liberal arts and sciences
in the college of arts and letters

office: nasatir hall 203
telephone: 619-594-4826 / fax: 619-594-1325
e-mail: clewis@rohan.sdsu.edu
http://www.malas.sdsu.edu

director: william a. nericcio, ph.d.
program coordinator: david “mchank” mcHenry

participating faculty

stuart c. attken, ph.d., professor of geography and the june
burnett chair in children’s and family geographies

peter c. atterton, ph.d., professor and chair of philosophy

edward j. blum, ph.d., professor of history

susan e. cayleff, ph.d., professor of women’s studies

[senate distinguished professor]

sarah s. elkind, ph.d., professor of history

patricia j. geist-Martin, ph.d., professor of communication

[senate distinguished professor]

huma ahmed ghosh, ph.d., professor and chair of women’s studies

d. emily hicks, ph.d., professor of english and comparative
literature and chicana and chicano studies

donald j. hopkins, ph.d., professor of theatre, television, and film
and director of theatre, television, and film

risa levitt kohn, ph.d., professor of religious studies and chair of classics and humanities and religious studies

seth w. malilos, ph.d., professor of anthropology

william a. nericcio, ph.d., professor of english and comparative literature

shhaneshwar timalsina, ph.d., professor of religious studies

sandra a. wawrytko, ph.d., professor of philosophy

kathy s. williams, ph.d., professor of biology

steven l. barbone, ph.d., associate professor of philosophy

michael k. borgstrom, ph.d., associate professor of english and chair of english and comparative literature

jung min choi, ph.d., associate professor of sociology

david m. kamper, ph.d., associate professor and chair of american indian studies

doreen j. mattingly, ph.d., associate professor of women’s studies

ellen m. quandahl, ph.d., associate professor of rhetoric and writing studies

amy schmitz weiss, ph.d., associate professor of journalism and media studies

joseph a. smith, ph.d., associate professor of classics

roberto d. hernández, ph.d., assistant professor of chicana and chicano studies

yetta howard, ph.d., assistant professor of english and comparative literature

delroi e. whitaker, jr., ph.d., assistant professor of religious studies

john and jane adams endowment

john r. adams was an esteemed faculty member of san diego state university from 1926 until his retirement in 1968, whereupon
he accepted the position of university archivist. dr. adams was a professor of english and chair of the division of humanities. he and
jane adams were generous benefactors to sdsu throughout their lives and they established a charitable living trust to be used to promote
liberal education. today some of those funds are used in the malas program to support graduate assistantships and to help pay
for academic retreats, workshops, and lectures.

general information

the college of arts and letters offers a flexible multidisciplinary master’s degree in the liberal arts and sciences (malas). an alter-
native approach to traditional graduate education, this always-evolving program consists of coursework that crosses disciplinary
boundaries as graduate students master artistic, diverse, innovative, intellectual, and/or scientific goals through individualized courses.
malas is an m.a. program for all kinds of thinkers—while it caters to the intellectual desires of ambitious, new b.a. and b.s. recipients
seeking full-time graduate study, it also serves the needs of national and international professionals and adult learners who seek to attend
graduate school on a part-time basis. from explorations of the human condition to the social impacts of technology, the program focuses on
issues central to the meaning and quality of our lives and the creation of sustainable, just, communities. in existence since 1987, malas is
equally well suited to students who recently achieved the bachelor’s degree, students preparing for the ph.d., professionals for whom the
master’s degree may mean promotion or career advancement, and life-long learners in search of personal enrichment and intellectual
community. we welcome and encourage applications from k-12 teachers, community activists, and policy makers.
malas draws upon sdsu faculty who are trained in disciplines but whose teaching and scholarship makes connections across
disciplines. interplays among the humanities, the social sciences, the natural sciences, and the arts are taken up in four required
courses. these seminars seek to engage with contemporary life and construct positive futures but they also push the level of discourse
towards foundational questions of epistemology and philosophy. particular attention is given to understanding the psychological, economic,
and environmental consequences of globalization, and to the ways that human values are embodied in and transformed by modes of
consumption, labor, and material culture. the four core courses act to ground and center five elective courses, selected by each student
to customize a program that captures his or her interests.

admission to graduate study

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 an acceptable score on the gre general test (combined verbal and quantitative),
(3) complete a statement of purpose essay, and (4) submit two letters of recommendation.

students applying for admission should electronically submit the university application available at http://www.csumentor.edu along
with the $55 application fee.

all applicants must submit admissions materials separately to sdsu
graduate admissions and to master of arts in liberal arts and sciences.

graduate admissions

the following materials should be submitted as a complete
package directly to:

graduate admissions
enrollment services
san diego state university
san diego, ca 92182-7416

(1) official transcripts (in sealed envelopes) from all postsecondary
institutions attended;

note:

• students with international coursework must submit
transcripts for work completed since last attendance.

• students with international coursework must submit
both the official transcript and proof of degree. if
documents are in a language other than english, they
must be accompanied by a certified english translation.

(2) gre scores (http://www.ets.org sdsu institution code 4682);

(3) english language score, if medium of instruction was in
a language other than english (http://www.ets.org sdsu
institution code 4682).

sdsu graduate bulletin 2016-2017 303
Admission to the Master of Arts in Liberal Arts and Sciences program requires the submission of the following materials by November 1 (October 1 for international students) for admission for the spring semester and May 1 for the fall semester to:

Master of Arts in Liberal Arts and Sciences
San Diego State University
5500 Campanile Drive
San Diego, CA 92182-8137

(1) A statement of purpose essay (minimum of 500 words) outlining research interests and strongest talents. Highly ranked statements include references to how the MALAS program would fit into your future;

(2) Two letters of recommendation (one, at least, should be from a university professor familiar with your research, writing, or creative work). Letters of recommendation come directly to MALAS from the individuals writing the letter. Please ask your recommenders to use official letterhead when possible and to sign across the outside seal of their envelopes. Last minute applicants may arrange to have their letters of recommendation emailed directly to bnericci@mail.sdsu.edu;

(3) A two-page essay describing the best class and/or professor you had as an undergraduate or graduate student.

Advancement to Candidacy

All students must satisfy the general requirements for advancement to candidacy as described in Part Four 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) 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) (SIMS Code: 114501)

In addition to meeting the basic requirements for the Master of Arts degree in Liberal Arts and Sciences as described in Part Four of this bulletin, the student must complete a graduate program of 30 units. 15 units of which must be in 600- and 700-level courses. Up to 15 units of coursework can be taken at the 500-level. The program includes:

1. MALAS 601 (3).
2. MALAS 600A, 600B, 600C, or 600D in any combination (9 units). Each course may be repeated once with new content and, in excess of nine units, can be used for elective credit.
3. MALAS 799A (3): Thesis or Project, or MALAS 795 (3) Plan B, Comprehensive Examination.
4. 15 units of electives selected with approval of the MALAS director.

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.