

Master of Liberal Arts

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Degree Requirements

Master of Liberal Arts

Required Courses: 30 units

Students complete 30 units total, including at least 15 units of core MLA interdisciplinary seminars, one writing intensive course, one research methods course, and a final research project that typically earns 3 credits.

Core MLA Seminars

The MLA program consists of seminars that introduce students to the methods and questions of different disciplines. Planned and taught by full-time Washington University faculty, these seminars cover a wide variety of topics and issues. Most core seminars are held one evening a week during the fall and spring semesters and twice a week during the summer term.

Among the seminars, some will be noted as “writing intensive” and “research methods.” These courses are intended to hone graduate-level writing and research techniques, preparing students for their final research projects.

Some students take all required courses in the seminars that are designed specifically for the MLA program; others augment a particular interest by taking related courses drawn from different departments with MLA department approval.

Final Project

A 3-credit final research project, developed under the supervision of a Washington University faculty member, is required for the Master of Liberal Arts degree. This project presents an opportunity for the student to independently and extensively explore an area of personal interest; it must be completed at the conclusion of a student's course work. Under special circumstances and with permission, some students complete a final project that comprises two semesters of research and writing for 6 units of credit.