Master of Arts in Liberal Studies (MALS) at Reed College is an interdisciplinary, part- or full-time program in the liberal arts and sciences. It is intended for those students who wish to pursue interdisciplinary graduate work in a rigorous program that is both flexible and individually designed. An alternative to the highly specialized study characteristic of most graduate programs, it attracts a diverse group of bright, motivated students of varied ages and backgrounds.

**ELIGIBILITY**

Any adult who has a bachelor’s degree and who is seeking a stimulating and broad-based intellectual experience is encouraged to consider the MALS program. (While some MALS applicants already have completed advanced degrees, most come to the program from an undergraduate-only background.)

The Committee on Graduate Studies looks to accept those applicants who are most likely to become successful members of and contribute positively to the MALS community.

MALS courses are open only to those who have been admitted to the MALS program. They are not open to auditors or to undergraduate students.

**APPLICATION PROCEDURES**

The admission process requires submission of the enclosed application form in the time frame noted below. The following required components should be forwarded directly to the MALS office:

- Application for admission and personal statements. (Applicants may choose to submit a writing sample from recent academic, personal, or business-related work.)

- $60 non-refundable application fee.

- Official transcripts of all previous undergraduate and graduate work from the originating institution, including evidence of completion of a bachelor's degree. (*Please note:* The submission of scores from the GRE or any other standardized test is not required.)

- Two recommendations. The recommendations should be from either a faculty member who recently taught the applicant in an academic subject, or from someone who is familiar with the applicant's intellectual and personal abilities, motivation, and accomplishments.

- Interview with the director of the program and a faculty member of the Committee on Graduate Studies, upon completion of the above forms.

**TIME FRAME**

Students may apply to enter the MALS program in the fall, spring, or summer terms. All applications must be received and completed by the following deadlines: July 1 for fall entrance; December 1 for spring entrance; April 1 for summer entrance. Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis throughout the year, and applicants are notified of the admission decision accordingly.

**DEFERRALS**

After acceptance to the program, students may request to defer entrance up to two terms later.
**CANDIDACY**  Initial admission to the MALS program is provisional for all students. After completing two courses at Reed, students are required to submit an application for admission to candidacy to the Committee on Graduate Studies.

**COSTS**  Students pay each term of enrollment on a per-unit basis at a rate reduced from that of the undergraduate program. Reed does not offer any graduate fellowships or college-based financial aid, although a small scholarship is available for one or two continuing students each year. Students also may consider federal loans or a monthly payment plan to assist with the cost of attendance.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**  Those interested in learning more about the program or with questions about the application process should call or email the director, Barbara Amen. We also encourage potential applicants to visit the campus and attend a class; arrangements may be made through the MALS office.

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*I have had the opportunity to design a program of study uniquely tailored to my interests, work with professors who are at the top of their fields, and participate in classes where everyone has something interesting and relevant to say. To anyone interested in exploring the connections that can be traced between classically defined fields of inquiry, rather than the divisions between them, I highly recommend the Reed MALS program.*

—Brad Wright, MALS ’02

*I have learned to trust my intellectual voice and to articulate succinct arguments and defend them. In the interdisciplinary classes, I have been exposed to a layering of unexpected subjects and genres from Biblical narratives to modern art. The various threads I have followed throughout my three years in the program have reinfused my playwriting and creative pursuits.*

—Kristina Satter, MALS ’04
Master of Arts in Liberal Studies

Application for Admission

(PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE)

Name of student: ___________________________ last first middle sex

Home address: 
number & street ____________________________
city __________________ state ________ zip ______ telephone number

Work address: 
company name ____________________ position __________________
number & street __________________________
city __________________ state ________ zip ______ telephone number

Valid until: 
month/day/year __________________________ Fax number: __________________________ Email address __________________________
(if available) (if available)

Social security number: __________________________ Date of birth: __________________________

Citizenship: 
☐ U.S. ☐ Permanent resident, U.S. ☐ Other: __________________________
(for foreign resident) country

Proposed term of entry: 
Year: __________________________ ☐ Fall ☐ Spring ☐ Summer

Have you attended Reed previously? 
☐ No ☐ Yes If yes, dates at Reed: __________________________

Please list any relatives who have attended Reed, their relationship to you, and their years of attendance:
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

Please list area(s) of academic interest:
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

The following items are optional:

Place of birth: city __________________ state ________ country __________

First language, if other than English:

If you wish to be identified with a particular ethnic group, please check one or more, as appropriate:
☐ African American, Black  ☐ Hispanic, Latino (country)  ☐ White or Caucasian
☐ Asian American (country of family’s origin)  ☐ Native American, Alaskan Native (tribal affiliation)  ☐ Other (specify)
☐ Asian (Indian subcontinent) (country)  ☐ Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander  ☐ Other (specify)
**Academic information**

Please list all colleges and universities you have attended:

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Have you earned previous graduate credit?  
☐ no  ☐ yes If yes, from which institution(s) noted above?

