



Master of Liberal Studies

YOUR MIND MATTERS

Application for Admission

Rice University, Glasscock School of Continuing Studies
Master of Liberal Studies
P.O. Box 1892 - MS 550
Houston, TX 77251-1892
713-348-4767

We are seeking an energetic group of adult students who look forward to a rigorous program of broad exposure and intellectual growth. Applicants must have a bachelor's degree (or equivalent) from an accredited university or college. A minimum GPA of 3.0 from the applicant's undergraduate work is expected, though the admissions committee also gives consideration to applicants' postgraduate experiences and recent accomplishments.

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Use the following checklist to ensure you are submitting a complete application:

- Completed Application for Admission
Application fee (\$85 nonrefundable check made payable to Rice University)
Current resume
Personal statement
Writing samples
Official transcripts from all previous colleges or universities attended mailed directly to Glasscock School of Continuing Studies. See application guidelines for further information.
Two letters of recommendation, each accompanied by a completed Letter of Recommendation form. Must be mailed directly from the recommenders to the Rice University address provided on the form.

Application materials become property of Rice University and will not be returned. You may be selected for an interview during the final stage of the application process.

SELECT THE TERM FOR WHICH YOU ARE APPLYING:

- FALL 2017 Application deadline: May 26, 2017
WINTER 2018 Application deadline: October 27, 2017

Applications received after the deadline will be considered on a space-available basis. The late application fee is \$200.

Gender M F Preferred salutation: Mr. Mrs. Ms. Miss Dr. Other

Legal Name (last, first, middle)

Please list other names that may appear on your education records

Home phone Cell phone

Email

Date of birth Social Security no.

Home address

City, State, Zip

Name of employer

Your position or title

Business phone Fax

Business address

City, State, Zip

**DEMOGRAPHICS**

Place of birth (city, state, country) \_\_\_\_\_

U.S. citizen U.S. permanent resident visa (Alien registration # \_\_\_\_\_)

Dual U.S. citizen Other citizenship (Visa type \_\_\_\_\_)

List any non-U.S. countries of citizenship \_\_\_\_\_

*Because the MLS program is part time only, international applicants requiring a student visa (F-1 or J-1) cannot enroll.*

If your first language is not English and your undergraduate degree is not from a U.S. or English-speaking country, you must submit a Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) score. Students whose native language is not English may also use the International English Language Testing System (IELTS). Applicants whose native language is not English must take the TOEFL test and should score at least 90 on the iBT (Internet-based) TOEFL, at least 600 on the paper-based TOEFL or score 250 on the computer-based TOEFL. For students who choose to take the IELTS in lieu of TOEFL, the minimum score is 7. The TOEFL and the IELTS may be waived for an international student who received a degree from a university in which English is the official language of communication.

**OPTIONAL** *The items within this box are optional. No information you provide will be used in a discriminatory manner.*

Marital status: \_\_\_\_\_ U.S. Armed Services veteran? Yes No

1. Are you Hispanic/Latino? Yes, Hispanic or Latino (including Spain) No

Please describe your background \_\_\_\_\_

2. Regardless of your answer to the prior question, please select one or more of the following ethnicities that best describe you:

American Indian or Alaska Native (including all Original Peoples of the Americas)

Are you Enrolled? Yes No If yes, please enter Tribal Enrollment Number \_\_\_\_\_

Please describe your background \_\_\_\_\_

Asian (including Indian subcontinent and Philippines) Please describe your background \_\_\_\_\_

Black or African American (including Africa and Caribbean) Please describe your background \_\_\_\_\_

Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (Original Peoples) Please describe your background \_\_\_\_\_

White (including Middle Eastern) Please describe your background \_\_\_\_\_

**EDUCATION**

List in chronological order all colleges and universities attended, including degrees you have attained, professional schools, summer schools and English language centers. If you have attended more than one college or have transferred from one graduate school to another, insert a statement giving the reasons for your transfer. If you have ever been dismissed from any school, denied readmission, placed on academic or disciplinary probation or suspension, or given failing grades, use an additional sheet to name the school and explain the circumstances.

Name and location of institution	Major field	Dates attended (from/to)	Degree and date awarded

Academic honors, fellowships, publications or distinctions you have earned:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**EMPLOYMENT**

Please list any work experience in the past five years and any other relevant experience.

Employer	Position	Type of Work	Dates

Have you ever been arrested? Yes No If yes, please explain the circumstances on a separate sheet.

