



**The Master of Arts in Humanities
at
California State University, Sacramento**

The Master of Arts in Humanities at California State University, Sacramento provides a solid grounding for students to examine the foundational and transformative developments of the Humanistic disciplinary fields such as Literature, History, Religious Studies, Philosophy, Art History, Music, and Film. We offer a course of study that aims to challenge students to cross cultural and disciplinary lines and encourages them to acquire a breadth and depth of knowledge that enables them to pursue a rigorous line of intellectual inquiry that is both informative and innovative. Faculty, staff, and students are committed to fostering a collaborative and vibrant community of scholars that enhances the graduate school experience and enriches both the local and intellectual community at large.

Please note that meeting the minimal requirements does not guarantee admission to the program.

Admission Requirements

Admission as a classified graduate student in Humanities requires at minimum:

- 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 in Humanities courses (or in major in 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 their online applications with the California State University, Sacramento Office of Graduate Studies for admission to the University. Please check with the Office of Graduate Studies for current application deadlines. For more information please contact the Office of Graduate Studies, River Front Center 206, (916) 278-6470, www.csus.edu/grad_studies.

Applicants must file the following online with Graduate Studies:

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

- 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. Recommenders should clearly state how long they have known you and in what capacity. Letters should ideally come from 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); applicants should provide a link from the office of Graduate Studies for recommenders to upload their letters directly, <https://gradsup.webapps.csus.edu/>
- 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.

Requirements - Master of Arts Degree

Units required for the M.A. degree: 30, with minimum 3.0 GPA

A. Required Courses (9 units)

- HRS 200A. Culture and Expression: Prehistory to Middle Ages
- HRS 200B. Culture and Expression: Renaissance to Present (HRS 200A or instructor permission)
- HRS 202. Western Aesthetics: Traditions and Revisions

B. Electives (18 units)

Choose 3 courses (9 units) from *two* of the following *three* areas. 3 units of upper-division undergraduate coursework are permitted, with approval of the Graduate Coordinator.

Ancient Humanities: HRS 290M Saints, Relics and Miracles, HRS 213 Ancient Greek Culture, HRS 214 Ancient Roman Culture, HRS 222. Evolving Concepts of God: Portrait of Deity in Monotheistic Religions, HRS 224. Religions of the Roman Empire, HRS 234 The Gothic Spirit.

Modern Humanities: HRS 209 Versions of the Self in Western Literature and the Arts, 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, HRS290B The Body.

Global Humanities: HRS 210 Gender and Religion, HRS 220 Seminar in Religious Studies, HRS 237 Global Citizenship and Culture, HRS 290D Death and the Afterlife.

C. Culminating Requirement (3 units)

- HRS 500. Culminating Experience. Completion of comprehensive examination, thesis, or project Prerequisite: Advancement to candidacy and approval of Graduate Coordinator.

For More Information Please Contact:

Department of Humanities & Religious Studies

California State University, Sacramento

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6000 J Street

Sacramento CA 95819-6083

Ph. (916) 278-6444

Dr. Harvey Stark, Graduate Coordinator: harvey.stark@csus.edu

Dr. [Alyson Buckman](#), Chair, Department of HRS: abuckman@csus.edu

The First Year of Study in Humanities M.A. Program

Please check the Office of Graduate Studies, <http://www.csus.edu/gradstudies> often for deadlines, general guidelines and forms. Please remember that it is your responsibility to keep track of your progress through the program.

Step 1: Be aware of the required courses for the program: HRS 200A, HRS 200B and HRS 202 and try to complete them in a timely fashion. They do not have to be taken in order but it is recommended that you do so when possible. Passing both Part A of the Preliminary Exam administered at the end of HRS 200A and Part B of the Preliminary Exam administered at the end of HRS 200B with a score of 80% or higher is required in order to advance to candidacy. Students who do not pass the exam will be given an Incomplete for the course and given three chances to retake the exam within a year. Successfully completing HRS 200B with a B or better also fulfills the GWAR (Intensive Writing Requirement) for all graduate students.

Step 2: Decide on two areas of concentration from the three offered in our program (Ancient, Global and Modern) and choose your courses accordingly. You will need 9 units per area of concentration, 18 total.

NB1: A full-time course load typically consists of six units (2 seminar courses) per semester. However students do take more courses or fewer for various reasons.

NB2: Six units of upper-division coursework pending the approval of the coordinator are permitted to count toward progress to the degree.

NB3: 3 units of Independent Study HRS 299 pending the approval of the coordinator are permitted to count toward progress to the degree.

Step 3: Maintain a 3.0 g.p.a. in order to remain in good standing in the program. Coursework in which you receive a B- or lower will not be credited toward the degree and must be retaken in order to receive credit for them.

Year Two and Beyond in the Humanities M.A. Program

Step 1: Continue taking classes and start thinking about the direction you would like to take with your Culminating Experience (Exam, Project or Thesis). Also begin to consider the two faculty members with whom you would like to work.

Step 2: **Advancement to Candidacy:** Once you have passed Parts A and B of the Preliminary Exam, completed at least 12 units of 200-level seminar courses in the graduate program with a minimum 3.0 g.p.a and removed any deficiencies in admission requirements you are eligible to advance to Candidacy. Advancement to Candidacy is necessary in order to be able to enroll in HRS 500 (Culminating Experience).

Step 3: Advancement to Candidacy forms are available in the Office of Graduate Studies (OGS) and on their website. After forming a committee composed of at least two faculty members, the student must obtain the approval and signature of the Graduate Coordinator and return the form to the Office of Graduate Studies by the deadline posted on the OGS website (usually 3-4 weeks from the start of every semester).

