The bachelor of arts in philosophy examines how philosophers have answered some of the most enduring questions about human existence, while exploring how those answers continue to inform our thinking in the present. Students gain a deeper understanding of philosophy's relevance to key contemporary issues—such as global warming, social justice and the defense of human rights, or the relationship between science and religion. Students can use this major as preparation for professions such as law or government service, as a pathway to graduate work, or to complement other interests by taking a double major in philosophy and a related field of study.

### Admissions & Policies

#### Policies

Students pursuing this degree must complete at least 33 credits within the major, earning a minimum grade of 2.00 in each course. At least 21 credits must be at the 300 level or above, including at least 3 credits in PHIL 421 Seminar (Mason Core)/PHIL 422 Honors Seminar (Mason Core). If a course counts for the requirement in analytic or continental philosophy, and also for the ethics and political philosophy requirement, then both requirements are fulfilled with that course.

For policies governing all undergraduate degrees, see AP.5 Undergraduate Policies.

### Requirements

#### Degree Requirements

Total credits: minimum 120

Students should be aware of the specific policies associated with this program, located on the Admissions & Policies tab.

#### Core Courses without Concentration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Logic</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 173</td>
<td>Logic and Critical Thinking</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or PHIL 376</td>
<td>Symbolic Logic</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History of Philosophy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 301</td>
<td>History of Western Philosophy: Ancient</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 303</td>
<td>History of Western Philosophy: Modern</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Analytic Tradition</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Select one course from the following: 1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 313</td>
<td>Philosophy of Religion 2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 332</td>
<td>Twentieth-Century Analytic Philosophy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 333</td>
<td>American Philosophy: Pragmatism</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 338</td>
<td>Philosophy, Race, and Gender 2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Credits: 18

1. When the subject matter is appropriate and with the prior written approval of the undergraduate director, PHIL 391 Special Topics in Philosophy, PHIL 421 Seminar (Mason Core), PHIL 422 Honors Seminar (Mason Core), or PHIL 425 Independent Study may be used to fulfill this requirement.

2. Only with departmental approval.
Electives without Concentration

Select five or six electives from any philosophy courses including those listed above that are not used to meet another requirement. ¹

Total Credits 15-18

Optional Concentrations

Students interested in a degree in philosophy with a concentration will complete the coursework for one of the concentrations below.

Available Concentrations

- Concentration in Philosophy and Law (PHLW)
- Concentration in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE)

Concentration in Philosophy and Law (PHLW)

The concentration in philosophy and law offers philosophy majors the opportunity to focus their study of philosophy in a way that prepares them for the study of the law.

In addition to the specific courses listed below, other relevant courses may be applied to the requirements for this concentration with prior written approval of the undergraduate director.

Concentration in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE)

This is a high credit concentration for students interested in a program that explores the interdisciplinary connections between philosophy, political science, and economics.

Students pursuing this concentration, similar to all students pursuing a BA in philosophy, must complete at least 33 credits in philosophy earning a minimum grade of 2.00 in each course. No course may be used to fulfill more than one requirement. In addition to the specific courses listed below, other relevant courses may be applied to the requirements for this concentration with prior written approval of the undergraduate director.

Electives in Philosophy

Select three electives from any philosophy courses including those listed above that are not used to meet another requirement.

Total Credits 33

   ¹ When the subject matter is appropriate and with the prior written approval of the undergraduate director, PHIL 391 Special Topics in Philosophy, PHIL 421 Seminar (Mason Core), PHIL 422 Honors Seminar (Mason Core), or PHIL 425 Independent Study may be used to fulfill this requirement.

   ² Only with departmental approval.

