

MASTER OF INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES (MIS) DEGREE

Program Learning Outcomes for the MIS Degree

Upon completing the MIS degree, students will be able to:

1. Appreciate major perspectives and methods of the liberal arts by demonstrating a broadened understanding of some basic concepts in the humanities, social sciences, and sciences.
2. Appreciate the connection of the liberal arts to their lives and the larger world.
3. Demonstrate a capacity for analytical thinking.
4. Demonstrate good writing skills.
5. Practice critical listening and good discussion and oral communication skills.
6. Demonstrate academic research methods.

Requirements for the MIS Degree

The MIS degree is a non-thesis master's degree. For general university requirements, see [Non-Thesis Master's Degrees](https://ga.rice.edu/graduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/regulations-procedures-non-thesis-masters-degrees/) (<https://ga.rice.edu/graduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/regulations-procedures-non-thesis-masters-degrees/>). For additional requirements, regulations, and procedures for all graduate programs, please see [All Graduate Students](https://ga.rice.edu/graduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/regulations-procedures-all-degrees/) (<https://ga.rice.edu/graduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/regulations-procedures-all-degrees/>). Students pursuing the MIS degree must complete:

- A minimum of 12-13 courses (34-37 credit hours) to satisfy degree requirements.
- A minimum of 34 credit hours of graduate-level study (graduate semester credit hours, coursework at the 500-level or above).
- A minimum of 30 graduate semester credit hours must be taken at Rice University.
- A minimum of 24 graduate semester credit hours must be taken in standard or traditional courses (with a course type of lecture, seminar, laboratory, lecture/laboratory).
- A minimum residency enrollment of one fall or spring semester of part-time graduate study at Rice University.
- A maximum of 1 course (3 graduate semester credit hours) from transfer credit. For additional program guidelines regarding transfer credit, see the [Policies](#) (p. 3) tab.
- A minimum overall GPA of 2.67 or higher in all Rice coursework.
- A minimum program GPA of 3.00 or higher in all Rice coursework that satisfies requirements for the non-thesis master's degree with a minimum grade of B- (2.67 grade points) in each course.

The courses listed below satisfy the requirements for this degree program. In certain instances, courses not on this official list may be substituted upon approval of the program's academic advisor or, where applicable, the department or program's Director of Graduate Studies. Course substitutions must be formally applied and entered into Degree Works by the department or program's [Official Certifier](https://registrar.rice.edu/facstaff/degreeworks/officialcertifier/) (<https://registrar.rice.edu/facstaff/degreeworks/officialcertifier/>). Additionally, these course substitutions must be approved by the Office of Graduate

and Postdoctoral Studies. Students and their academic advisors should identify and clearly document the courses to be taken.

Summary

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Total Credit Hours Required for the MIS Degree		34-37

Degree Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
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Core Requirements

MLSC 500	INTRODUCTION TO GRADUATE LIBERAL STUDIES ¹	3
<i>Select 1 course from each of the following fields (see course lists below):</i> ²		9

Humanities

Social Sciences

Natural Science

Elective Requirements

<i>Select 6 elective courses from MLSC course offerings at the 500-level or 600-level</i> ³		18
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Capstone

MLSC 699	CAPSTONE SEMINAR	1
<i>Select 1 from the following:</i> ⁴		3-6

MLSC 700 & MLSC 701	CAPSTONE I and CAPSTONE II	
MLSC 701	CAPSTONE II	

Total Credit Hours		34-37
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Footnotes and Additional Information

- ¹ All students must take MLSC 500 in their first semester of study.
- ² The core requirements are designed to acquaint first-year students with contrasting perspectives and methodological approaches that define academic inquiry in the three broad fields of humanities, social sciences, and natural science. Core courses must be completed before courses that satisfy the electives can be taken.
- ³ The six (6) electives beyond the core requirements may focus on just 1 field (humanities, social sciences, or natural science) or may be chosen more broadly.
- ⁴ The capstone coursework is designed to help students integrate their knowledge through writing an extended paper or completing a project to be presented to MLS faculty and students. Students may take 1 semester (MLSC 701) or 2 semesters (MLSC 700 and MLSC 701) to complete the capstone project.