**PERSONAL STATEMENT**

This portion of your application is extremely important, and we urge you to take care in the preparation of it. The persons reviewing your application will be assisted in their decisions by a brief and well-written statement from you (no more than two pages in length, typed in 12-point font, double-spaced, one-inch margins) which should include the following:

- various influences that have been important in your intellectual development
- your academic and professional objectives in applying to the MLS program

**WRITING SAMPLES**

In addition to the personal statement, you are asked to submit three writing samples that demonstrate your ability to think and write critically. **Please see separate Writing Samples Form, which lists the assignments from which you may choose.** Each of the three writing samples must be two to five pages in length, typed in 12-point font, double spaced, with one-inch margins. The writing samples should:

- demonstrate a coherent and concise argument through well-organized paragraphs
- provide support for your assertions
- lead to a logical and meaningful conclusion
- when applicable, properly credit all ideas and quotes taken from other sources

Writing samples will be read by the admissions committee and appropriate faculty as necessary. They will not be returned to you.

I certify that the information given by me on this application (including all supplementary pages) is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I acknowledge that failure to give complete and correct information can result in loss of credit or dismissal. I also recognize the right of the University to exclude at any time a student whose conduct or academic standing renders undesirable his or her presence in the institution.

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Unsigned applications will not be considered.

*Rice University is committed to equal opportunity in education and employment. It is the policy of Rice University to attract individuals of diverse backgrounds to its faculty, staff and student body. Accordingly, Rice does not discriminate against any individual on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national or ethnic origin, age, disability or veteran status in its admissions, its educational programs or employment of faculty or staff. In employment, the university seeks to recruit, hire and advance women, members of minority groups, individuals with disabilities, Vietnam-era veterans and special disabled veterans.*

**LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION**

The MLS Program requires that each applicant have two letters of recommendation **mailed directly from the recommenders to the MLS Program office.** If you have completed undergraduate or other graduate work in the past five years, your recommendations should come from academic advisers or former teachers. For those who have not recently attended an academic institution, we prefer letters of recommendation from someone who knows your work professionally or understands why an MLS degree would be important to your intellectual development. Recommenders should not be relatives. Please complete and sign the top portion of the Letters of Recommendation Form included in this application and forward to your recommenders. The MLS Program office will acknowledge receipt of each letter received from recommenders, both to you and to the recommender.

Please list the names of those from whom you are requesting a recommendation:

First recommender \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to you \_\_\_\_\_

Second recommender \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to you \_\_\_\_\_

Please take a moment to tell us how you first learned of Rice University's Master of Liberal Studies program:

- Glasscock School of Continuing Studies catalog
- Glasscock School of Continuing Studies website
- Glasscock School of Continuing Studies email
- KUHF radio spot
- Facebook
- Culture Map
- EventBrite
- Rice Thresher
- Web search
- Word of mouth
- Referred by friend
- Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

## APPLICATION GUIDELINES

When you are ready to submit your application, gather all supporting materials together. All required items (**except** letters of recommendation, college transcripts and official TOEFL scores for international students) should be submitted together in the same envelope. Letters of recommendation, official transcripts for all college work and official TOEFL scores for international students must be mailed directly from those individuals or institutions.

Official transcripts must arrive in the original sealed envelope issued by the institution. The Rice University Master of Liberal Studies Program accepts electronic transcripts from U.S. institutions via secure electronic transcript providers. Consult with your institution to see if they are part of a secure e-delivery network. All electronic transcripts should be sent to [mls@rice.edu](mailto:mls@rice.edu). Please note transcripts are not accepted by fax or personal email.

Mail the application and supporting documents in an envelope that is large enough to accommodate all documents without folding. Do not fold your documents in a way that makes them difficult to handle. The Rice MLS program does not accept responsibility for lost mail and postal or courier delays. The office will send emails to applicants when applications are complete and ready for review.

Be sure that your full name, as given on the application form, appears on all documents submitted on your behalf, including the application fee check. Please call our attention to variations in your name that might appear on materials submitted.

Submit all documents on plain white paper, unstapled and unbound. Written pieces should be typed and double-spaced in a 12-point typeface, with one inch margins. Full name, title of work and page numbers (e.g., "Mary Smith, Personal Statement, page 1 of 4") must appear on the upper right corner of all typed pages. Written pieces should not be edited by anyone other than the applicant prior to submission.

Do not submit an overabundance of materials or any unnecessary documents, such as secondary school records, more than two letters of recommendation or GRE scores.

