



MASTER OF LIBERAL STUDIES | COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

MASTER OF LIBERAL STUDIES (MLS)

The Master of Liberal Studies (MLS) program is an interdisciplinary program designed for students who wish to combine several academic areas into one tailored degree program. The program is ideal for those who wish to explore questions of enduring concern and contemporary urgency in the arts, humanities, behavioral sciences, social sciences, and life sciences. In doing so, the program provides students with opportunities to engage their curiosity in an intellectual exploration of the world of ideas.

Students will gain fresh perspectives and will hone the creative, critical-thinking, decision-making, analytical, and communication skills that are so valued in today's workplace. Uniquely among graduate programs, the MLS helps students understand the broader context of their ideas, path of study, and fields of work.

As students learn to analyze problems from a variety of perspectives, they will be stimulated to find connections between their studies and their personal and professional lives, encouraging a lifelong commitment to learning, free inquiry and the life of the mind.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Students admitted to the MLS program must hold a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution and should have obtained an undergraduate grade point average of at least 3.0. Students with a GPA slightly below 3.0 for a recent degree, or those returning to college after a long absence, may be admitted if their applications contain sufficient evidence of their writing skills and ability to succeed in graduate work. The MLS degree requires the completion of at least 11 courses (minimum of 33 credits).

COURSEWORK

Early in their programs, students take an Introduction to Graduate Liberal Studies and Interdisciplinary Methodology class, and at least three core seminars, one each in the humanities, the sciences, and the social

sciences. Students, under guidance of their faculty advisor, may choose graduate courses and seminars in a variety of disciplines. The program can culminate with a graduate project that will grow out of the information and methodologies acquired throughout the course work.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The undergraduate and graduate degree offerings of the College of Arts and Sciences are accredited by the Higher Learning Commission as an Academic Quality Improvement Program and as a member of the North Central Association.

WHAT CAN I DO WITH A MASTER OF LIBERAL STUDIES (MLS)

An MLS degree, by design, is not meant to prepare a student for a particular career. Rather, it prepares students for lives as educated, critical, and inquiring citizens in a world of rapid change.

There are many fields, however, in which a master's degree of any kind is preferred and more sought after than a more specialized degree. MLS program graduates often find careers in teaching, social services, universities and business fields, particularly in marketing and educational administration. Many students use their preparation to go on to doctorate programs or law school.

HANDS-ON LEARNING

There are ample opportunities for students to work with faculty mentors in the discipline or interdisciplinary topic of their choosing to complete optional independent studies and thesis.

DEGREE OPTIONS

Independent Research / Creative Activity
The Independent Research/Creative Activity Option offers students the opportunity to work closely with a faculty committee and to complete a final project designed around their

unique interests. The graduate project is an independent scholarly enterprise in which the student demonstrates mastery of a specific topic. Examples include a graduate project, a computer program, a translation of a work of literature, or an artistic composition or performance.

Public Intellectual Option

The Public Intellectual Option offers students the opportunity to work within a learning community made up of other students and led by a faculty facilitator to explore the variety of genres through which public intellectuals communicate, and to create their own portfolio of public intellectual work to be submitted for completion of the MLS degree.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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