

Graduate Studies College of Arts and Sciences

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HUMANITIES Master of Arts

Program Overview

The Master of Arts in Humanities is an interdisciplinary degree that allows the study of defined topics or themes through at least three fields from Art History, Classical or Modern Languages, English, History, Philosophy, Theology & Religious Studies and certain courses in Communications, Political Science, and Sociology.

The main premise of the degree is that historical, artistic, or ethical topics can be best understood when seen through the lenses of different scholarly approaches. Students may design, with guidance, individualized study plans based upon a learner-centered curriculum. Students are encouraged to pursue their own unique academic passions.

The Master of Arts in Humanities degree is designed for both non-traditional and traditional students. Non-traditional students are those who are already established in careers such as medicine, law, business, education or religion. Traditional students are recent B.A. or B.S. graduates seeking an integrated multidisciplinary program that can lead to teaching or government careers or as preparation for doctoral studies.

Admission Requirements

Students must have a 3.0 undergraduate GPA and demonstrate, through interview and application essay, readiness for graduate study. Applicants with slightly lower averages, or with language and writing difficulties, may be required to take the Graduate Record Examination, and/or provide letters of recommendation, or complete specific undergraduate prerequisites.

Financial Assistance

- A limited number of graduate assistantships are available. Graduate assistants are given a tuition waiver for 18 credit hours per year. Students are expected to spend 10 to 20 hours per week assisting professors with courses and research.
- Licensed/certified teachers receive a 33% tuition reduction scholarship.
- The William and Mary McNulty Endowment for Irish Studies provides assistance primarily to support the scholarship of students engaged in the study of Irish topics (Anglo-Irish and Irish-American included).
- The University's Office of Admissions and Financial Aid offers assistance on student loans.

Program Coordinator

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Degree Requirements

This program, consisting of 33 credit hours, may be completed on a part-time or full-time basis. Full-time students may complete the program within two years; part-time students may complete it within four years.

- 33 semester hours are required.
- Required introductory courses:
 - HM 501 Foundations of the Humanities: Classical and Medieval
 - HM 502 Current Issues in the Humanities: Modern and Contemporary
 - HM 503 Introduction to Graduate Research & Writing through Special Topics
- Final courses:
 - HM 598 Integration of the Humanities, requiring a three-credit research essay **–or–**
 - HM 599 Thesis, for six credits.

Study Options

Students have considerable leeway in selecting a study plan that can be in Classical, Medieval/Renaissance, Modern European, American, or Ethics Studies or tailored to particular interests: Women and Gender, Asian-Western Comparative Studies, Irish Studies, Catholic Studies, or Medicine and Humanities. See the sidebar at the right for sample study plans.

Sample Study Plans

- **Medieval & Renaissance Studies:** Courses in Art History (Classical, Early Christian, Gothic, and Renaissance Art), History (Medieval Society, Renaissance Italy), English (Drama, Chaucer, Renaissance England) and/or from Religious Studies and Philosophy.
- **Irish Studies:** Courses in Classical & Modern Languages and Cultures (Irish language), English (Studies in Irish Literature), History (History of Ireland), Peace, Justice & Human Rights (Belfast, Northern Ireland Summer Institute in Peace Building) and/or Theology & Religious Studies (Early Christianity).
- **Holocaust Studies:** This study is available through a cooperative program with the Cleveland College of Jewish Studies. Students take John Carroll courses on Modern Europe, Germany, and ethics issues, and up to four courses on Holocaust history and literature at the College of Jewish Studies.
- **American Studies:** Courses in History (Early Republic, Civil War, Gilded Age, New Deal), English (19th – 20th century fiction and/or prose), Philosophy (American Philosophy), Political Science (American Political Thought) and/or Theology & Religious Studies (Religion in Black America).

