

Autumn Greetings from MABA 🍂

As the seasons turn and the leaves fall, we reflect on change, gratitude, and the beauty of practice in every moment. We invite you to join us for our final gatherings of the year before winter retreat begins.

The Kathina is our opportunity to practice generosity toward our dear Community of Monastics who work tirelessly to build and maintain MABA, as well as to provide an example of harmony, compassion, and wisdom for all of us who live in a complex world.

The Kathina Offering occurs once a year, traditionally after the end of the monastic Rains Retreat in late autumn. This is because the three-month season for the monsoons ends at that time in South and Southeast Asia.

However, in the West, it is more typical for the three-month retreat to be held during the cold winter months from December through February. At MABA we have the Kathina Offering in mid to late November to be more in line with the Buddhist tradition.

SCHEDULE

9:30 am Meditation
10:00 am Dharma Talk
10:30 am Kathina Ceremony
11:10 am Master Ji Ru & Monastics give blessings chants
11:45 am Vegetarian Lunch

DONATIONS

Cash or check donations can be made when you come to MABA.

Mail your check to:
MABA
299 Heger Lane
Augusta, Missouri 63332 USA

via Zelle ID: office@maba-usa.org

Go to our website and click on Kathina Donation
<https://maba-usa.org/contribute>

Use this QR code to go directly to make a donation.



MABA

KATHINA OFFERING

on November 23, 2025
9:30 to 11:45 AM

at
MABA Monastery

Mid-America Buddhist Association



299 Heger Ln
Augusta, MO 63332 USA
www.maba-usa.org

Dear Friends in the Dharma,

The monastics at MABA have been enjoying the cooler temperatures and bright colors of late October. As autumn settles in, the changing leaves remind us of impermanence and renewal, both in nature and in our practice.

Preparations are now underway for our final public events of the year before we enter our winter retreat. In November, we hosted the Bodhisattvas Retreat on November 1–2. Some students took the Three Refuges and Five Precepts, while others took the Bodhisattva Precepts. They learned a great deal from the teachings shared by Venerable Jì Rú, Venerable Kōngyán, and Lay Dharma Teachers. It was a very fruitful retreat!

We will host the Annual Kathina Ceremony on November 23rd, and we invite you to join us for these meaningful occasions.

Last month, we held the Guan Yin Ceremony. Although we were unable to visit the Guan Yin Pavilion due to heavy rain, the downpour was a welcome blessing after months of dryness across our land. The rain reminded us once again of the interdependence of all conditions and the nourishing power of nature's gifts.

As the season grows cooler, we wish you peace, good health, and steady mindfulness in your daily life. May the light of wisdom and compassion guide

your path, helping you maintain a peaceful and calm attitude in response to unwelcome news.

With gratitude and blessings!

May this season of change inspire mindfulness, gratitude, and compassion in your daily life. We thank you for your continued support and presence in the MABA community.



Master Jiru's Reflections on the Launch of the MABS Program

If the Buddha's teachings are properly and effectively propagated, the Buddhist community will be inspired to explore the Dhamma more deeply and cultivate righteous conduct through proper practice. To realize this core objective, education must be firmly established. The transmission of Buddhism requires capable people; education must remain a priority for its continuation and development.

About seven years ago, with funding from the Youth Buddhist Education Foundation (YBEF), we began offering a two-year part-time Diploma in Buddhist Studies (DBS) in collaboration with the University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka, under the name Right Mindfulness Training Academy (RMTA). Three cohorts have already completed the program, and the fourth is currently in progress. More recently, we have taken a step further by initiating a Master's program.

Although student recruitment is indeed challenging, I would like to take this opportunity to share some reflections from my years of involvement in this project.

As a transnational Buddhist worker residing in the United States, I broadly categorize Dharma education and educational work into three levels:

1. Outreach education through regular temple activities.
2. In-depth education for intellectuals who love learning.
3. Specialized education for training future successors.

The first two are often more casual in nature, sometimes limited to faith-based learning. It is only upon advancing to the third category that education becomes the foundation for preserving the quality and roots of Buddhism over centuries, forming the grand plan for cultivating highly skilled professionals. RMTA has chosen this path. We aspire to introduce the complete tradition of Asian Buddhism into the English-speaking world. We are determined to strive forward relentlessly, aiming to serve as a solid stepping stone.

