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:

1. Locate scholarly arguments within the disciplinary concerns that define them.
2. Examine one’s own scholarly interests within some established or still developing sets of methodologies and scholarship.
3. 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.
4. Evaluate intellectual questions against a set of contexts including, but not limited to, political, historical, material, cultural, racial, ethical, national, and geographic contexts.
5. Author original research that exhibits the advanced critical-thinking and communication skills necessary for effective professional and other social or cultural contexts.
6. Develop habits of critical inquiry that include self-direction and self-reflection.

Entry Requirements

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

- Successful admission to graduate school.
- Statement, no longer than three (3) double space pages, discussing their reason(s) for pursuing the program and discuss 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.

On the Thesis Track, LIBS 5300, LIBS 5310, and LIBS 5395 (six (6) hours) are required for all MSLS students.

All courses applicable to the program must be attained, at least 36 hours are required for the degree.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LIBS 5300</td>
<td>Interdisciplinarity</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIBS 5310</td>
<td>Interdisciplinary Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIBS 5395</td>
<td>Interdisciplinary Thesis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total Approved Courses</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total Credit Hours</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Master of Science - Liberal Studies Without 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.

All courses applicable to the program must be attained, at least 36 hours are required for the degree.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LIBS 5300</td>
<td>Interdisciplinarity</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIBS 5310</td>
<td>Interdisciplinary Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIBS 5090</td>
<td>Comprehensive Examination</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Approved Courses</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total Credit Hours</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Courses

LIBS 3300. Intro to Liberal Studies. 3 Credit Hours.
(WI) Students are introduced to the major issues in interdisciplinary studies. Students research how their academic concentrations emerged as distinct disciplines and produce a research paper and presentation of their findings. Prerequisite(s): ENGL 1301.
LIBS 4395. Liberal Studies Capstone. 3 Credit Hours.
(WI) This course requires students to integrate and use fundamental concepts learned in previous courses within the students' degree concentrations including research and analysis of real-world phenomena and problems. Students present written reports on their research, supplemented by appropriate internet and multimedia materials, as well as portfolios documenting their research. This is a writing intensive course for Liberal Studies majors. Prerequisite(s): LIBS 3300 and senior standing.

LIBS 5090. Comprehensive Examination. 0 Credit Hours.
Non-thesis students should register for the comprehensive examination during their final semester of graduate coursework, or upon permission of advisor. All comprehensive examinations will be written, but an oral component may also be required. A maximum of three attempts will be allowed. Thesis student do not take this examination.

LIBS 5300. Interdisciplinarity. 3 Credit Hours.
This course allows students to assess and to discuss various topic(s) examined from an interdisciplinary approach. Emphasis is upon investigating the contributions of interdisciplinary research in academia. Prerequisite: Graduate standing.

LIBS 5310. Interdisciplinary Methods. 3 Credit Hours.
This course investigates interdisciplinary research methods and the application of these methods. Students research, write, and present projects on topic(s) related to their focus areas. Prerequisite: Graduate standing.

LIBS 5389. Special Topics. 3 Credit Hours.
Readings, discussions, and research of selected interdisciplinary topics. May be repeated for credit when topics vary. Prerequisite(s): N/A.

LIBS 5395. Interdisciplinary Thesis. 3 Credit Hours.
Scheduled when the student is ready to begin the thesis. No credit until the thesis is completed. Prerequisite(s): 24 hours graduate credit, including LIBS 5300 and LIBS 5310 completed, and consent of the MSLS Coordinator. Cannot be enrolled concurrently in LIBS 5300 or LIBS 5310.

LIBS 5398. Interdisciplinary Capstone. 3 Credit Hours.
N/A Course is being deleted. Prerequisite(s): N/A Course is being deleted.