Course Lists to Satisfy Requirements

Core Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
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Humanities

<i>Select 1 course from the following:</i>		3
MLSC 501	THE SHAPING OF WESTERN THOUGHT	
MLSC 505	SHAKESPEARE AND FILM	
MLSC 510	MUSIC AND OTHER ARTS: COLLABORATION AND FUSION	

MLSC 517	MODERN DRAMA ON FILM AND IN PERFORMANCE	MLSC 578	INTELLECTUAL FOUNDATIONS OF AMERICAN LAW	
MLSC 526	CONTEMPORARY MORAL ISSUES	Code	Title	Credit Hours
MLSC 533	SELF-DETERMINATION IN ARAB WORLD			
MLSC 536	TRADITIONAL CHINESE CULTURE AND ITS MODERN LEGACY	Social Sciences		
MLSC 537	PROFILES FROM THE PAST: FAMOUS FIGURES IN WESTERN HISTORY	<i>Select 1 course from the following:</i>		
MLSC 539	IMMIGRATION AND THE STATE: EUROPE AND THE US IN COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE	MLSC 509	STEREOTYPES, PREJUDICE AND DISCRIMINATION	3
MLSC 541	HUMAN RIGHTS, GENDER EQUALITY AND RELIGIOUS BELIEFS	MLSC 519	PSYCHOLOGY OF BELIEFS	
MLSC 542	THE EPIC JOURNEY	MLSC 523	THEORY AND PRACTICE OF PUNISHMENT	
MLSC 543	THE CITY IN LITERATURE	MLSC 526	CONTEMPORARY MORAL ISSUES	
MLSC 543	THE CITY IN LITERATURE	MLSC 533	SELF-DETERMINATION IN ARAB WORLD	
MLSC 544	WRITING LITERATURE FOR CHILDREN	MLSC 534	HUMAN RIGHTS IN WORLD AFFAIRS	
MLSC 545	WINDOW TO THE SOUL: EXPLORING RELIGION AND ETHNICITY THROUGH MUSIC	MLSC 536	TRADITIONAL CHINESE CULTURE AND ITS MODERN LEGACY	
MLSC 547	PROFILES FROM THE PAST II: FAMOUS FIGURES IN WESTERN HISTORY	MLSC 539	IMMIGRATION AND THE STATE: EUROPE AND THE US IN COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE	
MLSC 548	HISTORY OF PHILOSOPHY SET IN INTERDISCIPLINARY CONTEXT	MLSC 541	HUMAN RIGHTS, GENDER EQUALITY AND RELIGIOUS BELIEFS	
MLSC 549	COMPARATIVE IMPERIAL PLEASURE GARDENS: POWER AND LANDSCAPE	MLSC 549	COMPARATIVE IMPERIAL PLEASURE GARDENS: POWER AND LANDSCAPE	
MLSC 551	PROFILES FROM THE PAST III: FAMOUS FIGURES IN WESTERN HISTORY	MLSC 555	THE POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION	
MLSC 554	MY FAVORITE NOVELS - AND GREAT FILMS MADE FROM THEM	MLSC 557	EARLY MODERN ISLAMIC WORLD: ART AND EMPIRE	
MLSC 555	THE POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION	MLSC 561	HISTORY OF SOUTH ASIA: THE ORIGINS OF INDIA AND PAKISTAN	
MLSC 556	HEAVEN AND HELL: FROM DANTE TO MILTON AND BEYOND	MLSC 564	THE POLITICS OF WORLD WAR TWO IN EUROPE	
MLSC 557	EARLY MODERN ISLAMIC WORLD: ART AND EMPIRE	MLSC 568	PSYCHOLOGY OF AGGRESSION AND VIOLENCE	
MLSC 559	ENVIRONMENTAL LITERATURE	MLSC 569	FORESIGHT IN SOCIAL JUSTICE	
MLSC 560	WOMEN IN SOUTHERN LITERATURE	MLSC 570	CHILDREN OF IMMIGRANTS	
MLSC 561	HISTORY OF SOUTH ASIA: THE ORIGINS OF INDIA AND PAKISTAN	MLSC 571	MORAL LEADERSHIP IN ECONOMICS	
MLSC 562	MUSIC AND MEDIEVALISM	MLSC 576	THOMAS JEFFERSON AND HIS WORLD, 1740-1830	
MLSC 563	A HISTORY OF TUDOR ENGLAND	MLSC 578	INTELLECTUAL FOUNDATIONS OF AMERICAN LAW	
MLSC 566	MUSIC IN THE ERA OF THE REFORMATION	Code	Title	Credit Hours
MLSC 567	THE HOUSE OF STUART			
MLSC 572	BIBLICAL ETHICS	Natural Science		
MLSC 573	WOMEN WRITERS AND HEROINES: FROM MYTH TO REALITY	<i>Select 1 course from the following:</i>		
MLSC 574	GREAT LITERATURE, GREAT MUSIC	MLSC 502	OUR ENVIRONMENT: SCIENCE AND CULTURE	3
MLSC 576	THOMAS JEFFERSON AND HIS WORLD, 1740-1830	MLSC 506	THE SOLAR SYSTEM, THE SUN AND THE MIND OF MAN	
MLSC 577	LATINA/O/E STORIES FROM THE BORDERLANDS	MLSC 508	EARTH SYSTEMS DYNAMICS	
		MLSC 513	DNA: HUMAN IDENTITY AND ORIGINS	
		MLSC 515	SCIENCE IN THE FIRST PERSON	
		MLSC 525	PLAGUES AND POPULATIONS	
		MLSC 532	THE GRAND DESIGN	

