

Master of Arts in Liberal Studies Spring 2025 Newsletter



Message from The Director

Greetings from Hollins University! I am excited to serve as the new Director of the Master of Arts in Liberal Studies program this year, and I look forward to meeting and working with each of you. Please know that all of us in the graduate center are eager to answer your questions and help you in any way we can. Feel free to contact us via email at hugrad@hollins.edu.

The **Master of Arts in Liberal Studies** (M.A.L.S.) program offers flexibility for working adults and can be completed fully online. The M.A.L.S. program is customizable and emphasizes the skills employers seek: critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and creativity/innovation. These are the core capabilities associated with the Liberal Arts, which have always emphasized *sharp-minded thinking, the ability to frame meaningful questions, and the acquisition of a set of tools to answer them.*

Attention k-12 Teachers:

If you are already licensed to teach secondary English, math, art, or history, Hollins' interdisciplinary **Master of Arts in Liberal Studies** (M.A.L.S.) program can help you obtain the credentials you need to teach dual-enrolled courses in your subject area at the high school level *at no cost to you!* Through a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, teachers who hold a master's degree can complete five graduate-level courses (or a minimum of 18 credits) in their licensure area earn the credentials to teach dual-enrolled courses.

If you or someone you know would like to know more about any of these graduate education programs, I welcome you to contact me by sending an email to hugrad@hollins.edu. Let's have a conversation about how we can help you hone your skills and advance your career!

Warmly,
Dr. Teri Wagner
Director of MALS Graduate Programs

Registration Information

Online registration for the spring 2025 term will open at 9:00 a.m. (EST) on **Monday, November 11, 2024**. Students will be able to access the online registration portal in HIS to add a class through February 10, 2025.

For step-by-step instructions on how to register online, please go to <https://docs.hollins.edu/v1/docs/register-for-classes-ssb-9>. If you have difficulty registering, contact the graduate office at hugrad@hollins.edu. You can also submit a ticket to the help desk for any IT problems you are having at: <https://helpdesk.hollins.edu/support/home> or reach them by phone at 540 -362-6538.

Once you have registered, you can go on the Hollins Virtual Bookstore and order your books. Note that this is where you can go to order transcripts and there is also a link to Nelnet Enterprises which is where you will go to pay your bill.

Nelnet Enterprise is a single sign-on through your current, secure HIS logon. https://prodssb.hollins.edu/prod/twbkwbis.P_GenMenu?name=bmenu.P_MainMnu

By using this sign-on, you will click on Student Services and then you will see Nelnet Enterprise as one of the choices to click on.

Please log on to verify and update your student account information. Additionally, add any other personal email addresses in order to receive email notifications when your e-bill is available to review.

For others to access Nelnet Enterprise and view online your student account information and make payments, you must create authorized parties for your account.

As a reminder, you will receive an email notification to **your official student Hollins email** account when your monthly e-bill is available, as well as to any authorized party's email addresses that you have setup in the Nelnet Enterprise

system. Remember to check your Hollins email as well as your Nelnet Enterprise account regularly.

If you have any questions, please reach out to the Business Office at 540-362-6303 or by email to boffice@hollins.edu.

Remember!

- Once you have registered, changing the number of credit hours may significantly reduce or eliminate the amount of financial aid for which you are eligible.
- Your account must be paid in full prior to registering for the upcoming term.
- Your \$100 non-refundable enrollment deposit may be mailed or paid through Nelnet.

Class Schedules

Class schedules are not mailed to students. You should verify online that you are registered for the course(s) you desire. Again, you will go into the Hollins Information System (HIS), click on **Student Services** and finally, click on **Student Detailed Schedule**. Prior to the beginning of the term, you will want to view this area to confirm your registration.

Classes are filled in the order in which registrations are received. Most classes are limited to 15 students. Early registration is suggested. Students will automatically be waitlisted for classes that are already filled and are asked to select an alternate in that case. If a space becomes available in the filled course, the student will be contacted regarding his or her preference. If you do not wish to be put on the waiting list, withdraw your registration from the course.

Students may add/drop classes online only during open registration. Once online registration has ended, you must follow the procedures outlined in the Add/Drop section of this newsletter to change your schedule.

Add/Drop Dates for Spring Term

For the spring term, students may add classes through Monday, February 10, 2025. The last day to drop a class for the spring term without

responsibility for payment other than the \$100 non-refundable enrollment deposit is Wednesday, February 19, 2025, at 4:30 p.m. (EST). Once the term has begun (Monday, February 3, 2025) students will be responsible for tuition according to the following chart.