The Second Year of Study in Humanities M.A. Program

Please check the Office of Graduate Studies, <http://www.csus.edu/gradstudies> often for deadlines, general guidelines and forms. Please remember that it is your responsibility to keep track of your progress through the program.

Year Two and Beyond in the Humanities M.A. Program

Step 1: Continue taking classes and start thinking about the direction you would like to take with your Culminating Experience (Exam, Project or Thesis). Also begin to consider the two faculty members with whom you would like to work.

Step 2: **Advancement to Candidacy:** Once you have passed Parts A and B of the Preliminary Exam, completed at least 12 units of 200-level seminar courses in the graduate program with a minimum 3.0 g.p.a and removed any deficiencies in admission requirements you are eligible to advance to Candidacy. Advancement to Candidacy is necessary in order to be able to enroll in HRS 500 (Culminating Experience).

Step 3: Advancement to Candidacy forms are available in the Office of Graduate Studies (OGS) and on their website. After forming a committee composed of at least two faculty members, the student must obtain the approval and signature of the Graduate Coordinator and return the form to the Office of Graduate Studies by the deadline posted on the OGS website (usually 3-4 weeks from the start of every semester).

Steps and Guidelines for the Project:

Please check the Office of Graduate Studies, <http://www.csus.edu/gradstudies> often for deadlines, general guidelines and forms. It is your responsibility to keep track of your progress through the program.

The California Code of Regulations: Title 5 Education, Section 40510 defines a project as:

A significant undertaking appropriate to the fine and applied arts or to professional fields. It evidences originality and independent thinking, appropriate form and organization, and rationale. It is described and summarized in a written abstract that includes the project's significance, objectives, methodology, and a conclusion or recommendation.

Step 1: The student will assemble a committee of at least 2 full-time faculty members to serve on the Project committee.

Step 2: In close consultation with each committee member, the student will determine the scope and focus of the project. While the scope of the project is fairly open and may consist of the construction of curricula or a creative work/s, a significant portion of the project must contain a written, scholarly explanation (recommended minimum, 30 pages) detailing the project's relevance to a subject area or issue in the Humanities.

Step 3: The student will obtain the necessary signatures and enroll in HRS 500 (forms available online and in the HRS dept. office) in the semester in which the student is ready to begin the project. The student should consult with his or her committee during this time and submit drafts on a regular basis for feedback.

NB: Please keep in mind that the completion of the project may take longer than one semester. In the event that the student does not complete the project, the student may enroll through the College of Continuing Education in HRS 599 for a reduced registration fee for three consecutive semesters. After the third semester, the student must reenroll in HRS 500 and pay full registration fees.

Step 4: At the start of the semester the student will obtain and file an application for Graduation available on the Office of Graduate Studies website.

Step 5: The student must attend a mandatory formatting workshop offered by the Office of Graduate Studies. Please check the OGS website to register for a workshop no later than the start of the semester in which you plan to submit the project.

Step 6: The student will make an appointment with the Office of Graduate Studies for the Thesis/Project Check-in. Walk-ins are not available and the office will not accept the Thesis/Project without first attending this appointment.

Step 7: The student will obtain the necessary signatures to turn in the approved project to the Office of Graduate Studies.

Steps and Guidelines for the Thesis

Please check the Office of Graduate Studies, <http://www.csus.edu/gradstudies> often for deadlines, general guidelines and forms. It is your responsibility to keep track of your progress through the program.

The California Code of Regulations: Title 5 Education, Section 40510 defines a thesis as:

The written product of a systematic study of a significant problem. It identifies the problem, states the major assumptions, explains the significance of the undertaking, sets forth the sources for and methods of gathering information, analyzes the data, and offers a conclusion or recommendation. The finished project [product] evidences originality, critical and independent thinking, appropriate organization and format, and thorough documentation.

Step 1: The student will assemble a committee of at least 2 full-time faculty members to serve on the thesis committee.

Step 2: In close consultation with each committee member, the student will determine the scope and focus of the thesis. The subject area of the thesis must pertain to at least one discipline offered in the HRS curriculum. Along with engagement with primary source material, the thesis should also incorporate a significant number of secondary sources. Proper citation (such as MLA or Chicago Style) must be used consistently throughout the thesis. The minimum page length recommended for the thesis is 40 pages.

Step 3: The student will obtain the necessary signatures and enroll in HRS 500 (forms available online and in the HRS dept. office) in the semester in which the student is ready to write the thesis. The student should consult with his or her committee during this time and submit drafts on a regular basis for feedback.

NB: Please keep in mind that the writing and completion of the thesis may take longer than one semester. In the event that the student does not complete the thesis, the student may enroll through the College of Continuing Education in HRS 599 for a reduced registration fee for three consecutive semesters. After the third semester, the student must reenroll in HRS 500 and pay full registration fees.

Step 4: At the start of the semester the student will obtain and file an application for Graduation available on the Office of Graduate Studies website.

Step 5: The student must attend a mandatory formatting workshop offered by the Office of Graduate Studies. Please check the OGS website to register for a workshop no later than the start of the semester in which you plan to submit the thesis.

Step 6: The student will make an appointment with the Office of Graduate Studies for the Thesis/Project Check-in. Walk-ins are not available and the office will not accept the Thesis/Project without first attending this appointment.

Step 7: The student will obtain the necessary signatures to turn in the approved thesis to the Office of Graduate Studies at an appointed time.