Will you be requesting to apply this credit toward your MALS degree in accordance with regulations governing transfer credit?  
☐ no  ☐ yes If yes, which graduate courses do you hope to transfer for credit?

**Academic honors and publications**

Briefly describe any scholastic and professional distinctions or honors you have received. You may wish also to note any publications you have authored.

**Letters of recommendation**

Please print the names and addresses of the two individuals from whom you have requested recommendations:

1.  
   name
   number & street   city   state

2.  
   name
   number & street   city   state

**Employment history**

Please list the positions you have held since you received your B.A. (in the past 10 years), starting with the most recent. You may attach a résumé, if you prefer.

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Personal statements

(Please type or print)

These personal statements are an important part of the application. Your responses to the first four questions are required and should be original. If preferred, you may respond on a separate sheet of paper and attach it to this form. In addition, you are encouraged to submit a writing sample from your work in a recent academic, personal, or business-related endeavor.

1. How did you first learn about the Reed MALS program? What motivates you to consider the MALS program now, and how do you envision it meeting your educational, personal, and professional objectives?

2. Discuss those experiences outside of school that have contributed significantly to your education or influenced your perspective on learning. (This may include work, travel, or similar experiences.)

3. We would appreciate your providing us with general information about your reading habits and interests: what sort of material you tend to select, what works or authors may be favorites, what of particular note you have recently read or are currently reading.

(over)
4. Please describe the most important volunteer, community, or personal interest activities in which you currently are involved.

5. (Optional) If you have any special issues or academic concerns that have not been addressed adequately in this application, or if you would like to supply the committee with further information on your qualifications, please elaborate here.

My signature below indicates that all the information contained in this application is factually correct and honestly presented.

__________________________
signature

__________________________
date

Please submit this application, along with the $60 application fee, to:

Master of Arts in Liberal Studies Program
Reed College
3203 SE Woodstock Blvd
Portland OR 97202-8199

It has been the historic practice at Reed College to admit students of any race, color, religion, sex, national and ethnic origin, and without regard to personal disabilities, veteran’s status, or any other unlawful basis, nor upon sexual orientation or political beliefs to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. Reed does not discriminate on any of the above attributes in administration of its educational policies, admission policies, scholarships and loan program, and athletic and other school-administered programs. Pursuant to Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Title IX of the 1972 educational amendment, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, equal opportunity is national policy. Inquiries on the application of Title VI, Title IX, and Section 504 may be made to Edwin D. McFarlane, Reed College, or the Director of the Office for Civil Rights, HEW.
We would appreciate your candid evaluation of the person named above to assist us in evaluating his or her candidacy for the Master of Arts in Liberal Studies program at Reed College. You may refer to the description below to aid you in your evaluation. If you would prefer to submit a personal letter of recommendation rather than to complete this form, please attach it to this form. (Letters are most helpful for assessing the applicant’s suitability for admission when they address as specifically as possible the questions below.)

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To the recommender:

To the student: Please print your name and give this form, with a stamped envelope addressed to the MALS Office, to an instructor who has taught you in an academic subject, or to someone who is familiar with your intellectual abilities, motivations, and accomplishments.

To the recommender:

In what capacity and for how long have you known the applicant?

What are the first words that come to mind to describe the applicant?

In your opinion, how would this applicant respond to the environment described above?

How does this applicant respond to constructive criticism?

CONFIDENTIALITY: In accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, matriculating students do have access to their permanent files that may include forms such as this one. We do not provide access to admissions records to applicants, those students who are denied admission, or those students who decline an offer of admission. We administer all educational policies and activities without discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national or ethnic origin, age, disability, or sex. Again, your comments are important to us and we thank you for your cooperation.

(over)
How would you assess the applicant's strengths and weaknesses as a writer, thinker, and speaker?

Please comment on the applicant's intellectual curiosity, motivation, and commitment to academic goals.

I recommend this candidate for admission to the Master of Arts in Liberal Studies Program at Reed College:

not recommended without enthusiasm fairly strongly strongly enthusiastically

Please print your name: ________________________________________________

Your address: _______________________________________________________

Signature: _____________________________ Date: _________________________

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I recommend this candidate for admission to the Master of Arts in Liberal Studies Program at Reed College:

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Please print your name: ____________________________________________________________

Your address: ________________________________________________________________

Signature: ____________________________ Date: ____________________________

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