Withdrawal Date Spring Term 2024	Tuition Refund
W/D by February 20, 2025	90%
W/D by February 27, 2025	50%
W/D by March 20, 2025	25%
Beginning March 21, 2025	No Tuition Refund

Tuition and Fees

Tuition for the M.A.L.S. program is \$435.00 per credit hour or \$1,740.00 per course.

Note: With proper documentation, licensed teachers currently employed by a school system may be eligible for a \$100 discount per course. Proper documentation is a letter on school letterhead from the principal or other official documentation from the school system (i.e., a voucher). **Documentation must be updated annually.**

The technology fee charged to all full-time students during the academic year is \$650.00 (\$325.00 per term). Part-time students during the academic year are charged \$325.00 (\$162.50 per term).

Students enrolled full-time will be charged for Health Services. The cost is \$197.50 per term. Students desiring to take advantage of the services provided will need to complete the required forms which includes information from your physician. If you would like to submit the forms, let us know and we will be happy to send those to you.

Financial Assistance

Students desiring to apply for financial assistance should contact that office directly at (540) 362-6332 or by email at SFA@hollins.edu.

During the academic year, nine credits per term are considered full-time, with six credits being considered part-time for financial aid purposes.

Once a term begins, changing the number of credits registered may result in a lowering or loss of financial aid funds.

Students must maintain satisfactory academic progress to remain eligible for assistance. Students who take incompletes in all course work and/or withdraw from all course work during a term may be impacted financially as well as academically.

Maintaining satisfactory academic progress means attending and successfully completing courses during the term in which you are registered. A GPA of 3.0 is required for graduation from any of the master's programs offered at Hollins University.

Information on financial assistance specific to particular programs is included with the program description in the graduate catalog. The Office of Scholarships and Financial Assistance may provide additional information as well as the appropriate application forms. They can be contacted at (540) 362-6332 or by email at SFA@hollins.edu.

My.Hollins

My.Hollins is the official form of communication for everyone to use at Hollins. It provides a single access to Hollins Web Services and gives everyone personalized informational links, applications, and communications tailored to their individual role(s) within the Hollins community.

Hollins email is accessible through My.Hollins. Students are expected to regularly review email sent to their Hollins account. This is the means through which offices on campus will communicate with you. **This is where you will find out when your account has been assessed.**

Please make sure you are checking your Hollins email account regularly. For security reasons, it can no longer be forwarded to a personal account.

There is much information available through My.Hollins. You will want to check in frequently to stay up-to-date on campus events and announcements. Graduate students will find most of the forms commonly needed, the schedule of courses, the newsletter, the graduate catalog, and more through the [Graduate Programs link](#). Should you have difficulty logging in, contact the computer help desk by phone at 540-362-6538, via email at helpdesk@hollins.edu, or you can submit a ticket to the help desk for any IT problems you are having by clicking the following link for help: <https://helpdesk.hollins.edu/support/homehelpdesk@hollins.edu>. New students will be emailed their username and password to the email indicated on their graduate application.

Independent Studies

Independent studies must be registered manually and require additional paperwork. The contract for independent study is available on the Graduate Studies Tab of My.Hollins or by requesting it from the Graduate Studies Office.

Independent studies are most often registered for four credits but may be taken for as few as two credits depending on the study itself and the student's needs.

The independent study contract must be signed by the student, the directing professor, and the program director before submitting it to the Graduate Center.



Textbooks

Textbooks are **not available** through the Hollins bookstore. They are available online at <http://www.ecampus.com/hollins>.

Along with access to new and used textbooks, you can rent your textbooks! If the faculty has not yet selected textbooks, you will receive that message. As it gets closer to the beginning of the term, you may want to check with the faculty member and

find out if he/she will be requiring books for the course(s) in which you are registered.



Hollins University Library

Our librarians specialize in different subject areas and are happy to help with research assistance, access to library materials, and other useful tips. Need help? Have questions? Contact them!

- Make an appointment using the online scheduler <http://library.hollins.edu/get-help/>
- Email library@hollins.edu
- Call (540) 362-7465
- Chat with them online

Students taking Hollins classes at a distance have easy access to information about library services on the [Off-Campus Students](#) webpage.

Advising

Students who need assistance with registration should contact Dawn Barnett at hugrad@hollins.edu or 540-362-6575.

Students who need academic advising should contact the advisor for their concentration.

