

MA IN HUMANITIES



SACRAMENTO STATE

In Workflow

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Approval Path

1. 2025-09-25T00:19:20Z
Joel Dubois (jdubois): Approved for HRS Committee Chair
2. 2025-09-25T01:16:01Z
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3. 2025-10-01T18:08:10Z
Rebekkah Mulholland (rebeccakah.mulholland): Approved for ALS College Committee Chair
4. 2025-10-01T18:09:02Z
Shawna Malvini Redden (malviniredden): Approved for ALS Dean

History

1. May 4, 2018 by clmig-jwehrheim
2. Mar 7, 2023 by 212408496
3. Apr 2, 2025 by Joel Dubois (jdubois)

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Changes proposed by: Joel Dubois (102010387)

Academic Group: (College)

Arts & Letters

Academic Organization: (Department)

Humanities and Religious Studies

Catalog Year Effective:

2026-2027 Catalog

Individual(s) primarily responsible for drafting the proposed degree major program:

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Type of Program:

Major

Program Change Type:

Non-Substantive

Delivery Format:

Hybrid

Title of the Program:

MA in Humanities

Designation: (degree terminology)

Master of Arts

Briefly describe the program proposal (new or change) and provide a justification:

For over a decade our Humanities MA program has been successfully serving both continuing and returning students wanting to deepen their interdisciplinary study of a wide range of humanities topics. This Humanities MA is also one of only three in the CSU that qualifies aspiring higher education teachers to teach in Humanities Departments at the community college and state university levels; and Humanities MA graduates are well placed to apply for further graduate studies in a variety of related fields. The program also provides opportunities for personal enrichment and for career enhancement for teachers and other working professionals.

Interested working professionals living at considerable distance from campus, however, often defer joining the program indefinitely due to the challenges of commuting a long distance several times a week. We are therefore proposing a low-residency, hybrid format: graduate seminars meeting in-person on campus every four weeks, with the remaining seminar sessions conducted over Zoom. The latter format worked reasonably well to support focused discussion during the pandemic; preserving in-person contact about once a month would still allow students to connect socially and spontaneously over the course of the semester. Expanding access through enacting these changes will also help to increase enrollment in graduate seminars, as required of us during these challenging budget times.

University Learning Goals**Graduate (Masters) Learning Goals:**

Disciplinary knowledge
 Communication
 Critical thinking/analysis
 Information literacy
 Professionalism
 Intercultural/Global perspectives

Program Learning Outcomes**Program Learning Outcomes****Learning Outcome**

Note: These PLOs are adapted from the AAC&U's VALUE rubrics for Intercultural Knowledge, Critical Thinking, Reading, Quantitative Analysis, Information Literacy, Written & Oral Communication, Integrative Learning & Personal/Social Responsibility. VALUE rubrics have been adapted to assess specifics of Humanities disciplines. Several PLOs are being combined in a given year so that we can assess all of our PLOs within a 5-6 year period, the typical cycle for department Self-Study.

1. Intercultural Knowledge & Competence:

Conduct complex, comparative, and creative research and reflection on a variety of cultural systems and interpretive discourses that involve art, literature, philosophy or religion, in order to develop an associated set of cognitive, affective, and behavioral skills and characteristics: self-awareness, knowledge of cultural worldviews, sensitivity to diverse forms of communication, empathy, openness, and curiosity.

2. Academic Analysis of Human Culture

(a) Critical Thinking: Undertake comprehensive exploration of social and cultural systems related to the Humanities in order to apply creative analytical solutions to problems encountered.

(b) Deep Reading: Apply a variety of theoretical and analytical methods, including a theoretically sophisticated vocabulary of stylistic principles, to extract and construct meaning through interaction and involvement with written text as well as visual media spanning diverse genres.

(c) Quantitative Literacy (assessed along with Deep Reading): Use dates, timeline, map scales and/or population statistics to support interpretations associated with key historical agents and eras of cultural development.

(d) Information Literacy: By completing a comprehensive exam, project or thesis, demonstrate the ability to identify, locate, evaluate, and effectively/responsibly use and share information about diverse cultures drawn from primary and secondary sources.

(e) Written Communication (assessed along with Information Literacy): Articulate a coherent and original thesis and support it with clear and purposeful organization and synthesis of information from historical texts and artifacts documenting a variety of cultural contexts, in order to accomplish a specific writing task for a clearly defined audience.