The DBS program was initially held at the facilities of MABA before moving online in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic in the US. On March 29, 2023, our team traveled to Sri Lanka and signed

a Memorandum of Understanding with the Postgraduate Institute of Buddhist and Pali Studies (PGIPBS) to jointly establish a two-year, part-time Master's in Buddhist Studies (MABS) program. This year, our long-held wish has finally been realized: the program is set to launch in March 2026, and recruitment is now underway.

Several notable features of the program deserve mention:

1. Strong faculty – The MABS program has a robust and highly qualified team of instructors. I am grateful to the RMTA working group for their dedication in bringing together such esteemed mentors.
2. Practical focus – The curriculum remains rooted in tradition while addressing contemporary realities, striving to stay relevant to the present age.
3. Commitment to quality – With the Sangha's oversight, we aim to ensure that the quality takes precedence over quantity, both for teachers and students.

The ultimate goal of Buddhist education is to fulfill the wholeness and noble sanctity of Dhamma learning. Teacher-student friendships, grounded in moral cultivation and wisdom, should reflect the exemplary model of the Buddhist Sangha's educational spirit. Only heartfelt sincerity can inspire deeper and broader awakening; only a lofty vision can shoulder great responsibilities. Outstanding teachers and students together embody the most profound dimensions of Buddhist education. I sincerely welcome friends with an interest in, ideals of, and self-discipline to join us on this path of bringing the Dharma to the world in English.



Master in Buddhist Studies (MABS)



For admission requirements, application instructions, program schedule, and other details, please visit our website:



Program website: <https://rmtausa.org/>
Email inquiries: ybefacademy@gmail.com

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

This MABS program includes both coursework and an extended essay, to be completed within a two-year period.

A. COURSE WORK

1. Buddhist Doctrines of the Pali Nikāyas: Analysis and Interpretation
2. History of Chinese Buddhism
3. Buddhist Doctrine: Modern Philosophical Perspectives
4. Buddhist Ethics: Concepts and Philosophical Interpretations
5. Modern Buddhism
6. Introduction of Buddhist Chaplaincy
7. Research Methodology and Extended Essay

B. EXTENDED ESSAY

- 5,000-word extended essay on a topic related to one of the courses taken.
- Completed by the end of the second year, with the possibility of a one-year extension, if necessary.

OUR FACULTY

1. Ven. Dr. Dhammadipa SAK (PhD in Religions, University of Bristol)
2. Ven. Dr. Soorakkulame Pemaratana (PhD in Religious Studies, University of Pittsburgh)
3. Ven. Dr. Longyun (PhD in Religious Studies, University of the West)
4. Dr. Li, Jingjing (PhD in Philosophy of Religion, McGill University)
5. Dr. TENG, Weijen (PhD in Religious Studies, Harvard University)
6. Dr. YING, Lei (PhD in East Asian Languages and Civilizations, Harvard University)

MABS 72 Research Methodology and Extended Essay

- Instructors: Ven. Dr. Dhammadipa, Dr. Teng, Weijen

WHY US?

The partnership between RMTA and PGIPBS offers a unique learning experience—uniting the academic excellence of an internationally renowned Buddhist Institute with the wisdom and guidance of seasoned Buddhist scholars and practitioners in the West.



TUITION FEE IS SPONSORED BY YBEF

One-time admin fee is payable to PGIPBS

** Donation to YBEF to support our efforts is strongly encouraged.



100% ONLINE

Earn your degree from the comfort of home



EXPERT INSTRUCTIONS

Learn from experienced monastic and lay Buddhist scholars

POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF PALI AND BUDDHIST STUDIES (PGIPBS)

The PGIPBS at the University of Kelaniya is an internationally recognized center for the advanced study of Buddhism; exploring its profound philosophical roots as well as its relevance in today's world.

PGIPBS website: <https://pgipbs.kln.ac.lk/>

RIGHT MINDFULNESS TRAINING ACADEMY (RMTA)

Founded in 2018, the RMTA brings monastics and lay practitioners together in a cross-cultural exchange of authentic Buddhist teachings—honoring tradition while addressing today's world. RMTA is affiliated with YBEF and MABA in Augusta, Missouri.

MABA website: <https://maba-usa.org/>

YOUTH BUDDHIST EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION (YBEF)

An affiliate non-profit organization of Mid-America Buddhist Association (MABA), dedicated to supporting Buddhist educational programs. Tax ID Number 43-1786009.

