MASTER OF LIBERAL ARTS

Master of Liberal Arts

mla.jhu.edu (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 (MLA) Program is a graduate liberal arts program that offers a diverse range of interdisciplinary courses designed and taught by MLA Program faculty that 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. Our 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 you to become more and more specialized, the MLA expects you to both broaden and deepen your educational experience. MLA students interact with professors and one another in a stimulating learning environment, both on the ground at the Homewood campus and online in an asynchronous format compatible with all work schedules and time zones.

In consultation with their academic advisor, 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 our program, the MLA is able to meet the different goals and expectations of our students. Our students represent the full range of working 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/enrollment-services/admission/)

The Admissions Committee reserves the right to request additional information from applicants to assess their candidacy for admission.

Instructions for the Statement of Purpose

In addition to the standard required application materials, MLA applicants must submit a 2-3 page statement of purpose that allows assessment of the applicant’s academic, professional, and personal goals. Here are three ideas for how applicants may frame the essay:

- Rather than having students concentrate their studies in a specific discipline, the MLA program offers courses in which students analyze complex topics from interdisciplinary perspectives. Please explain how that approach to studying the liberal arts coincides with your own academic, professional, and/or personal goals.
- Through their coursework and capstone projects, students in the MLA program are given multiple opportunities to conduct independent research that engages scholarship across several fields of study. Please describe an academic research project you have completed in the past and how that experience will inform your future research efforts.
- Many courses within the MLA program ask students to consider issues of social justice and explore their ethical implications for us individually and collectively. Please share an example of an issue of social justice you have studied in the past, explain why that issue captured your interest, and discuss how that work informs your current academic, professional, and/or personal goals.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

The degree is comprised of 10 three-credit-hour courses, including:

- One customizable core course
- Eight electives
- One core culminating experience course

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AS.450.600</td>
<td>MLA Core: Interdisciplinary Graduate Research Methods</td>
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<tr>
<td>AS.450.627</td>
<td>MLA Core: Critical Theory</td>
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<td>AS.450.638</td>
<td>MLA Core: What is History?</td>
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<td>AS.450.738</td>
<td>MLA Core: Why Read the Classics?</td>
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<td>AS.450.772</td>
<td>MLA Core: Ways of Knowing: Historical and Epistemological Foundations of the Liberal Arts</td>
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Core Course - Customizable

Choose at least one of the following:

- AS.450.082 MLA Capstone: Portfolio
- AS.450.830 MLA Capstone: Graduate Project
- AS.450.850 MLA Capstone: Internship

Electives

Select eight of the following:

- AS.450.601 Forbidden Knowledge: the "Metaphysical Rebel" in Myth and Literature
- AS.450.605 Art Since 1960
- AS.450.606 Ethics for a Multicultural World
- AS.450.607 Through a Glass, Darkly: American Film Noir
- AS.450.608 Renaissance Women: Portraits, Patrons, and Painters
- AS.450.610 Twice-Told Tales: Classic Texts and their Contemporary Retellings
- AS.450.611 Social History of Medicine
- 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.450.620 Gender and Media
- AS.450.621 The Self in Question: Readings in Lit & Psychol
- AS.450.622 The Shape of Things: Embodiment and Sexuality in American Culture
- AS.450.624 Follow the North Star: Hist,Stories of Slaves Escaping MD
- AS.450.630 "Orientalism" vs. "Occidentalism": A Brief History of Two Illusions
### Learning Outcomes

Graduates who earn the MLA degree should achieve mastery of the following outcomes:

- Evaluate different methods of inquiry within the liberal arts, building upon a foundation in the history of ideas and enduring humanistic questions.

- Analyze complex problems from interdisciplinary perspectives, utilizing various fields of study, sources, and methodologies.

- Design and conduct research that critically analyzes the chosen subject matter in well-informed, nuanced, and original ways and that engages scholarship across several fields of study.

- Create work that expresses fluency in critical theory, considers ethical responses to contemporary global challenges, and incorporates the voices and experiences of marginalized persons.

- Formulate and present research and ideas utilizing advanced communication skills that are suitable for diverse academic, professional, and cultural contexts.