon approval of the program's academic advisor, or where applicable, the department or program's Director of Graduate Studies. Course substitutions must be formally applied and entered into Degree Works by the department or program's Official Certifier (https://registrar.rice.edu/facstaff/degreeworks/officialcertifier/). Additionally, these must be approved by the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies. Students and their academic advisors should identify and clearly document the courses to be taken.

Summary

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Total Credit Hours Required for the MLS Degree		34-37

Degree Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Core Requirements		
MLSC 500	INTRODUCTION TO GRADUATE LIBERAL STUDIES [1]	3
Select 1 course from each of the following fields (see course lists below): [2]		*9*
Humanities		
Social Sciences		
Natural Science		
Elective Requirements		
Select 6 elective courses from MLSC course offerings at the 500-level or 600-level [3]		*18*
Capstone		
MLSC 699	CAPSTONE SEMINAR	1
Select 1 from the following: [4]		*3-6*
MLSC 700 & MLSC 701	CAPSTONE I and CAPSTONE II	
MLSC 701	CAPSTONE II	
Total Credit Hours		**34-37**

Footnotes and Additional Information

1 All students must take MLSC 500 in their first semester of study.

2 The core requirements are designed to acquaint first-year students with contrasting perspectives and methodological approaches that define academic inquiry in the three broad fields of humanities, social sciences, and natural science. Core courses must be completed before courses that satisfy the electives can be taken.

3 The six (6) electives beyond the core requirements may focus on just 1 field (humanities, social sciences, or natural science) or may be chosen more broadly.

4 The capstone coursework 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. Students may take 1 semester (MLSC 701) or 2 semesters (MLSC 700 and MLSC 701) to complete the capstone project.

Course Lists to Satisfy Requirements

Core Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Humanities		
Select 1 course from the following:		*3*
MLSC 501	THE SHAPING OF WESTERN THOUGHT	
MLSC 505	SHAKESPEARE AND FILM	
MLSC 510	MUSIC AND OTHER ARTS: COLLABORATION AND FUSION	

MLSC 517	MODERN DRAMA ON FILM AND IN PERFORMANCE
MLSC 526	CONTEMPORARY MORAL ISSUES
MLSC 533	SELF-DETERMINATION IN ARAB WORLD
MLSC 536	TRADITIONAL CHINESE CULTURE AND ITS MODERN LEGACY
MLSC 537	PROFILES FROM THE PAST: FAMOUS FIGURES IN WESTERN HISTORY
MLSC 539	IMMIGRATION AND THE STATE: EUROPE AND THE US IN COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE
MLSC 541	HUMAN RIGHTS, GENDER EQUALITY AND RELIGIOUS BELIEFS
MLSC 542	THE EPIC JOURNEY
MLSC 543	THE CITY IN LITERATURE
MLSC 544	WRITING LITERATURE FOR CHILDREN
MLSC 545	WINDOW TO THE SOUL: EXPLORING RELIGION AND ETHNICITY THROUGH MUSIC
MLSC 547	PROFILES FROM THE PAST II: FAMOUS FIGURES IN WESTERN HISTORY
MLSC 548	HISTORY OF PHILOSOPHY SET IN INTERDISCIPLINARY CONTEXT
MLSC 549	COMPARATIVE IMPERIAL PLEASURE GARDENS: POWER AND LANDSCAPE
MLSC 551	PROFILES FROM THE PAST III: FAMOUS FIGURES IN WESTERN HISTORY
MLSC 554	MY FAVORITE NOVELS - AND GREAT FILMS MADE FROM THEM
MLSC 555	THE POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
MLSC 556	HEAVEN AND HELL: FROM DANTE TO MILTON AND BEYOND
MLSC 557	EARLY MODERN ISLAMIC WORLD: ART AND EMPIRE
MLSC 559	ENVIRONMENTAL LITERATURE
MLSC 560	WOMEN IN SOUTHERN LITERATURE
MLSC 561	HISTORY OF SOUTH ASIA: THE ORIGINS OF INDIA AND PAKISTAN
MLSC 562	MUSIC AND MEDIEVALISM
MLSC 563	A HISTORY OF TUDOR ENGLAND
MLSC 566	MUSIC IN THE ERA OF THE REFORMATION
MLSC 567	THE HOUSE OF STUART
MLSC 572	BIBLICAL ETHICS
MLSC 573	WOMEN WRITERS AND HEROINES: FROM MYTH TO REALITY
MLSC 574	GREAT LITERATURE, GREAT MUSIC
MLSC 576	THOMAS JEFFERSON AND HIS WORLD, 1740-1830

