

MASTER OF LIBERAL ARTS

Master of Liberal Arts (<https://advanced.jhu.edu/academics/graduate/master-of-liberal-arts/>)

For self-motivated learners with inquisitive minds and an interest in thinking across disciplinary boundaries, the Master of Liberal Arts program offers a diverse range of interdisciplinary courses designed and taught by faculty who build upon a foundation in the history of ideas while also incorporating contemporary topics, sources, and approaches to research, analysis, and discourse.

Established in 1962, the Johns Hopkins MLA program has gained national recognition for the quality of its teaching and for its rigorous interdisciplinary liberal arts education. The program is designed to serve independent thinkers from a variety of academic, professional, and personal backgrounds. The program thrives on the curiosity, passion, and diversity of its students. The MLA is a unique non-traditional graduate degree. Whereas most graduate programs ask students to become more and more specialized, the MLA expects students to both broaden and deepen their educational experience. MLA students interact with professors and one another in a stimulating asynchronous online learning environment that is compatible with all work schedules and time zones.

In consultation with their academic adviser, candidates for the MLA degree enroll in topic-based interdisciplinary courses that draw from a wide range of subjects, including history, philosophy, religion, literature, music, art history, African-American studies, environmental studies, digital humanities, critical theory, psychology, and sociology. Given the breadth and flexibility of the program, the MLA is able to meet the different goals and expectations of its students, who represent the full range of professions and are at all stages of their careers.

Admissions Criteria for All Advanced Academic Programs (<https://e-catalogue.jhu.edu/arts-sciences/advanced-academic-programs/Admission/#admissionrequirementstext>)

PROGRAM-SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

In addition to the materials and credentials required for all programs, the Master of Liberal Arts program requires applicants to submit a:

- **Resume**
- **Statement of Purpose:** Please provide a statement, up to one page in length, describing your personal background and/or a part of your life experience that has shaped you or your goals. Feel free to elaborate on personal challenges and opportunities that have influenced your decision to pursue a graduate degree at Johns Hopkins.

Program Requirements

Master of Liberal Arts program students must complete:

- One customizable core course
- One core culminating experience (capstone) course

- Eight electives; any core courses taken after the first one may count as electives toward the degree

Code	Title	Credits
Core Courses - Customizable		3
Choose at least one of the following:		
AS.450.600	MLA Core: Interdisciplinary Graduate Research Methods	
AS.450.627	MLA Core: Critical Theory	
AS.450.638	MLA Core: What is History?	
AS.450.738	MLA Core: Why Read the Classics?	
AS.450.772	MLA Core: Ways of Knowing: Historical and Epistemological Foundations of the Liberal Arts	
Core Course - Culminating Experience		3
Choose one of the following:		
AS.450.820	MLA Capstone: Portfolio	
AS.450.830	MLA Capstone: Graduate Project	
AS.450.850	MLA Capstone: Internship	
Electives		24
Select eight of the following:		
AS.450.605	Art Since 1960	
AS.450.606	Ethics in a Diverse World: Critical Challenges and Contemporary Problems	
AS.450.607	Through a Glass, Darkly: American Film Noir	
AS.450.608	Renaissance Women: Portraits, Patrons, and Painters	
AS.450.612	Tough Neighborhood: A History of U.S.-Central American Relations	
AS.450.613	British Victorian Women	
AS.450.617	The Constitution and the Criminal Justice System	
AS.450.618	Going Underground: Subculture and Social Justice in Self-Publishing	
AS.450.620	Gender and Media	
AS.450.622	The Shape of Things: Embodiment and Sexuality in American Culture	
AS.450.630	Intimacies of East/West: Hegemony, Representation, & Literature	
AS.450.631	Western Theatre History: The Dynamic Interplay of Social, Economic and Cultural Forces	
AS.450.634	Italian Renaissance Art and Thought	
AS.450.642	Yesterday's Tomorrows: Utopian and Dystopian Futures in Science Fiction Literature	
AS.450.646	Religion of Politics, Politics of Religion	
AS.450.648	Fakes, Lies, and Forgeries: A History of "Fake News" from The Flood to the Apocalypse	
AS.450.650	Nazi Germany and the Holocaust	
AS.450.651	Western Political Philosophy	
AS.450.652	Modern Black Political Thought	
AS.450.654	"When the lamps went out": WWI as history, memory and commemoration	
AS.450.667	The Bildungsroman as Literary Form-Chronicling Personal Growth in Countries and Cultures	
AS.450.669	Family in Cross-Cultural Perspective	
AS.450.673	Monstrosity & Metamorphosis: Imagining Animals in Early Art & Literature	

AS.450.678	Religions of the Emerging World
AS.450.694	Philosophy of Beauty
AS.450.695	American Political Theory and Practice
AS.450.697	All in the Family: Power, Scandal, and Fall
AS.450.699	Great Books in Great Contexts
AS.450.700	"The Souls of Black Folk": Evolving Conceptions of Leadership in African American Literature and Culture
AS.450.717	School and Society: Education Reimagined, Possibilities Disclosed
AS.450.724	Science Fiction Film in the 20th Century
AS.450.736	Medieval England: From Beowulf to the Battle of Bosworth
AS.450.739	Race and Jazz
AS.450.741	Apocalyptic in the Bible, Religion, and Popular Culture
AS.450.745	Aristotle and Hobbes: Physics, Psychology, Ethics and Politics
AS.450.746	Deep Ecology: Environmental Ethic
AS.450.748	The Black Politics of Michael Jackson
AS.450.749	Exploring the Liberal Arts: On-Site Seminar
AS.450.753	Exploring the Liberal Arts: Virtual Seminar
AS.450.762	Race and Ethnicity in the United States
AS.450.766	Deconstructing Capitalism
AS.450.771	Black Queer History
AS.450.774	Existentialism: Philosophy and Social Critique
AS.450.781	The Global Cold War
AS.450.782	The War for Reality- The Use, Misuse, and Abuse of History by Non-Historians
AS.450.783	Islamic Art & Architecture
AS.450.790	Six Degrees of Miles Davis
AS.450.801	MLA Independent Study

Total Credits**30**

Learning Outcomes

Graduates who earn the Master of Liberal Arts degree should develop the ability to:

- **Situate** different methods of inquiry within the liberal arts, building upon a foundation in the history of ideas and enduring humanistic questions.
- **Analyze** complex topics from interdisciplinary perspectives.
- **Conduct** original research that is creative, critical, and well informed.
- **Raise** vital questions in response to social and ethical issues, interrogating dominant narratives and systems of power.
- **Communicate** ideas in ways that are accessible to diverse audiences and contexts.
- **Articulate** how their MLA studies have enhanced, extended, or challenged their knowledge and skills and will inform their future endeavors.