Electives in Philosophy

Select two courses from the following:

PHIL 311 Philosophy of Law
PHIL 323 Classical Western Political Theory
PHIL 324 Modern Western Political Theory
PHIL 327 Contemporary Western Political Theory
GOVT 428 Advanced Democratic Theory
GOVT 448 Ethics and International Politics

PHIL 337 Twentieth-Century Continental Thought: Phenomenology
PHIL 338 Philosophy, Race, and Gender
PHIL 340 Hermeneutic Philosophy
PHIL 356 Philosophy of the Social Sciences
PHIL 357 Philosophy of the Social Sciences

Logic

PHIL 173 Logic and Critical Thinking
or PHIL 376 Symbolic Logic

History of Philosophy

PHIL 301 History of Western Philosophy: Ancient
PHIL 303 History of Western Philosophy: Modern

Analytic Tradition

Select one course from the following:¹

PHIL 313 Philosophy of Religion
PHIL 332 Twentieth-Century Analytic Philosophy
PHIL 333 American Philosophy: Pragmatism
PHIL 338 Philosophy, Race, and Gender
PHIL 355 Theories of Ethics
PHIL 356 Philosophy of Art
PHIL 357 Philosophy of the Social Sciences
PHIL 358 Ethics and Economics
PHIL 371 Philosophy of Natural Sciences
PHIL 373 Theory of Knowledge
PHIL 374 Philosophy of Mind
PHIL 411 Theories of Decision

Continental Tradition

Select one course from the following:¹

PHIL 313 Philosophy of Religion
PHIL 325 Karl Marx’s Social and Political Thought
PHIL 335 Nineteenth-Century Philosophy
PHIL 336 Twentieth-Century Continental Thought: Existentialism

PHIL 337 Twentieth-Century Continental Thought: Phenomenology
PHIL 338 Philosophy, Race, and Gender
PHIL 340 Hermeneutic Philosophy
PHIL 356 Philosophy of the Social Sciences

¹ If both the analytic or continental philosophy and the ethics and political philosophy requirements are met with the same course, the student will complete six elective courses.

Credits

3

3

3

3

3

3

3

3

3

3

3

3

3

3

3

3

3

3

3

3
### Upper Level Requirement

Students seeking a bachelor's degree must apply at least 45 credits of upper-level courses (numbered 300 or above) toward graduation requirements.

### Additional Electives

Any remaining credits may be completed with elective courses to bring the degree total to 120.

### College Level Requirements for the BA Degree

In addition to the Mason Core program, students pursuing a BA degree must complete the coursework below. Except where expressly prohibited, a course used to fulfill a college level requirement may also be used simultaneously to satisfy other requirements (Mason Core requirements or requirements for the major).

#### Philosophy or Religious Studies

Select 3 credits from the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHIL</td>
<td>313 Philosophy of Religion</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL</td>
<td>325 Karl Marx's Social and Political Thought</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL</td>
<td>335 Nineteenth-Century Philosophy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL</td>
<td>336 Twentieth-Century Continental Thought: Existentialism</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL</td>
<td>337 Twentieth-Century Continental Thought: Phenomenology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL</td>
<td>338 Philosophy, Race, and Gender</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL</td>
<td>340 Hermeneutic Philosophy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL</td>
<td>356 Philosophy of Art</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL</td>
<td>357 Philosophy of the Social Sciences</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Social and Behavioral Sciences

Select 3 credits of social and behavioral sciences from the following (additional to the Mason Core social and behavioral sciences requirement):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANTH</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRIM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOVT</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LING</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCI</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Or choose from the following GGS courses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GGS 101</td>
<td>Major World Regions (Mason Core)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GGS 103</td>
<td>Human Geography (Mason Core)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GGS 110</td>
<td>Introduction to Geoinformation Technologies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GGS 301</td>
<td>Political Geography</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GGS 303</td>
<td>Geography of Resource Conservation (Mason Core)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GGS 304</td>
<td>Population Geography (Mason Core)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GGS 305</td>
<td>Economic Geography</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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#### Writing-Intensive Requirement

The university requires all students to complete at least one course designated "writing intensive" in their majors at the 300 level or above. All senior seminars (PHIL 421 Seminar (Mason Core), PHIL 422 Honors Seminar (Mason Core), or PHIL 425 Independent Study) may be used to fulfill this requirement.