By donating to YBEF, you support our mission and help us expand our efforts.



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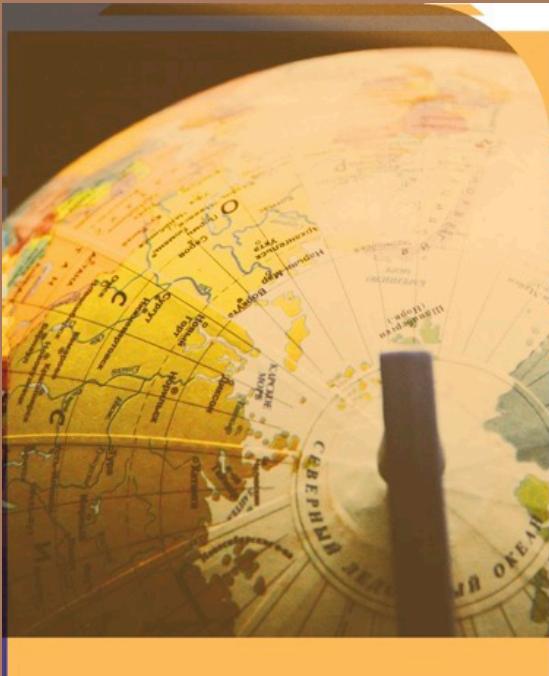
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BUDDHIST STUDIES
2-YEAR PART-TIME

2026-2027
ACADEMIC YEAR

Admissions Now Open!
 Program Starts on **March 13, 2026**

Degree Conducted by
 Right Mindfulness Training Academy (RMTA), USA

Degree Conferred by
 Postgraduate Institute of Pali and Buddhist Studies (PGIPBS)
 University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka



Degree Conducted by



Right Mindfulness Training Academy (RMTA)

U.S.A

Degree Conferred by



Postgraduate Institute of Pali and Buddhist Studies

University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka

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ACADEMIC YEAR
Starts March 13, 2026**

**APPLICATIONS ARE
OPEN NOW**

For program details, please scan
below or contact us by email:



Program website: <https://rmtausa.org/>



Email Inquiries: ybefacademy@gmail.com



Our Online Buddhist Studies Program

Deepen Your Buddhist Knowledge with Our Online Buddhist Studies Program

The Diploma in Buddhist Studies (DBS) Program offers a wonderful opportunity, whether you're new to Buddhism or looking to deepen your understanding, to explore the Buddhist teachings and apply them in daily life.

Now Accepting Applications for 2025–2027!

Interested? Visit our [website](#) to learn more about the [DBS program](#) and other flexible study options. Whether you thrive in a structured curriculum or prefer to learn at your own pace, we have a path that suits you.

New Courses Launching in 2026!

We are delighted to introduce two new language courses designed to deepen your study of Buddhist texts. Seize this unique opportunity to connect with the roots of Buddhist wisdom through original language study!

1. Reading Pāli Through the Tipiṭaka

Instructor: Bhante D. Kusalagnana

Dates: January 2 – January 29, 2026 (Mon–Fri; 20 sessions)

Time: 8:30 – 10:00 pm EST

Course fee: \$200

2. Introduction to Sanskrit Through Classical Texts

Instructor: Bhante D. Kusalagnana

Dates: June 1 – June 28, 2026 (Mon–Fri; 20 sessions)

Time: 8:30 – 10:00 pm EST

Course fee: \$200

For full course details, syllabi, and online applications, please visit our [RMTA website](#).

For inquiries, please send an email to [ybefacademy](#).

[Click here to Learn more](#)



DEPARTMENT OF PALI AND BUDDHIST STUDIES, UNIVERSITY OF KELANIYA (UoK),
SRI LANKA, AND THE AMERICAN BUDDHIST SANGHA ACADEMY (ABSA) IN THE USA

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YOUR EXPERIENCE AND LEARNING GOALS

PROGRAM OPTIONS

Option
A

Diploma In Buddhist Studies (DBS)

- Certificate from the prestigious University of Kelaniya.
- Fulfill the program by completing the 12 courses (30 credits), assignments, and final exams.
- Registration fee for the university - USD 500.

Option
B

CERTIFICATE IN BUDDHIST STUDIES

- Free of charge! No registration fee.
- Complete 16 credits within 2 years. Choose courses from the diverse DBS curriculum to personalize your studies.
- Earn your certificate from ABSA by completing engaging assignments.