(f) Oral Communication (assessed along with Critical Thinking): Use appropriate organization, language choice, delivery techniques and supporting materials to convey a central message that increases knowledge, fosters understanding, and promotes change in the listeners' attitudes, values, beliefs, or behaviors.

3. (Assessed together)

Personal & Social Responsibility: Examine one's own attitudes and beliefs through learning about a diversity of communities and forms of cultural expression, and then promote others' engagement with such diversity in order to make a difference in the civic life of one's communities.

Integrative Learning: Build knowledge, understanding, and a disposition (skills, values, and motivation) across the curriculum, in order to synthesize and transfer learning about diverse forms of cultural expression to new, complex situations within and beyond the campus.

Learning Outcomes Display

Course Code	PLO 1	PLO 2	PLO 3
HRS 200A			
HRS 200B			
HRS 202			
HRS 213			
HRS 214			
HRS 234			
HRS 290M			
HRS 216			
HRS 217			
HRS 235			
HRS 236			
HRS 290B			
HRS 290H			
HRS 290P			
HRS 210			
HRS 220			

HRS 237			
HRS 290C			
HRS 290D			
HRS 290E			
HRS 296S			
HRS 500			

Will this program be required as part of a teaching credential program, a single subject, or multiple subject waiver program (e.g., Liberal Studies, Biology) or other school personnel preparation program (e.g., School of Nursing)?

No

Catalog Description:

Total units required for the MA: 30

Program Description

The Department of Humanities and Religious Studies offers an integrated approach to the study of world cultures from ancient times to the present. In our courses, students undertake interdisciplinary study of core ideas, ideals, and values. The Humanities – known by Renaissance thinkers as *studia humanitatis* (“studies of humanity”) – explore such subjects as literature, history, philosophy, religion, the visual arts, music, drama, and film. Religious Studies focuses on beliefs and practices of the world’s religions in their historical and cultural contexts. Employing the methods and insights of disciplines such as history, anthropology, sociology, psychology, and philosophy, Religious Studies approaches its subject matter with empathy while avoiding assumptions or judgments about religious truth claims.

The MA in Humanities provides graduate-level engagement with humanistic approaches to world cultures.

Students in all five available programs acquire concrete skills in critical thinking, analysis, research, writing, and organization that lead to attractive careers throughout the job market. Many of our students prepare for careers in teaching at the elementary level (as part of a Liberal Studies major program) or secondary level (as part of a single subject credential program in English/ Humanities). Others pursue postgraduate study in the Humanities, History, Theology, and related fields in preparation for careers in teaching at the community college and university levels or in library, museum, or curatorial work. Humanities majors are also well-prepared for careers in government and fields such as law and counseling, which require interaction with people from diverse cultural backgrounds.

Admission Requirements: Course prerequisites and other criteria for admission of students to the degree major program, and for their continuation in it.

Admission Requirements

Admission as a classified graduate student in Humanities requires:

- A baccalaureate degree from an accredited four-year college or university (or equivalent preparation if the student has done undergraduate work outside the U.S.);
- An undergraduate major in Humanities or in a closely related field (subject to approval by the Graduate Coordinator);
- A minimum 3.0 GPA in the last 60 semester units attempted and a minimum 3.3 GPA in Humanities courses (or in major in a related field);

Students with deficiencies in Admission Requirements that can be removed by specified additional preparation may be considered for admission with conditionally classified graduate status. Any deficiencies will be noted on a response to the admission application.

Admission Procedures

Applicants should file the California State University, Sacramento Office of Graduate Studies application for admission to the University, and complete the supplemental application for the Department of Humanities and Religious Studies. Please check with the Office of Graduate Studies for current application deadlines.

All applicants must file the following with the Office of Graduate Studies, River Front Center 215, (916) 278-6470, www.csus.edu/graduate-studies (<http://www.csus.edu/gradstudies/>):

- An online application for admission; and
- One set of official transcripts from all colleges and universities attended, other than California State University, Sacramento

Applicants must also file the following supplemental application:

- Statement of purpose of approximately 500 words (typed) in response to the following question: How does the Humanities master's program fit with your talents, interests, and aspirations?
- Two letters of recommendation. Letters should ideally come from college/university instructors, but if these are not available, any other credible source who can address qualifications will be acceptable (e.g., work supervisor or community leader);
- Academic writing sample of 3-5 pages, to be accompanied by a brief explanation regarding the context (e.g., the course and assignment) for which the writing was produced.