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1. When the subject matter is appropriate and with the prior written approval of the undergraduate director, PHIL 391 Special Topics in Philosophy, PHIL 421 Seminar (Mason Core), PHIL 422 Honors Seminar (Mason Core), or PHIL 425 Independent Study may be used to fulfill this requirement.

2. Only with departmental approval.
The two courses used to fulfill the combined college and Mason Core requirements must be from different disciplines in the social and behavioral sciences.

Foreign Language

Intermediate-level proficiency in one foreign language, fulfilled by:

- Completing a course in a foreign language numbered 202 (or higher level courses taught in the language)
- Or achieving a satisfactory score on an approved proficiency test
- Or completing the following ASL three course sequence:
  - EDSE 115 American Sign Language (ASL) I
  - EDSE 116 American Sign Language (ASL) II
  - EDSE 219 American Sign Language (ASL) III

Students who are already proficient in a second language may be eligible for a waiver of this requirement. Additional information on waivers can be found at the Office of Undergraduate Academic Affairs (http://chssundergrad.gmu.edu).

Non-Western Culture

Select 3 credits of an approved course in the study of a non-Western culture (additional to the Mason Core requirement in global understanding)
### Foundation Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Written Communication (ENGH 101)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral Communication</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quantitative Reasoning</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information Technology and Computing</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Exploration Requirements

- **Arts**: 3
- **Global Understanding**: 3
- **Literature**: 3
- **Natural Science**: 7
- **Social and Behavioral Sciences**: 3
- **Western Civilization/World History**: 3

### Integration Requirements

- **Written Communications (ENGH 302)**: 3
- **Writing-Intensive**: 3
- **Synthesis/Capstone**: 3

### Total Credits

40

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1. A course used to fulfill the Mason Core global understanding requirement may not be simultaneously used to satisfy this college-level requirement. A course used to fulfill this requirement may be used simultaneously to fulfill any other requirements (Mason Core requirements, college-level requirements, or requirements for the major). Additional information on waivers can be found at the Office of Undergraduate Academic Affairs (http://chssundergrad.gmu.edu).

### Mason Core

Some Mason Core requirements may already be fulfilled by the major requirements listed above. Students are strongly encouraged to consult their advisors to ensure they fulfill all remaining Mason Core requirements.

### Honors

Highly-qualified students may apply to the honors program in the major. Students can apply in their second semester as a junior, before they have completed 90 credits and should have a minimum GPA of 3.50 in the major. Eligible students should submit a transcript, one letter of recommendation from a member of the philosophy faculty, and one writing sample, a paper from one of the student's courses in philosophy.
Students pursuing honors in the major complete 6 credits of honors coursework chosen from PHIL 422 Honors Seminar (Mason Core) or PHIL 425 Independent Study. To graduate with honors in philosophy, students must complete these courses with a minimum GPA of 3.50.

Accelerated Master's

The accelerated master's programs in the list below specify the BA in philosophy as a feeder degree for their programs. It is important to note, however, that many accelerated master's programs are available for any bachelor's degree at Mason, including this one. See the full list of degrees with accelerated programs at George Mason.

Philosophy, BA/Philosophy, Accelerated MA

Overview

Highly qualified Mason philosophy majors may apply to the accelerated master's degree program. If accepted, students will be able to earn a BA and a MA in philosophy after satisfactory completion of as few as 145 credits, sometimes within five years.

For more detailed information, see AP.6.7 Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Degrees. For policies governing all graduate degrees, see AP6 Graduate Policies.

Application Requirements

Applicants to all graduate programs at George Mason University must meet the admission standards and application requirements for graduate study as specified in Graduate Admissions. For information specific to the accelerated MA in philosophy, see Application Requirements and Deadlines (http://philosophy.gmu.edu/programs/application/LA-MA-ACEL-PHIL) on the departmental web site.

Accelerated Option Requirements

While undergraduate students, accelerated master's students complete six credits of PHIL courses at the 600-level (chosen in consultation with the graduate program director and indicated on the Accelerated Master's Program Application) with a minimum grade of B in each course. Once admitted to the accelerated master's pathway, students must maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.25 in all course work. On completion and conferral of the undergraduate degree in the semester indicated in the application, they submit the Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Transition Form and are admitted to graduate status.