Humanities: Annette Sampon-Nicolas, Professor Emeritus, asampon-nicolas@hollins.edu

Social Sciences: Ed Lynch, Professor of Political Science
elynch@hollins.edu or 540-362-6475

Visual & Performing Arts: William Krause, Professor Emeritus, wkrause@hollins.edu

Interdisciplinary Studies: Contact the Graduate Office, hugrad@hollins.edu or 540-362-6575

Leadership: LeeRay Costa, Executive Director of Leadership Studies and the Batten Leadership Institute, lcosta@hollins.edu or 540-362-6254

Incomplete Course Work

Hollins' policy on incomplete course work states that students with incompletes outstanding from

the spring and summer terms must have them replaced with letter grades prior to October 10. Students with incompletes outstanding from the fall term must have them replaced with letter grades prior to March 10.

After the date that applies to the appropriate term, incomplete work without approval for an extension will convert to the grade of "F". Any request for an extension must be submitted on a Request for Incomplete form and be approved by the directing faculty member and the manager of graduate services. The form may be found under the *Graduate Studies* link on My.Hollins.



Are you planning to graduate in May?

If so, you must submit an *Intent to Graduate* form to the Graduate Office **no later than March 10, 2025**. (This form is included in your essay guidelines packet of information, or you can request a form from hugrad@hollins.edu).

Graduation Fee: A \$135 graduation fee helps to offset processing costs, including preparation of the diploma. This nonrefundable fee is assessed in the final term for all students being tracked for degree completion. **It is added to students' accounts upon submission of the *Intent to Graduate* form.** This fee does not cover the cost of academic regalia. That must be purchased separately.

During the 2025 spring term, specific information will be sent to your Hollins email account regarding academic regalia and participation in the May 18, 2025 commencement ceremony.

Change of Address/Telephone Number

Let the Graduate office know if you have a change of address, email address, or telephone number. Please email hugrad@hollins.edu to have your information updated.



Spring Term 2025

Academic Calendar

Spring term begins Monday, February 3
Session A dates, Monday, Feb 3 – Friday March 14
Last day to add a class Monday, February 10
Presidents Day (classes in session) Mon Feb 17
Hollins Day Thurs, February 20
Last day to declare P/F/A Monday, March 3
Last day to drop a class w/out W grade Mon, March 3
Spring recess (no classes) Mon-Fri, Mar 24-28
Session B dates, Monday, Mar 31 – Friday, May 9
Last day to withdraw from a class Mon, April 7
Honors Convocation Tuesday, May 6
Last day of classes Friday, May 9
Reading day Saturday, May 10
Spring term examinations Sun - Tues, May 11-13
Grades due for graduating students Wed, May 14
Grades due for non-graduating students Thurs, May 15
Commencement Sunday, May 18

Master of Arts in Liberal Studies Course Offerings for Spring Term 2025

Fall Session A: February 3 – March 14

Fall Session B: March 31 – May 9

Spring Semester Classes: February 3 – May 9

Classes are subject to change at the discretion of University Administration.

SPRING SEMESTER CLASS(ES)

February 3 – May 9

ENG 550: Special Topics: Children's Literature and Disability Studies (4)

CRN: 20605

Pfeiffer

This course investigates the links between children's literature, disability studies, and identity. We will use Lennard Davis's idea of "normalcy," Rosemary Garland-Thompson's concept of the "misfit," and Abby Meyer's work on the "freak" character as frameworks for reading children's and adolescent literature from the nineteenth century to the present. This course is designed to develop graduate students' skills as careful reader, speakers, and writers.

THIS COURSE HAS BEEN APPROVED FOR ENGLISH DUAL ENROLLMENT CREDIT FROM VIRGINIA WESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE.

Online Wednesdays, 6:00-9:00 p.m.

HUM 500C: Heritage Core: Evil (4)

CRN: 20495

Downey

This study focuses on the problem of evil in various expressions, from earliest literature to the present. How do we account for evil in the world: Why bad things happen to good people? Readings are from St. Augustine, Voltaire, Goethe, Bram Stoker, Jung, and others. There will be lecture and discussion, some evil play and novels, and an occasional evil film. Course will be synchronous.

Online. Meeting time is to be determined with students.

SPRING SEMESTER CLASSES

SESSION A: February 3 – March 14

ART 550: Special Topics: Art and Artists: The Great Masters from Michelangelo to Picasso (4)

CRN: 20720

Gury

This visually rich and informative course will unpack the lives of artists and how they created their artworks. Through discussion of the times they lived, how they evolved as artists, many visual examples of important artworks and video demos of how the art was made, students will have an in-depth experience of some of the most loved artists and their creative work. For example, what was Rembrandt's Holland like for artists? How was an Impressionist painting made? Who were the innovative and eccentric artists of Montmartre in Paris in 1900?

