



Master of
Liberal Studies

YOUR MIND MATTERS

“What amazing educational opportunities Rice affords its students, thus the sole reason I chose this wonderful university in my quest to expand my knowledge base.”

– MLS GRADUATE



It is for people who want to explore new worlds and who enjoy meeting others who want to join the expedition.

*R*ice University provides a unique opportunity for adults who wish to challenge themselves intellectually at a world-class institution. Designed for those who love to learn new ideas and discuss them with others, the Master of Liberal Studies (MLS) program allows students to explore timeless and timely human questions within the humanities, social sciences and natural sciences. It is for adults who have a curiosity about the world – about art, literature, science, politics, human nature and history.

WHO SHOULD APPLY?

The MLS program appeals to a broad audience – committed, energetic adults of all ages with a bachelor's degree from an accredited university or college. Recent graduates and experienced professionals, even those who hold advanced degrees, find that their liberal studies provide them with an enriched perspective that enables them to communicate more effectively, make better decisions and understand the broader context of their field. Others pursue the degree for the sheer pleasure of learning – and to be a part of a learning community.

The Rice MLS program, administered by the Susanne M. Glasscock School of Continuing Studies, has attracted a wide spectrum of students since its inception in 2005. Medical doctors, attorneys, homemakers, recent college graduates, retirees, teachers, a range of business professionals and others have been accepted into the program. Such diversity – in age and profession – adds a level of broad-mindedness not typically found in the traditional classroom.



PROGRAM STRUCTURE

The MLS program is designed for busy adults and does not follow the traditional university schedule of fall and spring semesters. It is part time, held in the evenings and scheduled to allow students to enjoy time off for other activities.

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 late March; spring classes begin in April and end in early June. No courses are held in July or August.

Courses are offered in humanities, social science and natural science. The course schedule varies each session.

Courses are taught by distinguished Rice faculty and invited visiting faculty who appreciate the opportunity to teach adults who are eager to learn and contribute to classroom discussions.

Typically, each course meets one evening per week (6:15-9:30 p.m.) for 10-11 weeks with one or two Saturday-morning sessions. Although enrollments vary, most classes have an average of 12 students.

Students begin the MLS program by taking three core courses – one in humanities, one in social science and one in natural science. These courses are designed to acquaint first-year students with the contrasting perspectives and methodological approaches that define academic inquiry in the three broad fields. A student may take only one course in his or her entering session.

The next seven courses are electives. Students may focus on just one “track” (humanities, social science or natural science) or choose electives more broadly. All courses require research papers; some may require tests or oral presentations.

The final course is a capstone course designed to help students integrate the knowledge gained in the previous courses and demonstrate mastery of the intellectual skills required for an MLS degree. The capstone course must be taken after all core and elective courses have been successfully completed.

All courses earn three credit hours. The total course of study is 33 credit hours and can be completed in under four years if a student takes one class every session.

Visit mls.rice.edu to read the MLS academic policies.



*“Simply put,
you will emerge
a different and
better person.
It has been one
of the most
enlightening
experiences of
my life.”*

– MLS GRADUATE



HOW TO APPLY

Visit mls.rice.edu for application deadlines, tuition, fees and other details.

Applicants must have 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 experiences and recent accomplishments.

The following items are required for a complete application and are explained in detail on the Application for Admission:

- Completed Application for Admission (available for download at mls.rice.edu or by calling 713-348-4767)
- Non-refundable application fee
- Current resumé
- Personal statement
- Writing samples
- Official transcripts from all previous colleges or universities attended mailed directly to the Susanne M. Glasscock School of Continuing Studies
- Two letters of recommendation, each accompanied by a completed Letter of Recommendation form

You also may be selected for an interview during the final stage of the application process.

STUDENT LIFE

Once accepted into the MLS program, students can enjoy full Rice graduate-student benefits, including full access to Fondren Library, free lectures through the Baker Institute of Public Policy and the President's Lecture Series, the opportunity to try out for the Marching Owl Band and the chance to participate in Beer Bike each spring. Visit mls.rice.edu to see the complete list of graduate-student benefits.



Rice University
Susanne M. Glasscock School of Continuing Studies
Master of Liberal Studies
PO Box 1892 – Mail Stop 550
Houston, TX 77251-1892



Master of Liberal Studies

YOUR MIND MATTERS

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

mls.rice.edu | mls@rice.edu

FOR GENERAL QUESTIONS:

Rebecca Sharp Sanchez, Associate Director | 713-348-4767 | rksharp@rice.edu

FOR ACADEMIC QUESTIONS:

Dr. John W. Freeman, Director | 713-348-5653 | freeman@rice.edu

