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 of 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 admission 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.

Participating Faculty

Stuart C. Atkken, 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
Sarah S. Elkind, Ph.D., Professor of History
Patricia J. Geist-Martin, Ph.D., Professor of Communication
James B. Gerber, Ph.D., Professor of Economics
Humā 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
Risa Levitt Kohn, Ph.D., Professor of Religious Studies and Chair of Classics and Humanities and Religious Studies
Seth W. Mailios, Ph.D., Professor of Anthropology
Vincent Martin, Ph.D., Professor of Spanish and Portuguese Languages and Literatures
William A. Nericcio, Ph.D., Professor of English and Comparative Literature
Ghada Oman, Ph.D., Professor of Arabic and Chair of Linguistics and Asian/Middle Eastern Languages
Sthaneshwar 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
Stephen A. Colston, Ph.D., Associate Professor of History
David Kamper, Ph.D., Associate Professor and Chair of American Indian Studies
Donald J. Hopkins, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Theatre, Television, and Film and Director of the School of Theatre, Television, and Film
Doreen J. Mattingly, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Women's Studies
Ellen 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
Dorel Whitaker, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Religious Studies

SDSU GRADUATE BULLETIN 2015-2016
Courses Acceptable on 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.