As graduate students, accelerated master's students have an advanced standing. They must meet all master's degree requirements, taking 25 graduate credits beyond the two courses (6 credits) they completed as undergraduates. Students must begin their master's program the semester immediately following conferral of the undergraduate degree.

Reserve Graduate Credit

Students may take up to 6 additional credits of PHIL coursework at the 600-level as reserve graduate credit. These credits do not apply to the undergraduate degree. To apply these credits to the master's degree, students should use the Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Transition Form.

The ability to take courses, including ones not listed above, for reserve graduate credit is available to all high achieving undergraduates with the permission of the department. Permission is normally granted only to qualified Mason seniors within 15 hours of graduation. See AP.1.4.4 Graduate Course Enrollment by Undergraduates.

Bachelor's Degree (selected)/Interdisciplinary Studies, Accelerated MAIS (Women and Gender Studies Concentration)

Overview

Highly-qualified undergraduates in select majors may apply to the accelerated master's degree in interdisciplinary studies with a concentration in women and gender studies. If accepted, and depending on their undergraduate major, students will be able to earn a bachelor's degree in their chosen major and a master's degree in interdisciplinary studies with a concentration in women and gender studies after satisfactory completion of 150 credits, sometime within five years.

For more detailed information, see AP.6.7 Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Degrees. For policies governing all graduate degrees, see AP6 Graduate Policies.

Selected Majors


Application Requirements

Applicants to all graduate programs at George Mason University must meet the admission standards and application requirements for graduate study as specified in Graduate Admissions. For information specific to the accelerated MAIS, see the departmental web site (http://mais.gmu.edu/programs/la-mais-isin/application).

Accelerated Option Requirements

While undergraduate students, accelerated master's students complete two graduate courses as indicated on their Accelerated Master's Program Application with a minimum grade of B in each course. Once admitted to the accelerated master's pathway, students must maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.25 in all course work. Upon completion and conferral of the undergraduate degree in the semester indicated in the application, they submit the Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Transition Form and are admitted to graduate status.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WMST 600</td>
<td>Special Topics</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WMST 610</td>
<td>Feminist Approaches to Social Research</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WMST 630</td>
<td>Feminist Theories across the Disciplines</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WMST 640</td>
<td>Transnational and Global Feminisms</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As graduate students, accelerated master's students have an advanced standing. They must meet all master's degree requirements except for the two courses (6 credits) they completed as undergraduates. Students must begin their master's program the semester immediately following conferral of the undergraduate degree.
**Reserve Graduate Credit**

Students may take up to 6 additional graduate credits as reserve graduate credit. These credits do not apply to the undergraduate degree. To apply these credits to the master’s degree, students should use the Bachelor’s/Accelerated Master’s Transition Form.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WMST 600</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Feminist Approaches to Social Research</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WMST 630</td>
<td>Feminist Theories across the Disciplines</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WMST 640</td>
<td>Transnational and Global Feminisms</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Credits: 6

The ability to take courses, including ones not listed above, for reserve graduate credit is available to all high achieving undergraduates with the permission of the department. Permission is normally granted only to qualified Mason seniors within 15 hours of graduation. See AP.1.4.4 Graduate Course Enrollment by Undergraduates.

**Accelerated Option Requirements**

While undergraduate students, accelerated master’s students complete two graduate courses as indicated on their Accelerated Master’s Program Application with a minimum grade of B in each course. Once admitted to the accelerated master’s pathway, students must maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.25 in all coursework. Upon completion and conferral of the undergraduate degree in the semester indicated in the application, they submit the Bachelor’s/Accelerated Master’s Transition Form and are admitted to graduate status.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RELI 600</td>
<td>Interdisciplinary Pathways in the Study of Religion</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RELI 630</td>
<td>Theories and Methods in the Study of Religion</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RELI 632</td>
<td>Interreligious Dialogue</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RELI 633</td>
<td>Issues in Religious Ethics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RELI 636</td>
<td>Religion and the Natural Environment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RELI 637</td>
<td>Religion and Secularity in State and Society</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Credits: 6

As graduate students, accelerated master’s students have an advanced standing. They must meet all master’s degree requirements except for the two courses (6 credits) they completed as undergraduates. Students must begin their master’s program the semester immediately following conferral of the undergraduate degree.