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Social Sciences		
Select 1 course from the following:		*3*
MLSC 509	STEREOTYPES, PREJUDICE AND DISCRIMINATION	
MLSC 519	PSYCHOLOGY OF BELIEFS	
MLSC 523	THEORY AND PRACTICE OF PUNISHMENT	
MLSC 526	CONTEMPORARY MORAL ISSUES	
MLSC 533	SELF-DETERMINATION IN ARAB WORLD	
MLSC 534	HUMAN RIGHTS IN WORLD AFFAIRS	
MLSC 536	TRADITIONAL CHINESE CULTURE AND ITS MODERN LEGACY	
MLSC 539	IMMIGRATION AND THE STATE: EUROPE AND THE US IN COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE	
MLSC 541	HUMAN RIGHTS, GENDER EQUALITY AND RELIGIOUS BELIEFS	
MLSC 549	COMPARATIVE IMPERIAL PLEASURE GARDENS: POWER AND LANDSCAPE	
MLSC 555	THE POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION	
MLSC 557	EARLY MODERN ISLAMIC WORLD: ART AND EMPIRE	
MLSC 561	HISTORY OF SOUTH ASIA: THE ORIGINS OF INDIA AND PAKISTAN	
MLSC 564	THE POLITICS OF WORLD WAR TWO IN EUROPE	
MLSC 568	PSYCHOLOGY OF AGGRESSION AND VIOLENCE	
MLSC 569	FORESIGHT IN SOCIAL JUSTICE	
MLSC 570	CHILDREN OF IMMIGRANTS	
MLSC 571	MORAL LEADERSHIP IN ECONOMICS	
MLSC 576	THOMAS JEFFERSON AND HIS WORLD, 1740-1830	

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Natural Science		
Select 1 course from the following:		*3*
MLSC 502	OUR ENVIRONMENT: SCIENCE AND CULTURE	
MLSC 506	THE SOLAR SYSTEM, THE SUN AND THE MIND OF MAN	
MLSC 508	EARTH SYSTEMS DYNAMICS	
MLSC 513	DNA: HUMAN IDENTITY AND ORIGINS	
MLSC 515	SCIENCE IN THE FIRST PERSON	
MLSC 525	PLAGUES AND POPULATIONS	
MLSC 532	THE GRAND DESIGN	
MLSC 538	OUR CHANGING PLANET	
MLSC 540	IS ANYBODY OUT THERE: THE SEARCH FOR LIFE BEYOND EARTH	
MLSC 546	THE ROLE OF CHEMISTRY IN HISTORY	
MLSC 550	MODERN ASTRONOMY AND OUR PLACE IN THE UNIVERSE	
MLSC 552	CONSERVING BIODIVERSITY	
MLSC 553	SOLVING THE CLIMATE CHALLENGE	
MLSC 558	EVOLUTION AND SOCIETY	
MLSC 565	PAST AND FUTURE CLIMATE CHANGE: NATURAL VERSUS HUMAN INFLUENCE	

MLSC 575	ALL ABOUT BIRDS - AND MORE: AN INTERDISCIPLINARY SCIENCE COURSE
MLSC 604	EXPLORATION AND DISCOVERY IN ANTARCTICA

Policies for the MLS Degree

Department of Liberal Studies Graduate Handbook

The General Announcements (GA) is the official Rice curriculum. As an additional resource for students, Liberal Studies publishes a graduate program handbook, which can be found here: https://gradhandbooks.rice.edu/2023_24/Liberal_Studies_Graduate_Handbook.pdf

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 3.00 from the applicant's undergraduate work is expected. Additionally, a statement of purpose, resume, writing samples, letters of recommendation, and work experience will be evaluated as part of the admissions decision.

Transfer Credit

For Rice University's policy regarding transfer credit, see Transfer Credit (https://ga.rice.edu/graduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/regulations-procedures-all-degrees/#transfer). Some departments and programs have additional restrictions on transfer credit. Students are encouraged to meet with their academic program's advisor when considering transfer credit possibilities.

Program Transfer Credit Guidelines

Students pursuing the MLS degree should be aware of the following program-specific transfer credit guidelines:

- No more than 1 course (3 credit hours) of transfer credit from U.S. or international universities of similar standing as Rice may apply towards the degree.

Additional Information

For additional information, please see the Liberal Studies website: https://glasscock.rice.edu/master-liberal-studies/

Opportunities for the MLS Degree

Association of Graduate Liberal Studies National Honor Society

MLS graduates who earn a 3.75 GPA or higher and have demonstrated leadership in the classroom and in the greater community are eligible for nomination to the Association of Graduate Liberal Studies National Honor Society.

Additional Information

For additional information, please see the Liberal Studies website: https://glasscock.rice.edu/master-liberal-studies/