

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **How does MALS differ from other master's degree programs?**

MALS is unique because the MALS core courses together with elective courses chosen from the disciplines allow students to pursue interests that cross disciplinary (departmental) boundaries.

### **Does an applicant need to take the GRE for admission to MALS?**

No, the GRE is not required.

### **When are MALS core courses offered?**

MALS core courses are offered once a week in a three-hour session in the evening. In addition, many elective courses are offered in the evening or online.

### **How long does it take to complete the degree program?**

A student who attends full time (minimum of nine credits per semester) may complete the degree in four semesters, but five is more likely. A student attending part time will take longer, depending on how many credits s/he takes per semester. The graduate school requires all master's degree students to complete their degrees in six years.

### **What have MALS graduates pursued after degree completion?**

MALS graduates have found employment in social service agencies, educational institutions, and governmental agencies. Some have pursued doctoral programs; some have enhanced their positions with current employers.

### **How can I find out more about MALS?**

You can contact the MALS director, Dr. Marie Tedesco, at 423-439-4223 or [tedescom@etsu.edu](mailto:tedescom@etsu.edu). You also can consult the MALS website at <http://www.etsu.edu/mals>.

### **Is financial aid available?**

Yes, through the Office of Financial Aid 423-439-4300, <http://www.etsu.edu/finaid>, one can apply for federally guaranteed student loans, and through the School of Graduates Studies (423-439-4221; <http://www.etsu.edu/gradstud/>), one can apply for scholarships or for Tuition Scholarships (TS) or Graduate Assistantships (GA). MALS has a limited number of TSs and GAs.



Eldridge Cleaver, Black Panther leader Oct 18, 1968. Bettmann Archive



Women's Basketball Team, State Teachers College, Johnson City. ca. 1930

## ETSU

Established in 1911, East Tennessee State University is a research/doctoral-intensive, state-supported, coeducational institution with more than 14,500 students. The main campus is located in the beautiful foothills of the southern Appalachian Mountains in Northeast Tennessee. Johnson City is a progressive city with a population of over 65,000. ETSU is a Tennessee Board of Regents institution and is fully in accord with the belief that educational and employment opportunities should be available to all eligible persons without regard to age, gender, color, race, religion, national origin, disability, veteran status, or sexual orientation.



### **For more information contact:**

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East Tennessee State University is accredited by the Commission on Colleges, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award baccalaureate, masters, specialist, and doctoral degrees. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097, telephone 404-679-4500, or Website: [www.sacscoc.org](http://www.sacscoc.org) with any question regarding the accreditation of East Tennessee State University. MALS at ETSU is a full member of the Association of Graduate Liberal Studies Programs ([www.aglsp.org](http://www.aglsp.org)).



East Tennessee State University does not discriminate against students, employees, or applicants for admission or employment on the basis of race, color, religion, creed, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity/ expression, disability, age, status as a protected veteran, genetic information, or any other legally protected class with respect to all employment, programs and activities sponsored by ETSU. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies: Special Assistant to the President for Equity and Diversity/ Affirmative Action Director, 206 Dossett Hall, 439-4211. ETSU's policy on non-discrimination can be found at: <http://www.etsu.edu/equity/compliance.aspx>. TBR 260-137-16. 025M



EAST TENNESSEE STATE  
UNIVERSITY

## MASTER OF ARTS IN LIBERAL STUDIES



WITH A  
CONCENTRATION IN  
**GENDER  
AND  
DIVERSITY  
STUDIES**

[www.ETSU.edu/mals](http://www.ETSU.edu/mals)

The Master of Arts in Liberal Studies with a concentration in Gender and Diversity Studies is a 34-credit program that focuses on current and historical issues, trends, and theoretical perspectives on gender, ethnic and racial diversity, and social justice. Firmly grounded in the values and goals of the liberal arts, the course of study enables students to develop insights into economic, sociocultural, and philosophical factors influencing the lives of all, but especially those marginalized because of gender, racial, ethnic, or geographic origins, physical and mental ability. The Gender and Diversity Studies concentration in MALS is the first of its kind among Tennessee state institutions.



Tennessee native Alex Haley with Brownies

**Gain the knowledge and perspective to work effectively toward a more just, equitable, and diverse society.**

### Who would benefit from a MALS degree with a concentration in Gender and Diversity Studies?

- Those with undergraduate degrees in a variety of fields, among them women's studies, history, literature, cultural studies, or sociology, who desire to continue education at a graduate level.
- Social service and non-profit professionals who wish to understand and address the needs of the diverse populations served by them.
- Students who desire to acquire the knowledge to allow them to create and support an equitable society.
- Those who desire employment in areas (non-governmental organizations, community development, human resource management, social and policy planning) that require knowledge of gender and diversity.

### MALS Admission Requirements

- A completed application to the ETSU School of Graduate Studies
- Undergraduate degree from an accredited institution
- A minimum 2.75 cumulative undergraduate GPA
- Three letters of recommendation
- A four- to five-page writing sample
- An admissions interview

### Gender and Diversity Studies Concentration Program of Study

The program of study consists of the MALS core (13 credits) together with the concentration core (12 credits) and guided electives (12 credits).

**MALS Core** (13 credits): each course 3 credits, except as noted.

- MALS 5000:** Foundations of Liberal Studies (1 credit)
- MALS 5100:** Introduction to Interdisciplinary Study
- MALS 5200:** Seminar in Liberal Studies
- MALS 5400:** Seminar in Interdisciplinary Research
- MALS 5960:** Thesis Research or
- MALS 5950:** Project Research Gender & Diversity Studies Concentration

### Concentration Core (12 credits)

**MALS 5300:** Gender, Diversity, and Social Justice (3 credits)

Three credits (one course, usually) from *each* of the following categories:

- Women's and Gender issues
- Philosophy, Ethics, and Social Justice
- Diversity and Ethnicity

### Guided Electives (9 credits)

From one focal area, the student takes nine credits (usually three courses). **Below are samples of courses from each category.** Please note that MALS retains a list of acceptable elective courses. Each course below is three credits.

#### Women's and Gender Issues

- SPCH 5200:** Gender and Communication
- COUN 5110:** Social and Cultural Foundations of Counseling
- HIST 5837:** History of Women Since 1945

#### Philosophy, Ethics, and Social Justice

- CJCR 5005:** Ethics and Social Justice
- PHIL 5017:** Ethical Theory
- ALHE 5050:** Legal and Ethical Issues in Allied Health

#### Diversity and Ethnicity

- SPED 5001:** Critical Issues in Special Education
- APST 5960:** Documenting Community Traditions
- ENGL 5047:** African American Literature



Street Market, Peru.  
Image courtesy of Veronica Limeberry