**Bachelor’s Degree (selected)/Interdisciplinary Studies, Accelerated MAIS (Religious Studies Concentration)**

**Overview**

Highly-qualified undergraduates in selected majors (see below) may apply to the accelerated master’s degree in interdisciplinary studies with a concentration in religious studies. If accepted, and depending on their undergraduate major, students will be able to earn a bachelor’s degree in their chosen major and a master’s in interdisciplinary studies with a concentration in religious studies after satisfactory completion of 150 credits, sometimes within five years. See AP.6.7 Bachelor’s/Accelerated Master’s Degrees.

Students in an accelerated degree program must fulfill all university requirements for the master’s degree. For policies governing all graduate degrees, see AP6 Graduate Policies.

**Selected Majors**

- Art history
- Philosophy
- Conflict analysis and resolution
- Global affairs
- History
- Religious studies
- Russian and Eurasian studies
- Sociology
- Anthropology

If the student has not majored in religious studies, it is preferred, though not required, that the student have a minor in religious studies.

**Application Requirements**

Applicants to all graduate programs at George Mason University must meet the admission standards and application requirements for graduate study as specified in the Admissions. For information specific to the accelerated MAIS, see Application Requirements and Deadlines (http://mais.gmu.edu/programs/la-mais-isin/application).
Bachelor’s Degree (selected)/Interdisciplinary Studies, Accelerated MAIS (Social Justice and Human Rights Concentration)

Overview
Highly-qualified undergraduates in select majors (listed below) may apply to the accelerated master’s degree in interdisciplinary studies with a concentration in social justice and human rights. If accepted, and depending on their undergraduate major, students will be able to earn an undergraduate degree in their chosen major and a master’s in interdisciplinary studies with a concentration in social justice and human rights after satisfactory completion of 150 credits, sometimes within five years.

For more detailed information, see AP.6.7 Bachelor’s/Accelerated Master’s Degrees. For policies governing all graduate degrees, see AP6 Graduate Policies.

Selected Majors

Application Requirements
Applicants to all graduate programs at George Mason University must meet the admission standards and application requirements for graduate study as specified in Graduate Admissions. For information specific to the accelerated MAIS, see Application Requirements and Deadlines (http://mais.gmu.edu/programs/la-mais-isin/application) on the departmental web site.

Accelerated Option Requirements
While undergraduate students, accelerated master’s students complete INTS 540 Contemporary Issues in Social Justice Human Rights and one course chosen from the list of electives for the MAIS concentration in social justice and human rights as indicated on their Accelerated Master’s Program Application with a minimum grade of B in each course. Once admitted to the accelerated master’s pathway, students must maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.25 in all course work. Upon completion and conferral of the undergraduate degree in the semester indicated in the application, they submit the Bachelor’s/Accelerated Master’s Transition Form and are admitted to graduate status.

As graduate students, accelerated master’s students have an advanced standing. They must meet all master’s degree requirements except for the two courses (6 credits) they completed as undergraduates. Students must begin their master’s program the semester immediately following conferral of the undergraduate degree.

Reserve Graduate Credit
Students may take up to 6 additional graduate credits as reserve graduate credit (chosen from the list of electives for the MAIS concentration in social justice and human rights). These credits do not apply to the undergraduate degree. The ability to take courses for reserve graduate credit is available to all high achieving undergraduates with the permission of the program. Permission to take a graduate course for reserve graduate credit is normally granted only to Mason seniors within 15 hours of graduation. See AP.1.4.4 Graduate Course Enrollment by Undergraduates.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Select up to 6 credits from the list of electives for the MAIS concentration in social justice and human rights</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total Credits</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>