



GRADUATE LIBERAL STUDIES PROGRAM ESSAY FORM

Please type or print in ink.
Keep copies of everything you submit in case something gets lost in the mail.
For more information, see www.wesleyan.edu/glsp

Wesleyan ID#: _____

Name: _____

Email: _____

Degree sought: Master of Arts in Liberal Studies
 Certificate of Advanced Study

Concentration: Arts Humanities Mathematics Sciences Social Sciences

ESSAY INFORMATION

To apply for admission, students must submit a four-page essay addressing the applicant's intellectual interests. It must be typed, double-spaced with one-inch margins, and must demonstrate the student's ability to formulate complex ideas and write at the graduate level. This paper will be read by the members of the GLSP Admissions Committee and will remain in the student's file.

The GLSP is a writing-intensive program. The essay is intended to help the Admissions Committee assess the applicant's writing ability and educational objectives, estimate the applicant's ability for academic success, and determine whether or not admission to degree candidacy is appropriate.

Essay Topic

In an essay of approximately four pages, applicants should address both of the following questions. This essay should demonstrate the applicant's ability to engage in critical thinking and to formulate complex ideas.

Part 1: Please discuss your experience in one or two courses you've taken previously (either through the GLSP or another program). How have these courses changed the way you think? What connections have you made between what you learned in the courses and the knowledge you brought to the courses? Describe your intellectual development in the academic classroom.

Part 2: Please analyze an intellectual question that motivates you, academically. What about this question do you ponder while staring into space? How has your thought about this question changed as you mature and see the world change? How does your analysis of this question engage and challenge the work of other scholars, artists, or scientists as they have grappled with this question?

This part of the application allows you to demonstrate the depth and complexity of your critical thinking—your ability to write at the graduate level. Examples of "an intellectual question" might be:

- "Why does the American electoral college persist despite being antithetical to popular democracy?"
- "Does the intention and life history of an author or artist matter when interpreting a work?"
- "What chemical measurements can predict long-term global warming/cooling and why?"
- "What makes a work of art intellectually important, and does that make it valuable?"
- "Why do people perpetuate conditions that result in their own oppression?"

These are examples of questions that can be analyzed and explored across differing strands of thought. Those strands can be woven into a complex argument. These questions do not have yes or no answers, and they do not have right or wrong answers.

Please ask and analyze your own such question.