All supporting materials and correspondence concerning your application should be mailed to:

Rice University, Glasscock School of Continuing Studies  
Master of Liberal Studies  
P.O. Box 1892 - MS 550  
Houston, TX 77251-1892

If you are sending your documents by **courier**, please direct the courier service to:

Rice University, Glasscock School of Continuing Studies  
Master of Liberal Studies  
Anderson-Clarke Center, Third Floor  
Houston, TX 77005

The initial processing begins once we have received the complete set of application materials and the application fee. *You must assume responsibility for making your application complete by the appropriate deadline.* You will receive a status message via email.

Interviews as appropriate may be scheduled after the initial screening of applications.

The MLS admissions committee normally meets three times a year to make admissions decisions. Decisions are usually made in July for fall admissions, November for winter admissions and March for spring admissions. Candidates will be notified of their status as soon as possible after those dates.

If you are offered admission, the letter of admission will include an acceptance form. The process of admission is not complete until you have returned the acceptance form to the MLS office. The deadline for returning the form, usually within 15 days from the date of the acceptance letter, will be noted in the admission letter. Satisfactory progress is required to remain in the program. Payment of tuition is not a guarantee of a degree.



Master of Liberal Studies

YOUR MIND MATTERS

Letter of Recommendation

Rice University, Glasscock School of Continuing Studies
Master of Liberal Studies
P.O. Box 1892 - MS 550
Houston, TX 77251-1892
713-348-4767

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE APPLICANT

Name (last, first, middle)

Address

City, State, ZIP

Email

Check one: I waive do not waive my right of access to this recommendation under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, which provides the right of access to records only to those students who are admitted and who matriculate into the program. I understand that this recommendation will be used by the Master of Liberal Studies Program office solely in its procedures relating to admission.

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT

DATE

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE RECOMMENDER

The person named above is applying for admission to an interdisciplinary graduate program for adults seeking academic challenge and intellectual development. The Admissions Committee is interested in the applicant's qualifications to do analytical work, serious research and critical writing at the graduate level. Please tell us if the applicant can think critically, speak and write well and work independently. Is he or she creative, motivated and disciplined? We appreciate your candid evaluation of the candidate's strengths and weaknesses in these areas as well as any other information you consider relevant. Please attach your letter on personal or organizational stationery.

Name of recommender

Employer Position

Address

City, State, ZIP

Business phone Email

Relationship to applicant

SIGNATURE

DATE

RECOMMENDER: Please mail this form and your letter written on personal or organizational stationery to the program address above. The MLS Program office will acknowledge receipt of your recommendation.

How would you rank this person among his/her peers?

Table with 7 columns: Trait, Top 5%, Top 10%, Top 25%, Top 50%, Below 50%, Unobserved. Rows include Intellectual Curiosity, Intellectual Ability, Self-Discipline, Maturity, Creativity, Ability to express self in speech, Ability to express self in writing, Ability to express self in work.



Master of Liberal Studies
YOUR MIND MATTERS

Letter of Recommendation

Rice University, Glasscock School of Continuing Studies
Master of Liberal Studies
P.O. Box 1892 - MS 550
Houston, TX 77251-1892
713-348-4767

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE APPLICANT

Name (last, first, middle)
Address
City, State, ZIP
Email

Check one: I waive do not waive my right of access to this recommendation under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, which provides the right of access to records only to those students who are admitted and who matriculate into the program. I understand that this recommendation will be used by the Master of Liberal Studies Program office solely in its procedures relating to admission.

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT

DATE

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE RECOMMENDER

The person named above is applying for admission to an interdisciplinary graduate program for adults seeking academic challenge and intellectual development. The Admissions Committee is interested in the applicant's qualifications to do analytical work, serious research and critical writing at the graduate level. Please tell us if the applicant can think critically, speak and write well and work independently. Is he or she creative, motivated and disciplined? We appreciate your candid evaluation of the candidate's strengths and weaknesses in these areas as well as any other information you consider relevant. Please attach your letter on personal or organizational stationery.

Name of recommender
Employer Position
Address
City, State, ZIP
Business phone Email
Relationship to applicant

SIGNATURE

DATE

RECOMMENDER: Please mail this form and your letter written on personal or organizational stationery to the program address above. The MLS Program office will acknowledge receipt of your recommendation.

How would you rank this person among his/her peers?

