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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<th>Code</th>
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<td>Core Courses - Customizable</td>
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<td>AS.450.600</td>
<td>MLA Core: Interdisciplinary Graduate Research Methods</td>
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<td>AS.450.627</td>
<td>MLA Core: Critical Theory</td>
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<td>MLA Core: What is History?</td>
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<td>MLA Core: Why Read the Classics?</td>
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<td>MLA Core: Ways of Knowing: Historical and Epistemological Foundations of the Liberal Arts</td>
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<td>Core Course - Culminating Experience</td>
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<td>MLA Capstone: Portfolio</td>
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<td>AS.450.601</td>
<td>Forbidden Knowledge: the &quot;Metaphysical Rebel&quot; in Myth and Literature</td>
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<td>Art Since 1960</td>
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<td>Ethics for a Multicultural World</td>
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<td>Through a Glass, Darkly: American Film Noir</td>
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<td>Renaissance Women: Portraits, Patrons, and Painters</td>
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<td>1900: The Birth of Modernism in Vienna, Paris, and London</td>
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<td>Twice-Told Tales: Classic Texts and their Contemporary Retellings</td>
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<td>AS.450.611</td>
<td>Social History of Medicine</td>
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<td>Tough Neighborhood: A History of U.S.-Central American Relations</td>
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<td>British Victorian Women</td>
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<td>The Constitution and the Criminal Justice System</td>
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<td>Gender and Media</td>
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<td>The Self in Question: Readings in Lit &amp; Psychol</td>
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<td>AS.450.622</td>
<td>The Shape of Things: Embodiment and Sexuality in American Culture</td>
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<td>AS.450.624</td>
<td>Follow the North Star: Hist,Stories of Slaves Escaping MD</td>
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<td>AS.450.630</td>
<td>&quot;Orientalism&quot; vs. &quot;Occidentalism&quot;: A Brief History of Two Illusions</td>
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AS.450.631 Western Theatre History: The Dynamic Interplay of Social, Economic and Cultural Forces

AS.450.634 Italian Renaissance Art and Thought

AS.450.635 How the War was Remembered: The Film and Literature of the Vietnam War

AS.450.637 Native American Art History

AS.450.639 The American Southwest: Crossroads of Cultures

AS.450.640 Nature and the American Imagination

AS.450.642 Yesterday’s Tomorrows: Utopian and Dystopian Futures in Science Fiction Literature

AS.450.643 Leadership and the Classics

AS.450.644 U.S. Environmental History

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.450.654 "When the lamps went out": WWI as history, memory and commemoration

AS.450.661 History of Russia

AS.450.664 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.450.675 Literary Analysis of the Hebrew Bible

AS.450.678 Religions of the Emerging World

AS.450.683 The History of the Book from the Ancient World to the Digital Humanities

AS.450.687 The American Revolution

AS.450.689 Introduction to Digital Humanities in the Liberal Arts

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.450.698 African American Poetry and Poetics

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.450.704 Poetry and the Visual Arts

AS.450.710 The Mind of Leonardo Da Vinci

AS.450.717 School and Society: Education Reimagined, Possibilities Disclosed

AS.450.723 WWII in Visual and Literary Art

AS.450.724 Science Fiction Film in the 20th Century

AS.450.728 On the Shoulders of Giants

AS.450.731 History of the Papacy: Pope Francis in Context

AS.450.734 Rebirth of a Nation: The Harlem Renaissance

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 Ethics

AS.450.748 The Black Politics of Michael Jackson

AS.450.749 Exploring the Liberal Arts

AS.450.758 American Literature and the Archive

AS.450.761 Documenting Baltimore Through the Photographic Image

AS.450.762 Race and Ethnicity in the United States

AS.450.766 Deconstructing Capitalism

AS.450.767 American Civil War and Reconstruction

AS.450.771 Black Queer History

AS.450.774 Existentialism: Philosophy and Social Critique

AS.450.778 Tonality in the Symphonies of Gustav Mahler

AS.450.781 The Global Cold War

AS.450.790 Six Degrees of Miles Davis

AS.450.791 A Cultural History of New York City II: World’s Fair to World Trade Center

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.