

INDIANA UNIVERSITY

University Graduate School
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Academic Bulletin

Liberal Studies

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences South Bend

(An asterisk [*] denotes membership in the University Graduate School faculty with the endorsement to direct doctoral dissertations.)

Graduate Director

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General Information

The Master of Liberal Studies (M.L.S.) program in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences provides opportunities to engage your curiosity in an intellectual exploration of the world of ideas. But the rewards of the pursuit of knowledge go beyond intellectual satisfaction. You will gain a refreshed approach to an enriched personal and professional life through a program that reinvigorates curiosity and creativity. You'll gain fresh perspectives and the critical thinking, analytical, and communication skills so valued in today's workplace.

Students begin with an introduction to graduate liberal studies and interdisciplinary methodology, and then enroll in at least three core seminars in the humanities, the sciences, and the social sciences. Seminars combine detailed study of a particular topic with a broad interdisciplinary examination of ways of understanding. The M.L.S. program draws on faculty with diverse expertise to explore topics through a multidisciplinary approach.

Admission Requirements

Students are admitted to the Master of Liberal Studies program by the Graduate Studies Committee of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. To be considered for admission, students must hold a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution and must have obtained an undergraduate grade point average of at least 3.0.

A student whose native language is not English must have a minimum TOEFL score of 560 (standard grading) or 220 (computer graded). The recommended TOEFL score is 600 (standard grading) or 250 (computer graded).

Exceptions to these requirements may be made at the discretion of the graduate liberal studies committee.

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Application Deadlines

Students may be admitted to the M.L.S. Program to begin in either the fall or spring semester. All admission decisions are made by the faculty members of the Liberal Arts and Sciences Graduate Liberal Studies Committee. The committee meets to review applications three times each year. The deadlines for submitting completed applications for review by the committee are as follows:

- March 31 Early admission, fall semester
- August 1 Final admission, fall semester
- October 31 Admission, spring semester

Students wishing to enter in the fall are strongly encouraged to submit their materials by the March 31 early admission deadline to assure there will be an opening in the program. Students are also advised to give reference letter writers at least two to four weeks' notice so that their letters will arrive prior to the deadline. Applications that are not completed by a given deadline will not be considered until the next deadline and may cause a delay in admission by one semester. Completed applications include the following:

- Application form
- Personal essay
- Three letters of reference
- Transcripts of all previous undergraduate study
- Application fee

All students wishing to enter the program should contact the director before submitting an application.

Master of Liberal Studies Degree

Academic Curriculum (30 cr.)

(All courses are 3 credit hours unless otherwise designated.)

After successfully passing the introductory proseminar and the core seminar requirements for the program, students may select from one of two options to complete their M.L.S. degree.

Proseminar

D510 Introduction to Graduate Liberal Studies

Core Seminars

D501 Humanities Seminar

D502 Social Sciences Seminar

D503 Science Seminar

Each of the core courses is a graduate seminar combining detailed study of particular topics with broad interdisciplinary perspectives. These courses give students the opportunity to explore the connections that exist among the diverse discipline and perspectives that define contemporary knowledge.

Electives

D511 M.L.S. Humanities Elective

D512 M.L.S. Social Science Elective

D513 M.L.S. Science Elective

D514 Graduate Liberal Studies Overseas Study

D594 Liberal Studies Directed Readings

D596 Liberal Studies Independent Research

Electives offer students a wide variety of choices with which to create programs of study suited to their individual interests. These elective courses may be selected to build support and background for the graduate project, or to enable students to more ably participate in the public intellectual, artistic, and

cultural life of their communities. In addition to the above, students may also repeat core seminars (each may be taken up to two more times under a different topic); take up to three 300- and 400-level undergraduate courses with a Request for Graduate Credit Contract listing extra work; and/or take graduate courses from other IU South Bend departments, divisions, and schools.*

To complete the Master of Liberal Studies degree, students must choose one of the following curricular options:

Independent Research/Creative Activity Option (33 cr.)

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. Students must take 12 credits of electives and then successfully complete their program with a graduate project. The graduate project is an independent scholarly enterprise in which the student demonstrates mastery of a specific topic. Examples include a thesis, a computer program, a translation of a work of literature, or an artistic composition or performance.