Table with 7 columns: Trait, Top 5%, Top 10%, Top 25%, Top 50%, Below 50%, Unobserved. Rows include Intellectual Curiosity, Intellectual Ability, Self-Discipline, Maturity, Creativity, Ability to express self in speech, Ability to express self in writing, Ability to express self in work.



All applicants must submit **three** writing samples that demonstrate the ability to think and write clearly, analytically and critically. The writing samples should:

- demonstrate a coherent and concise argument through well-organized paragraphs;
- provide support for the assertions made;
- lead to a logical, meaningful and clearly stated conclusion;
- when applicable, properly credit all ideas and quotes taken from other sources.

## INSTRUCTIONS

Choose one topic from the two options in each of the following three categories: **Humanities**, **Social Science** and **Natural Science**. Write on these three topics according to the instructions.

Submit the writing samples on plain white paper, unstapled and unbound. Each of the three writing samples must be two to five pages in length, 12-point font, double-spaced and with one-inch margins. Your full name, title of work and page number (e.g., "Mary Smith, Writing Sample 1, page 1 of 3") must appear in the upper right-hand corner of all typed pages. The writing samples must not be edited by anyone other than the applicant prior to submission. You may use resources such as texts, encyclopedias or the Internet but all sources should be fully credited. Writing samples will be read by the admissions committee and appropriate faculty as necessary. They will not be returned to you.

## HUMANITIES

Provide an analysis of one of the two quotes found below. Where appropriate, discuss the source, context, meaning, and also provide an analysis of the text and your feelings regarding the text:

1. John F. Kennedy [excerpt from Rice University speech, September 12, 1962]:  
We set sail on this new sea because there is new knowledge to be gained, and new rights to be won, and they must be won and used for the progress of all people. For space science, like nuclear science and all technology, has no conscience of its own. Whether it will become a force for good or ill depends on man, and only if the United States occupies a position of pre-eminence can we help decide whether this new ocean will be a sea of peace or a new terrifying theater of war. I do not say that we should or will go unprotected against the hostile misuse of space any more than we go unprotected against the hostile use of land or sea, but I do say that space can be explored and mastered without feeding the fires of war, without repeating the mistakes that man has made in extending his writ around this globe of ours.

There is no strife, no prejudice, no national conflict in outer space as yet. Its hazards are hostile to us all. Its conquest deserves the best of all mankind, and its opportunity for peaceful cooperation many never come again. But why, some say, the moon? Why choose this as our goal? And they may well ask why climb the highest mountain? Why, 35 years ago, fly the Atlantic? Why does Rice play Texas? We choose to go to the moon.

We choose to go to the moon in this decade and do the other things, not because they are easy, but because they are hard, because that goal will serve to organize and measure the best of our energies and skills, because that challenge is one that we are willing to accept, one we are unwilling to postpone, and one which we intend to win, and the others, too.

2. Proust  
"The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes but in having new eyes." Marcel Proust, Remembrance of Things Past. Discuss the meaning of this quotation and recount an example from your own life when it might have applied. Discuss also whether "a voyage of discovery" is essential in a good human life, important but not essential, not important, or harmful. Moving from the general to the specific, address how important (or unimportant) it is for you, in your thinking about what is valuable in your life.



## **SOCIAL SCIENCE**

*Address one of the following two topics:*

1. Income Tax

The United States currently has a progressive income tax. Recently there have been proposals to change this to a flat tax. Describe these two taxation systems. List the advantages and disadvantages of each and conclude with your argued opinion of which system would be the best system for the United States at the present time. Include discussion of the claim that rising inequality is a serious problem for the U.S.

2. Immigration

One of the most difficult issues facing Congress and the President today is the matter of how to address the approximately 12 million illegal immigrants present in the US at this time. Discuss what legislation you would propose to address the issue and provide the logic behind your proposal, including not only arguments for it (at least one but preferably more), but also a response to some arguments (at least one) that might be raised against it.

## **NATURAL SCIENCE**

*Address one of the following two topics:*

3. Global Warming

What is global warming, what is causing it, how might it affect life on Earth, what can be done about it and what should we do? Make sure to include a response to at least one serious answer, different from your own, to the question, "What should we do?"

4. Large Hadron Collider

The Large Hadron Collider at CERN Switzerland is said to offer potential for great strides in elementary particle physics and cosmology. Elementary particle physics deals with the smallest known particles while cosmology is the science of the Universe. What is the LHC and how is it possible that one machine can possibly provide new and important scientific data on such disparate areas of science? Explain the connection.