MLSC 538	OUR CHANGING PLANET
MLSC 540	IS ANYBODY OUT THERE: THE SEARCH FOR LIFE BEYOND EARTH
MLSC 546	THE ROLE OF CHEMISTRY IN HISTORY
MLSC 550	MODERN ASTRONOMY AND OUR PLACE IN THE UNIVERSE
MLSC 552	CONSERVING BIODIVERSITY
MLSC 553	SOLVING THE CLIMATE CHALLENGE
MLSC 558	EVOLUTION AND SOCIETY
MLSC 565	PAST AND FUTURE CLIMATE CHANGE: NATURAL VERSUS HUMAN INFLUENCE
MLSC 575	ALL ABOUT BIRDS - AND MORE: AN INTERDISCIPLINARY SCIENCE COURSE
MLSC 604	EXPLORATION AND DISCOVERY IN ANTARCTICA

Opportunities for the MIS Degree

Association of Graduate Liberal Studies National Honor Society

MIS graduates who earn a 3.75 GPA or higher and have demonstrated leadership in the classroom and in the greater community are eligible for nomination to the Association of Graduate Liberal Studies National Honor Society.

Additional Information

For additional information, please see the Interdisciplinary Studies website: <https://glasscock.rice.edu/master-liberal-studies/>.

Policies for the MIS Degree

Department of Interdisciplinary Studies Graduate Handbook

The General Announcements (GA) is the official Rice curriculum. As an additional resource for students, Interdisciplinary Studies publishes a graduate program handbook, which can be found here: https://gradhandbooks.rice.edu/2024_25/Liberal_Studies_Graduate_Handbook.pdf.

Admission

Admission to graduate study is open to qualified students holding a bachelor's degree (or equivalent) from an accredited university or college. A minimum GPA of 3.00 from the applicant's undergraduate work is expected. Additionally, a statement of purpose, resume, writing samples, letters of recommendation, and work experience will be evaluated as part of the admissions decision.

Transfer Credit

For Rice University's policy regarding transfer credit, see [Transfer Credit \(https://ga.rice.edu/graduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/regulations-procedures-all-degrees/#transfer\)](https://ga.rice.edu/graduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/regulations-procedures-all-degrees/#transfer). Some departments and programs have additional restrictions on transfer credit. Requests for transfer credit must be approved for Rice equivalency by the appropriate academic department offering the Rice equivalent course (corresponding to the subject code of the course content) and by the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (GPS). Students are encouraged to meet with their academic program's advisor when considering transfer credit possibilities.

Program Transfer Credit Guidelines

Students pursuing the MIS degree should be aware of the following program-specific transfer credit guideline:

- No more than 1 course (3 credit hours) of transfer credit from U.S. or international universities of similar standing as Rice may apply towards the degree.

Additional Information

For additional information, please see the Interdisciplinary Studies website: <https://glasscock.rice.edu/master-liberal-studies/>.