

Liberal Arts (M.L.A.)

About The Program:

The Master of Liberal Arts is an interdisciplinary degree that allows students to take courses from a variety of graduate programs in the College of Liberal Arts and elsewhere in the University. Students are encouraged to develop an individual program of study, based on their own interests and objectives and at the direction of the M.L.A. Program Director. Our students are generally working adults who want to grow intellectually by extending their liberal arts education. Some may be seeking to move toward a doctorate and want to prepare themselves for graduate work; others may be interested in changing careers and wish to gain post-baccalaureate experience. The M.L.A. degree might be relevant, for example, for those who want to move into educational administration, library work, public policy, the law, or teaching.

Career Options: While not a professional degree, the M.L.A. degree may be applicable to a wide range of future graduate training and/or employment: from teaching and educational administration to library work; from public policy to arts management; and from government, the law, and public service to private sector work.

Prerequisites for Admission: All applicants must hold a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university. A minimum undergraduate GPA of 3.0 is required for admission.

Continuous Enrollment: Students must maintain continuous enrollment. When a student knows that s/he will not register for the Fall or Spring term, s/he must submit a "Leave of Absence Request" form, found in TUportal under the Tools tab within "University Forms," along with the \$25 fee to the M.L.A. administrative office. If a student fails to register for two consecutive terms without submitting Leave of Absence forms, then s/he may be dismissed from the program for non-continuous enrollment.

Areas of Specialization: The M.L.A. program draws on faculty from across the range of disciplines in the College of Liberal Arts, with an emphasis on applied humanities, engaging such areas as arts and culture, media studies, public history, and social theory. Students may also choose to concentrate their course of study by taking courses outside of the M.L.A. curriculum.

Requirements of Programs:

- **Total Credit Hours:** 30
- **Culminating Events:**

Qualifying Paper:

All candidates for the M.L.A. degree are required to write a Qualifying Paper, which is typically 40 to 50 pages in length. It should demonstrate the student's ability to:

- a) Write analytically on a topic of her/his choice;
- b) Read, absorb, and evaluate scholarly thought and research; and
- c) Develop and establish her/his own perspective on the problem being examined.

The Qualifying Paper is submitted for approval to the M.L.A. Advisory Committee or other graduate faculty chosen by the M.L.A. program. Revisions may be requested.

Core Courses

Introduction to Interdisciplinary Studies This course introduces students to interdisciplinary graduate studies and to cultural analysis by looking at the kinds of questions that can best be answered through an interdisciplinary approach and with various available methodologies. Taking American culture as its primary focus, students read texts in areas such as Visual Culture, American Studies, Women's Studies, and the Arts and Society. Topics include, for example: cultural representations of gender and sexualities, and of race and "whiteness"; the social construction of space and place; technology and its construction of identity; boundaries of culture and consumption (high, low, middlebrow); museums and cultural memory.

Three MLA "Topics" courses (9 credits)

Electives (18 credits)

Courses:

Click [HERE](#) for more information on the courses below.

- Introduction to Interdisciplinary Studies
- Independent Study
- Topics in the Arts and American Culture
- Topics in Cultural Studies
- Topics in Visual Culture
- Topics in Performance Studies
- Topics in Gender Studies
- Topics in Environmental Studies
- Intellectual Heritage, MLA
- Ways of Seeing
- Topics in Modernism
- Topics in Political Culture
- Topics in Urban Studies
- Topics in International Studies
- Topics in Science, Technology, and Culture
- Topics in Science, Technology, and Culture
- Foundations of Modern Thought II
- Foundations of American Culture
- Special Topics – MLA
- Master's Project