

M.S. LIBERAL STUDIES

OVERVIEW

A graduate degree in Liberal Studies allows students to develop a unique scholarly identity by combining a variety of academic programs into one curriculum. The result is a more personalized degree that can more directly meet the variety of educational and professional goals today's students bring with them to a university.

The Liberal Studies graduate degree aims to address the interests and needs of working professionals seeking an advanced degree or traditional students looking to secure the foundation they need for more advanced academic pursuits.

This program holds particular rewards for students looking to develop scholarly interests that extend beyond traditional disciplinary boundaries or that naturally exist within an interdisciplinary context. All graduates will develop the skills they need to address contemporary questions or concerns through original research, and to express their findings in an effective and meaningful manner.

Program Level Student Learning Outcomes

The student will be able to:

- Locate scholarly arguments within the disciplinary concerns that define them.
- Examine one's own scholarly interests within some established or still developing sets of methodologies and scholarship.
- Combine and integrate the theories and methodologies from multiple disciplines. Combine and, when appropriate, integrate the theories and methodologies from multiple disciplines into one project.
- Evaluate intellectual questions against a set of contexts including, but not limited to, political, historical, material, cultural, racial, ethical, national, and geographic contexts.
- Author original research that exhibits the advanced critical-thinking and communication skills necessary for effective professional and other social or cultural contexts.
- Develop habits of critical inquiry that include self-direction and self-reflection.

Entry Requirements

Students will be admitted into the MS Liberal Studies by the faculty once the following application criteria are met:

- Successful admission to graduate school.
- Statement, no longer than three (3) double spaced pages, discussing their reason(s) for pursuing the program and discussing their understanding of interdisciplinary studies.

Admission Priority Deadlines

August 1 for Fall Semester

December 1 for Spring Semester

May 1 for Summer Semester

Applications received by the deadlines above will receive priority review. Applications received after the priority deadlines may not be reviewed for program admission for the upcoming semester.

Master of Science - Liberal Studies With Thesis Program Requirements

Individuals in the Graduate Studies Program, together with individuals from the College of Arts and Sciences, serve as advisors to students seeking a Master of Science in Liberal Studies (M.S.L.S.). The M.S.L.S. is an interdisciplinary degree, which means it offers students the opportunity to work across disciplines and to bring those disciplines into conversation with one another.

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Required Courses		
LIBS 5300	Interdisciplinarity	3
LIBS 5310	Interdisciplinary Methods	3
LIBS 5395	Interdisciplinary Thesis	3
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Approved Courses		24
Total Credit Hours		36

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Code	Title	Credit Hours
LIBS 5300	Interdisciplinarity	3
LIBS 5310	Interdisciplinary Methods	3
LIBS 5090	Comprehensive Examination	0
Approved Courses		30
Total Credit Hours		36