

Master of Arts in Liberal Studies Concentration: Sciences

The sciences at Wesleyan include areas such as environmental field science, biology, astronomy, psychology, forensics, data analysis, and more. Students seeking specialized training in chemistry, physics, or in other areas, may arrange to work one-on-one with Wesleyan faculty to pursue their personal and professional interests.

Educators pursuing a Master of Arts in Liberal Studies (MALS) degree with a concentration in the sciences gain hands-on experience in the field and the opportunity to pursue research in those areas of greatest interest to them.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS: MALS/Sciences – 12 courses (36 credits)

6 courses (18 credits) within the sciences concentration. Students may choose six courses from our sciences curriculum, or propose independent studies, that best meet their professional needs. Their academic plan may include courses primarily from one area (biology, environmental science, etc.) or may be interdisciplinary. All students are encouraged to take a foundational writing course option within the sciences concentration, to receive more extensive feedback on their work through more frequent writing assignments and individual meetings with the instructor.

Recent courses and course areas in the sciences have included:

- Biology of Birds
- History of Astronomy
- Molecular Biology
- Life-Span Development
- Coastal Ecology
- Ecology of Northeastern Trees
- Biology of Mammals
- Emotions, Motivation and Development
- The Connecticut River
- Neuroscience and Behavior
- Applied Data Analysis
- Animal Reproduction

6 courses (18 credits) outside the sciences concentration. Of the remaining six courses, students must choose from at least two of the other areas of concentration (the arts, humanities, mathematics, social sciences), but may distribute their credits in a way that most effectively accomplishes their personal and professional goals. Below is a sampling of highly relevant out-of-concentration courses for educators:

- Farming in America (Social Sciences) – Science in Action (agriculture)
- Writing Non-Fiction (Humanities) – Writing Essentials for Students of Science
- Adolescent Brain Development (Social Sciences) – Student Dynamics/Education Studies
- Applied Data Analysis (Mathematics) – Statistics/Data Analysis
- Testing and Educational Policy (Social Sciences) – Education Studies
- Cross-Cultural Childhoods (Social Sciences) – Education Studies

Optional master's essay instead of twelfth course. MALS candidates may choose to replace their twelfth course with a Master's Essay, a 25- to 30-page capstone project of publication quality. Students must go through a comprehensive proposal process, working one-on-one with librarians, the GLS writing consultant, and a faculty advisor.