Option
C

INTRODUCTION TO BUDDHIST STUDIES

Free! Certificates from ABSA

2 Options:

1. **CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION**
Choose a minimum of 8 credits from the DBS curriculum & complete the assignments.
2. **CERTIFICATE OF PARTICIPATION**
 - Choose and attend any courses from the DBS curriculum.
 - No assignment or exam required.

To Apply, please visit our website:

www.maba-usa.org/buddhist-studies-1



Sunday Morning

We hope to see you at MABA! Whether you are seeking spiritual growth or opportunities for community engagement, we invite you to join us on Sunday mornings or to participate in our various service activities. We welcome any

vegetarian contributions for our Sunday lunch. If you would like to bring a dish, please let our office know what you will be bringing.



9:30-10:00 AM: Sitting Meditation

10:00-10:15 AM: Walking Meditation

10:15-10:50 AM: Dharma Talk

10:50-11:10 AM: Chanting

11:20-11:45 AM: Dharma Sharing at Manjushri Hall

11:45 AM: Vegetarian Lunch at Blue Lotus House

Everyone is welcome to stay for lunch, and you may bring a dish to share. Please inform us if you plan to bring a dish. Thank you!

12:30 PM: Dharma Book Reading & Discussion at Manjushri Hall



Please check our website for updates.
<https://maba-usa.org/sunday-morning>

All are welcome to join us for the Dharma Book reading from
12:30 PM~1:30 PM

"What the Buddha Taught" by Venerable Dr. Walpola Rahula
Download the [pdf copy here](#).

If you like to receive an updates on the readings weekly,
please email to the [office](#).



Bodhisattva Retreat

On November 1 and 2, we held the Bodhisattva Retreat. Master Jì Rú, Venerable Kōngyán, and the teachers from MABA provided teachings on the practice of the Bodhisattva and discussed the importance of taking the Bodhisattva Vows. Those who attended the retreat expressed their gratitude for the teachings and shared how they benefited from the experience. At the conclusion of the retreat, Master Jì Rú conferred the Three Refuges, the Five Precepts, and the Bodhisattva Vows.





We want you to be part of our team! If you'd like to make a difference, please reach out to us about some exciting upcoming opportunities to volunteer. We're gearing up for gardening, grounds cleanup and we need enthusiastic volunteers like you! There are many ways to get involved, from setting up tents and parking signs to assisting in the kitchen. Join us for a rewarding experience where you'll meet new people and impact our community!

Volunteer Work Opportunities at MABA

You are welcome to volunteer any day and at any time from Monday to Saturday during the following hours:

- 9:30 AM to 11:20 AM
- 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM

Master Jì Rú will offer half an hour of meditation instruction & Dharma sharing whenever he is available at MABA.

Volunteer tasks include:

- Garden and ground maintenance
- Mowing
- Weed trimming
- Cleaning the porch of the Chan Hall
- Reorganizing the garden/weeding around the Standing Buddha
- Kitchen assistance

and other works as needed.

[Sign Up Here to Volunteer!](#)





Buddha's Teaching of the Month

Dhp 354 From... Taṇhā Vagga: Craving

The gift of Dhamma surpasses all gifts.

The taste of Dhamma surpasses all tastes.

The delight in Dhamma surpasses all delights.

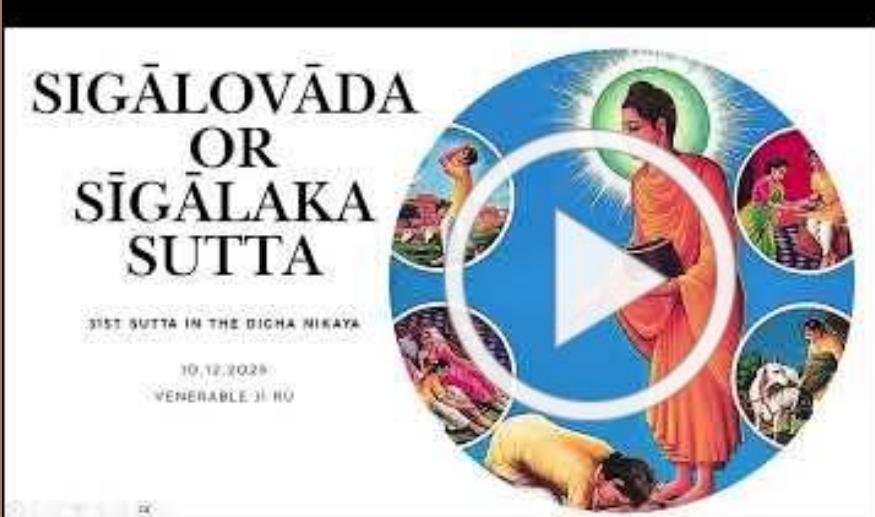
The destruction of cravings conquers all suffering.