Minimum Units and Grade Requirement for the Degree

Units required for the MA: 30
Minimum Cumulative GPA: 3.0

Advancement to Candidacy

Each student must file an application for Advancement to Candidacy, indicating a proposed program of graduate study. This should be initiated by the student as soon as the student has:

- Removed any deficiencies in Admission Requirements;
- Completed at least 12 units of 200-level courses in the graduate program with a minimum 3.0 GPA;
- Achieved a passing grade on the Humanities M.A. Preliminary Exam; and
- Received a grade of "B" or better in a Graduate Writing Intensive (GWI) course in their discipline within the first two semesters of course work at California State University, Sacramento.

Advancement to Candidacy forms are available on the Office of Graduate Studies website. The student fills out the form after planning a degree program in consultation with his/her HRS advisor. The completed form is then returned to the Graduate Coordinator and the Office of Graduate Studies for approval.

As defined by policy <http://www.csus.edu/umannual/acadaff/fsm00010.htm>, a change in units constitutes a substantive change to the program. If your changes constitute a substantive change, please refer back to the "Program Change Type" field above to ensure that "Substantive" is selected.

Program Requirements: (If new courses are being created as part of a new program, it will be useful to propose courses first.)

Program Requirements

Code	Title	Units
Required Courses (9 Units)		
HRS 200A	Culture and Expression: Prehistory to the Middle Ages	3
HRS 200B	Culture and Expression: Renaissance to the Present 	3
HRS 202	Western Aesthetics: Traditions and Revision	3
Electives (18 Units)		
Select 18 units from any of the following: ¹		18
A. Ancient Humanities		
HRS 213	Ancient Greek Culture	
HRS 214	Ancient Roman Culture	
HRS 234	The Gothic Spirit	
HRS 290M	Saints, Relics, and Miracles in Late Antique and Medieval Europe	
B. Modern Humanities		
HRS 216	Historical Reflections on the American Dream	
HRS 217	Ordinary America	
HRS 235	Transcendence & Transgression in the Romantic Period	
HRS 236	Modernism: Contingent Realities of Self and World	
HRS 290B	Seminar in HRS: The Body	
HRS 290H	Seminar in HRS: The Hero	
HRS 290P	Seminar in HRS: Popular Culture in America	
C. Global Humanities		
HRS 210	Gender and Religion in Cross-Cultural Perspective	
HRS 220	Seminar in Religious Studies	
HRS 237	Global Citizenship and Culture	
HRS 290C	Seminar in HRS: The Many Realities of Consciousness	
HRS 290D	Seminar in HRS: Death & Afterlife	
HRS 290E	Seminar in HRS: Envisioning the Divine	
HRS 296S	Seminar in HRS: Storytelling & Myth in World Cultures	
Culminating Requirement (3 Units)		
HRS 500	Culminating Experience	3
Total Units		30

¹ Each semester we offer one required course, one grad only elective course and one paired course that includes undergraduates (190/290 or 196/296 series). Elective courses are organized into three areas—Ancient, Global and Modern—to clarify the varied emphases of these courses. Students can choose courses in any variety of these areas to either emphasize a generalist or more specialized understanding of the humanities. In order to allow students to explore areas of interest in more detail, six of the 18

units (two courses) may consist of HRS 100-level courses with the approval of the Graduate Coordinator, AND 3 of the 18 units may consist of HRS 299 with approval of the Graduate Coordinator.

For graduate programs, the number of declared undergraduate major and the degree production over the preceding years of the corresponding baccalaureate program:

We currently have ~50 majors & ~5 minors; we graduated ~10 this past year.

Fiscal Impact to Change an Existing Program

Indicate programmatic or fiscal impact which this change will have on other academic units' programs, and describe the consultation that has occurred with affected units:

N/A

Provide a fiscal analysis of the proposed changes:

N/A

How will the above changes be accommodated within the department/College existing fiscal resources?

N/A

Will the proposed changes require additional resources?

No

What additional space, equipment, operating expenses, library, computer, or media resources, clerical/technical support, or other resources will be needed?

N/A

Estimate the cost and indicate how these resource needs will be accommodated:

N/A

Key: 41