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ONLINE – HYBRID.

ENG 550: Special Topics: READING & WRITING

THE RIDE: On Books & Bikes (4)

CRN: 20794

Moeckel

How have global writers such as Valeria Luiselli, Wu Meng Li, Paul Fournet, Tim Krabbé, Muriel Rukeyser, and others written the bicycle and bicycling in their literary works? In this course, we will read and discuss a mix fiction and nonfiction, with supplementary readings of poetry and other works, including visual art. We will explore how these readings might launch our own writings, analytic or creative or some mix, so each meeting

will start with a writing prompt stemming from the readings in discussion. Our final meeting will include a workshop and reading of participant's works-in-progress. You don't have to ride or like bikes to join this class. All are welcome. If you don't ride bikes, however, be forewarned: you might want to start or start again!

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Online Tuesdays, HYBRID, 6:00-9:00 p.m.

HIST 550: Special Topics: Ethics in a Diverse World: Historical Challenges & Contemporary Problems (4)

CRN: 20722

Buyze

This course addresses global ethical dynamics and historical challenges in today's diverse world. It asks students to explore how themes such as identity, memory, and conflict can help them analyze and understand historical challenges and contemporary ethical issues and problems. This approach will enable students to think humanistic ally and through an interdisciplinary lens as they study critical ethical issues such as genocide, xenophobia, racism, religious discrimination, women and violence, trauma, nationalism, belonging, and paradigms of otherness. Participants in the course will be expected to craft fluid ethical responses to these contemporary global challenges that take into consideration social, regional, and historical contexts as well as the voices and experiences of marginalized persons, identities, and cultures.

THIS COURSE HAS BEEN APPROVED FOR HISTORY DUAL ENROLLMENT CREDIT FROM VIRGINIA WESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE.

Asynchronous; optional Zoom meetings to be scheduled with the class. Once registered, email the professor at buyzedm@hollins.edu to request the syllabus.

MATH 520: Probability and Statistics (4)

CRN: 20751

Faulkner

This course will focus on strengthening the probability and statistical concepts of graduate students. Topics include sample spaces, axioms of probability, independence, conditional

probability, random variables, discrete and continuous probability distributions, descriptive statistics, and hypothesis testing. Applications of probability and statistics will allow students to ask informative questions, evaluate results, and provide solutions.

THIS COURSE HAS BEEN APPROVED FOR MATH DUAL ENROLLMENT CREDIT FROM VIRGINIA WESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE.

ONLINE – Once registered, email the professor at faulknerbl@hollins.edu to request the syllabus.

SPRING SEMESTER CLASSES SESSION B: March 31 – May 9

ART 550: Special Topics: The Use of Color in Art Around the World (4)

CRN: 20756

Gury

The joy of color in art is central to most cultures. What is symbolism in color? What materials do artists use and how are they made? Color in Modern art versus Traditional arts? Artists eyes and color disabilities? How is color in art cared for by the role of Art Conservation? Weekly topics and surveys of engaging images, discussion, art and writing, and video demos will provide a journey through the world of color in art.

THIS COURSE HAS BEEN APPROVED FOR ART DUAL ENROLLMENT CREDIT FROM VIRGINIA WESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE.

ONLINE – HYBRID Once registered, email the professor at guryaf@hollins.edu to request the syllabus.

HIST 550: Special Topics: Middle East Conflict: Israel & Palestine (4)

CRN: 20725

Buyze

This course explores the Middle East conflict in Israel and Palestine through considering historical dilemmas and questions which enable a platform of thinking to analyze contemporary issues in a very balanced manner. The trajectory of inquiry will establish vital ways to contemplate such problems and paradigms concerning identity, religion, secularity, nationalism, terrorism/violence, peace, homeland, diaspora, exile, and belonging. In turn, a critical interpretation of

Jewish and Muslim identities will foster a more fluid understanding of key issues in this conflict. As students consider these facets, serious historical concerns surrounding anti-Semitism and Islamophobia will be examined in providing different ways to reflect on contemporary forms of discrimination and oppression. This course enables participants to create deep levels of critical and humanistic analysis on this very significant conflict in today's world. THIS COURSE HAS BEEN APPROVED FOR HISTORY DUAL ENROLLMENT CREDIT FROM VIRGINIA WESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE.