Electives (12 cr.)

Capstone Experience (9 cr.)

D601 M.L.S. Project Proposal Seminar (3 cr.)

D602 Graduate Project (6 cr.)

Public Intellectual Option (33 cr.)

Upon completion of two additional core seminars and 12 credits of electives, 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 genre through which public intellectuals communicate, and to create their own portfolio of public intellectual work to be submitted for completion of the M.L.S. degree.

Additional Core Seminars (6 cr.)

Electives (12 cr.)

Capstone Experience (3 cr.)

D600 Public Intellectual Practicum (3 cr.)

Academic Regulations

Students must have their programs of study approved by the M.L.S. program director.

Courses taken for graduate credit at the 300- or 400-level include additional assignments beyond those required for undergraduate credit. Enrollment in such courses requires the approval of the instructor and of the M.L.S. program director. Students may take up to 9 credit hours of electives in a single academic program.

An average grade of B (3.0) is required for graduation, and no course with a grade lower than B– (2.7) will be counted toward the degree. Students are required to retain good academic standing, i.e., to maintain a GPA of at least 2.7. Failure to maintain good standing may result in dismissal from the program.

Other academic regulations and policies are established by the Graduate Liberal Studies Committee of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Students are to consult the M.L.S. program director for further information.

*M.L.S. students may take no more than a total of 6 credit hours of D594 and D596 combined.

Course Descriptions

D501 Humanities Seminar (3 cr.) An interdisciplinary graduate seminar in the humanities. Topics vary from semester to semester. May be repeated twice for credit

D502 Social Science Seminar (3 cr.) An interdisciplinary graduate seminar in the social sciences. Topics vary from semester to semester. May be repeated twice for credit.

D503 Science Seminar (3 cr.) An interdisciplinary graduate seminar in the sciences. Topics vary from semester to semester. May be repeated twice for credit.

D510 Introduction to Graduate Liberal Studies (3 cr.) A comprehensive introduction to graduate liberal studies. Explores the cultures of the humanities, social sciences, and sciences. Investigates interdisciplinary methodologies. Offers strategies for graduate-level reading, research, and writing for other publics.

D511 M.L.S. Humanities Elective (3 cr.) P: D510. An M.L.S. graduate elective course in the humanities. Topics vary. May be repeated for credit.

D512 M.L.S. Social Science Elective (3 cr.) P: D510. An M.L.S. graduate elective course in the social sciences. Topics vary. May be repeated for credit.

D513 M.L.S. Science Elective (3 cr.) P: D510. An M.L.S. graduate elective course in the sciences. Topics vary. May be repeated for credit.

D514 Graduate Liberal Overseas Study (3-6 cr.) P: D510. This course will enable M.L.S. students to participate in overseas studies. In some cases there may be a language prerequisite.

D594 Liberal Studies Directed Readings (1-3 cr.) P: D501, D502, D503 and prior consent of instructor. Independent study involving systematic schedule of readings sponsored and supervised by a faculty member. May be repeated up to a maximum of 6 credit hours.

D596 Liberal Studies Independent Research (1-3 cr.) P: D501, D502, D503 and prior consent of instructor. An independent research project formulated and conducted in consultation with a faculty member and culminating in a final analytical paper. May be repeated up to a maximum of 6 credit hours.

D600 Public Intellectual Practicum (3 cr.) P: Completion of all M.L.S. course work. A capstone seminar for the M.L.S. public intellectual option. Students will study the history of public intellectuals, explore the variety of ways in which public intellectuals carry out their work, and create a portfolio of their own public intellectual work.

D601 M.L.S. Project Proposal Seminar (3 cr.) P: Approval of director. A capstone seminar for the independent research/creative activity option in which students choose a topic or creative activity for their project, complete the initial research to determine its feasibility, write a formal proposal with an extensive bibliography identifying sources and/or resources necessary to complete the project, and defend it before a faculty committee.

D602 Graduate Project (3-6 cr.) P: D601. Independent project work conducted in consultation with a faculty director.