Read the entire translation of Dhammapada 24 Taṇhā Vagga: Craving (334-359) by Ven. Kiribathgoda Gnananda Thero on SuttaFriends.org. Or read a different translation on SuttaCentral.net, DhammaTalks.org, Ancient-Buddhist-Texts.net or AccessToInsight.org. Or listen on SC-Voice.net. Or explore the Pali on DigitalPaliReader.online.

Readings:
[Right View Quarterly](#)
[Daily Sutta Reading](#)
[Suttas \(Buddha's Teachings\)](#)



Videos of the Month





The Ten Stages of Trust has just been published! This is Xiankuan Don's third book on Buddhism. **The Ten Stages of Trust** is for Bodhisattvas and those interested in the Bodhisattva Path. This is the first commentary in English on the beginning of the Bodhisattva's 52 Stages.

To acquire books:

All proceeds go to MABA. If you are local to St. Louis, you can arrange to stop by Xiankuan Don's office on a Friday or Saturday afternoon and get a copy. Please contact Don's office to reserve a time. If you are not local to St. Louis, you can acquire this book through our website: (<https://maba-usa.org/dharma-books>) or through the author. All \$40 goes to MABA (\$34 for book, \$6 for shipping). Amazon has the book also, but MABA only gets 10%.

Further Description:

The Ten Stages of Trust should interest Chan, Zen, Huayan, and Tibetan Buddhist practitioners. This text can be especially useful for those who have taken the Bodhisattva Vows or are considering this

step. The 350 pages include translations of selected passages from the original sutras, commentaries on the essential meanings, as well as commentaries on verses from the Map of the Ten Buffalo (Zen Ox Pictures), Sengcan's Trust in Mind Inscription, and Farong's Mind Inscription. At the end of each chapter, there is a suggested meditation for each stage.



DONATE HERE



**Internet Upgrade Expenses
Donation Link**

Dana

Dana signifies the virtue of giving. The monastic community relies heavily on the support of the lay community. Currently, MABA depends almost entirely on the support of the traditional Asian community. It is very important for us to assist the Western community in developing the six paramitas (perfections), the first of which is the virtue of giving. The significance of practicing Dana lies in its ability to help overcome lower fetters, such as greed and ignorance, as well as in its role in accumulating merits that support meditation practice. Without making preliminary efforts to establish virtuous actions, meditation can often become fruitless. We encourage everyone to seize any opportunity to develop this virtue.

At MABA, we have greatly integrated the use of the internet into our routines. This technology allows us to host online teachings and create presentations for our Sunday services. However, our internet provider is discontinuing their unlimited business plans, and transitioning to a usage-based plan will increase our rate from \$599.95 per month to \$799.95 per month.

We are reaching out to our community for help in bridging this gap! If you can, please support our cause. Every contribution counts! To donate, click the button to the left. Under "General



Donation," select "Donate." This will redirect you to the donation page; once there, use the dropdown menu to select "Internet Upgrade Expenses."

Thank you for your ongoing support!



Interfaith

MABA accepts invitations from schools, educational institutes and other religious organizations to introduce Buddhism and mindfulness practice, as well as to join interfaith dialogues that promote mutual understanding between practices.

[Learn more](#)



Lanterns

For our Dharma friends and supporters who wish to make a dedicated lantern offering. We will engage a tablet in your name (or any name you wish) and place it at the Guanyin Pavilion.

[Lantern offerings](#)



Funeral Services

Reservation of the niches, ordering the urns, placing the urns, relocating the urns, chanting services, placement of name tablet of ancestors, and visiting dying patients.

[Request a service](#)

MABA Website: <https://maba-usa.org>



Mid-America Buddhist Association | 299 Heger Lane | Augusta, MO 63332 US

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