

Marshall University
Graduate Humanities Program



Appalachian Studies Graduate Certificate

Interdisciplinary Perspectives
Research Opportunities
Experienced Faculty

The Humanities Program is a Member of the
Association of Graduate Liberal Studies Programs



Daybreak at New River Gorge from Grandview Rim Trail.
MELVIN HARTLEY, Courtesy photo

The Marshall University Graduate Certificate in Appalachian Studies allows students and professionals to focus on the region in which they live and work. The interdisciplinary approach ensures that issues and subjects are covered from different perspectives. Individuals may select courses to meet personal educational goals. Lifelong learners are invited to select individual courses for information and enrichment. The University houses the Journal for Appalachian Studies and The Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Gender in Appalachia. (<http://www.marshall.edu/graduatehumanities/degree-and-certificate-programs/certificate-program/appalachian-studies-certificate/>)



The Journal for Appalachian Studies (JAS) is the official journal of the Appalachian Studies Association. It is a refereed, multidisciplinary journal published twice per year by the University of Illinois Press for the Appalachia Studies Association with support

from Marshall University. JAS seeks to provide a written forum for quality scholarship on Appalachian history, culture, and society. (<http://appalachianstudies.org/journal/>)

Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Gender in Appalachia (CSEGA) Appalachians are often stereotyped as male moonshining hillbillies of Celtic origin who smoke corn cob pipes and continuously feud with their neighbors. In reality, Appalachians are a diverse group of people, including a wide range of ethnic, religious and sexual minorities as well as strong and active women. CSEGA has a unique research mission — it is the only Appalachian Center in the country dedicated to studying and understanding this incredible diversity. Its annual conference brings together scholars, teachers, community and regional activists, entrepreneurs, planners, and officials who want to learn from each other and who want to make a difference in their communities. This conference is an opportunity for networking and discussing major issues facing the region. (<http://www.marshall.edu/csega/>)

Graduate Humanities Program

The Graduate Humanities Program brings together disciplines and faculty from graduate education in the liberal arts. Those with varied undergraduate backgrounds in humanities may continue their studies at the graduate level as degree, non-degree, or certificate students.

Study in the humanities is appropriate for:

- Degree students working toward the M.A. in Humanities
- Teachers working for certification renewal or salary increments
- Professionals in all fields who want to enhance their understanding of cultural issues and human achievements.
- Professionals in social and cultural resources management.
- Adults committed to lifelong learning.

The M.A. in Humanities is an interdisciplinary degree with an emphasis in one of the following areas: arts and society, cultural studies, historical studies, or literary studies. Courses in the humanities enhance critical thinking skills, working with others, effective writing and research skills.

For more information, contact the Program Office:

Graduate Humanities Program
Marshall University Graduate College – South Charleston Campus
100 Angus E. Peyton Drive, South Charleston, WV 25303-1600
304-746-1923

Or visit us at:
<http://www.marshall.edu/humn>



Appalachia, as defined by legislation, is a 205,000-square-mile region that follows the spine of the Appalachian Mountains from southern New York to northern Mississippi.

Forty-two percent of Appalachia's population is rural, compared with 20 percent of the national population. Its economy, once highly dependent on mining, forestry, agriculture, chemical industries, and heavy industry, has become more diversified in recent times, and now includes manufacturing and professional service industries.

Appalachia has come a long way in the past five decades: its poverty rate, 31 percent in 1960, was 17 percent over the 2009–2013 period. These gains have transformed the Region from one of widespread poverty to one of economic contrasts: some communities have successfully diversified

their economies, while others still require basic infrastructure such as roads and water and sewer systems. The contrasts are not surprising in light of the Region's size and diversity. It extends more than 1,000 miles, from southern New York to northeastern Mississippi, and is home to more than 25 million people. — Appalachian Regional Commission (www.arc.gov online 6/12/2016)

*Appalachia, as experienced culturally by its residents,
is what this Appalachian Studies Certificate helps bring to life.*

Appalachian Studies Certificate (18 hours)

Interdisciplinary Core Classes (6 hours)

CULS 611: Appalachian Studies: Themes and Voices. Orients students to the significant political, social, and cultural issues and research in Appalachian studies.

CULS 612: Time and Place in Appalachia. Examines the importance of geography, topography, and geology to the history and development of the region.

Electives (6-9 hours)

Examples of classes (3 hours)

- Appalachian Archaeology
- Geography of Appalachia
- West Virginia History
- First Peoples of Appalachia
- Images of Appalachia in Literature, Folklore, and Film
- Religious Traditions in Appalachia
- Ethnic History of West Virginia
- Coal Mine Life, Work, and Culture
- Sociology of Appalachia
- Oral History
- Research Methods for Appalachian Studies

Capstone Experience (3 hours)

HUMN 680: Independent Research Symposium. This research colloquium affords students the opportunity to complete independent research or field work under the guidance of faculty mentors teaching in the certificate program. Seminar meetings allow students to share research and examine issues arising from the research. The completed research is shared in a public symposium.

Enrollment Information

- B.A. or B.S. degree from an accredited undergraduate institution
- Application to Marshall University Graduate College South Charleston Campus and to the certification program

Note: Students who wish to pursue degree and certificate programs concurrently should also complete the application to the degree program.

- Transfer credit: 6 hours minimum
- Graduate courses in Appalachian studies taken at Marshall University within the last two years may be counted toward the certificate.