ONLINE; optional Zoom meetings to be scheduled with the class. Once registered, email the professor at buyzedm@hollins.edu to request the syllabus.

MATH 530: Modern Geometries (4)

CRN: 20752

Faulkner

This course will examine Euclidean and Non-Euclidean geometries. Euclid's parallel postulate will be discussed as to how it impacts the axiomatic structure of Euclidean geometry and how changes to that postulate results in other geometries. The aim of the course is to strengthen the graduate students' knowledge of geometric concepts by emphasizing the difference between the principles of Euclidean and non-Euclidean geometries.

THIS COURSE HAS BEEN APPROVED FOR MATH DUAL ENROLLMENT CREDIT FROM VIRGINIA WESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE.

ONLINE – Once registered, email the professor at faulknerbl@hollins.edu to request the syllabus.

About our Faculty

David Buyze holds a PhD in Religion from the University of Toronto and an M.A. in Religion and a B.A. in English and Religion from Syracuse University. He is a lecturer at John Hopkins University, Associate Graduate Faculty in the Master of Liberal Arts program at Texas Christian University, Adjunct Faculty in the Master of Science Organizational Leadership program at Manhattan College, and Adjunct Faculty in the MA Global Community Engagement Program at

University College, University of Denver. His areas of teaching and research are Global Studies, Latin American Studies, Middle East Studies and South Asian Studies.

James Downey holds a PhD in Philosophy from the University of Virginia. He has been teaching at Hollins since 1995 and has published articles in many journals, including "Descartes's Real Argument" in Ratio: An International Journal of Analytic Philosophy, 2002; "Leibniz's Opinion of Descartes's Argument That He Is Not a Body" in British Journal for the History of Philosophy, 2003; and "A Fallacy in The Intentional Fallacy" in Philosophy and Literature, 2007. His research interests include metaphysics, critical thinking, and the philosophy of logic.

Bryan Faulkner is an Associate Professor and Program Coordinator of Mathematics at Ferrum College. He holds a PhD in Mathematics from Clemson University, an M.S. in Applied Mathematics from Western Carolina University, and a B.S. in Mathematics from Western Carolina University. He has supervised student research in knot theory, fractals, modeling DNA replication, and origami and has authored many journal publications.

Al Gury is the noted author of *Alla Prima: A Contemporary Guide to Traditional Direct Painting*; *Color for Painters: A Guide to Traditions and Practice*; and *Foundations of Drawing: A Practical Guide to Art History, Tools, Techniques, and Styles*. He is Chairman of the Painting Department at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts. An artist, educator, and author, Al received his BA in fine arts and humanities from Saint Louis University, a four-year Certificate in Painting from the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts (PAFA), and an MFA from the University of Delaware. A painter of the figure, landscapes, still lifes, and portraits, Al's work is regularly shown at F.A.N. Gallery in Philadelphia, and at the National Academy of Design in New York, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the National Capitol in Washington D.C., Washington and Lee University, the University of Pennsylvania, and galleries across the country.

Julie Pfeiffer is the John P. Wheeler Professor of English at Hollins, where she teaches children's and young adult literature, Milton, the nineteenth-century novel, and gender and women's studies. She is the author of *Transforming Girls: The Work of Nineteenth-Century Adolescence* and the former editor of the annual, *Children's Literature*.

Contact Information for the Office of Graduate Programs and Continuing Studies

James Gerald, Associate Provost for Graduate Programs and Continuing Education
540-362-6326 geraldja@hollins.edu

Teri Wagner, Director of M.A.T.L., M.A.T. and M.A.L.S. programs
540-362-6375 wagnertr@hollins.edu

Dawn Barnett, Graduate Programs Assistant
540-362-6575 dbarnett@hollins.edu

Holiday Schedule Reminder

The offices of Hollins University will close at 4:30 pm (EST) on Wednesday, November 27, 2024. We will re-open at 8:30 am (EST) on Monday, December 2, 2024.

Hollins University will close on Friday, December 20, 2024 at 4:30 pm (EST) and re-open at 8:30 am (EST) on Thursday, January 6, 2025.

Summer Term 2025

Academic Calendar

Dance Summer Session, Mon June 9 – Friday Aug 1
Juneteenth Holiday (classes in session) Wed, June 19
Summer term begins Monday, June 23
Independence Day (classes in session) Friday, July 4
Summer Term ends Friday, August 1
Grades due Monday, August 11