

# Liberal Arts and Sciences

In the College of Arts and Letters

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**Director:** William A. Nericcio, Ph.D.  
**Program Coordinator:** David “McHank” McHenry

## Participating Faculty

Stuart C. Aitken, Ph.D., Professor of Geography and The June Burnett Chair in Children's and Family Geographies  
Peter C. Atterton, Ph.D., Professor 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 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 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. Mallios, Ph.D., Professor of Anthropology  
William A. Nericcio, Ph.D., Professor of English and Comparative Literature (Graduate Adviser)  
Sthaneshwar Timalsina, Ph.D., Professor of Religious Studies  
Sandra A. Wawrytko, Ph.D., Professor of Philosophy and Director of Asian Studies  
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 and Chair 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 1928 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 alternative 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 to 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.calstate.edu/apply> 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 who attended SDSU need only 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).

### Master of Arts in Liberal Arts and Sciences

The following materials should be submitted by November 1 (October 1 for international students) for admission for the spring semester and May1 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 [wnericci@mail.sdsu.edu](mailto:wnericci@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 total 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.

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

Refer to *Courses and Curricula and Regulations of the Division of Graduate Affairs sections of this bulletin for explanation of the course numbering system, unit or credit hour, prerequisites, and related information.*

#### GRADUATE COURSES

#### MALAS 600. Interdisciplinary Study in Liberal Arts and Sciences (3-3-3-3)

Prerequisite: Graduate standing.

MALAS seminars are divided into four general areas with content that varies semester to semester. Each course may be repeated once with new content. See *Class Schedule* for specific content. Maximum credit six units for each of the following courses: MALAS 600A, 600B, 600C, 600D.

- A. Cultural Studies
- B. Science and Society, Environmental Studies
- C. Globalization, Technology, Future Studies
- D. Media Studies, Fine Arts, Transformative Arts

#### MALAS 601. Seminar in Interdisciplinary Thinking (3)

Prerequisite: Graduate standing.

Nature of interdisciplinary thinking. Ways of knowing and schools of thought in multiple disciplines. Interdisciplinary methods to analyze social issues. See *Class Schedule* for specific content.

#### MALAS 795. Studies in Liberal Arts and Sciences (3) Cr/NC

Prerequisite: Graduate standing.

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

#### MALAS 798. Special Study (3) Cr/NC/RP

Prerequisite: Graduate standing.

Individual study on a given topic through interdisciplinary perspectives.

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

Prerequisites: 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.

#### MALAS 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.

#### MALAS 799C. Comprehensive Examination Extension (0) Cr/NC

Prerequisite: Completion or concurrent enrollment in degree program courses.

Registration required of students whose only requirement is completion of the comprehensive examination for the master's degree. Registration in 799C limited to two semesters.

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