

Master of Arts in Liberal Studies Concentration: Arts

The arts program at Wesleyan seeks to reflect the diversity of creative, technical, and academic approaches practiced across the arts, emphasizing the critical importance of interdisciplinary studies to the development of a personal practice or teaching core. Broadly speaking, arts courses may be in-studio arts, photography, film, art history, design, music history, or ethnomusicology, among other disciplines. Educators pursuing a Master of Arts in Liberal Studies (MALS) degree with a concentration in the arts gain fluency in the analytical and critical vocabulary of visual and aural creative language, with a self-selected emphasis on technique and style, as a means to explore intellectual issues and the human experience.

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

6 courses (18 credits) within the arts concentration. Students may choose the six courses from our arts curriculum, or propose independent studies, that best meet their professional needs. Their academic plan may include a combination of studio art, music, design, film, and art history courses—or may be restricted to a particular area, i.e., visual art techniques or world music. All students are encouraged to take a foundational writing course option within the arts 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 arts have included:

- Abstract Drawing
- Jazz History
- Landscape Photography
- History of Rock and R&B
- Music of Africa and Its Diaspora
- Photographic Portraiture
- Sumi-e Painting
- Documentary Film
- Monotype Printmaking
- Watercolor Painting

6 courses (18 credits) outside the area of concentration. Of the remaining six courses, students must choose from at least two of the other areas of concentration (humanities, social sciences, mathematics, and the 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:

- Memoir Writing (Humanities) – Photojournalism
- New York City in the 1940s (Humanities) – Interdisciplinary Course
- Adolescent Brain Development (Sciences) – Student Dynamics/Education Studies
- Natural History of Autumn (Sciences) – Visual Imagery
- Testing and Educational Policy (Social Sciences) – Education Studies
- Cross-Cultural Childhoods (Social Sciences) – Education Studies

Optional master's essay or creative project instead of twelfth course. Students may choose to replace their twelfth course with a master's essay or creative project. The master's essay is a 25- to 30-page capstone project of publication quality, while the creative project is expected to result in a portfolio of gallery- or performance-quality work, accompanied by a critical essay. Students must go through a comprehensive proposal process, working one-on-one with librarians, the GLS writing consultant, and a faculty advisor.