

# LIBERAL STUDIES, MALS

**Dr. Shannon Cochran, Director**

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## Mission and Goals

The Master of Arts in Liberal Studies degree (MALS) is a flexible interdisciplinary program designed for a wide spectrum of individuals: recent college graduates, professionals in the public and private sectors, current and prospective teachers, lawyers, state workers, non-profit arts administrators, private business owners, among others.

Through a challenging, structured liberal arts curriculum, the MALS degree program offers graduate students various opportunities to:

- strengthen their capacity to think critically and creatively;
- grow in their understanding of cultural relevance and global awareness;
- cultivate their analytical and communication skills to reach their full potential;
- develop and expand a commitment to others;
- attain a liberal studies perspective on contemporary problems and opportunities;
- broaden their general knowledge and satisfy their intellectual curiosity;
- gain insights into the relationships between disciplines, ideas, and historical developments; and,
- prepare for a range of career options and further study, and
- attain knowledge and soft-skills that are transferrable to multiple professional settings.

## Application Information

Students may begin the program any semester. Information about the application and admission process is available in the School of Graduate Studies section of this catalog and on the web: <http://www.clayton.edu/graduate/>. (<http://www.clayton.edu/graduate/>)

## Advising

In order to keep students on track for completing the degree, the MALS program director will serve as advisor to all students. The student will be required to meet with the advisor before registering for courses each semester.

## Academic Policies

Information regarding academic progress, residency requirements, transfer credit, application deferral, acceptance deferral, withdrawal from a course(s), and hardship withdrawal policies is in the School of Graduate Studies section of this catalog and on the Clayton State University Graduate web page (<http://www.clayton.edu/graduate/>).

## Requirements

Each student will complete thirty-six (36) semester-hours of MALS course work with a minimum grade point average of 3.0. At least twenty-seven hours (27) of these credits must be taken at Clayton State University. In their first two semesters, students should take the required Introduction to Graduate Studies I and II courses (6 hours). Also, in this and subsequent semesters, additional foundational seminars (6

hours) will provide students with a selected background in Art, Literature, Philosophy, Music, and other special topics in Liberal Studies. Each student will also select an academic area of focus or concentration (18 hours). Students may select from one of the five Concentration areas in this degree program:

- English,
- History,
- Liberal Arts (ART, ENGL, HIST, IDST, MALS, PHIL, POLS, MATH, and MUSC),
- Mathematics, or
- Philosophy.

Students have three options (6 hours) in completing the program: Capstone Thesis Option or Capstone Non-Thesis Option, or Capstone Internship Option.

## Program Learning Outcomes

**Graduates of this program will be able to:**

- Investigate and synthesize research data and ideas from interdisciplinary perspectives.
- Integrate research methodologies from two or more disciplines in a research proposal.
- Produce an interdisciplinary understanding of a complex problem or intellectual question.
- Demonstrate an awareness of the diverse social contexts in which the liberal arts are pursued and debated, including but not limited to, political, historical, material, cultural, racial, ethnic, national, and geographical contexts.
- Demonstrate advanced critical thinking skills at levels required for effective performance in professional and other social and cultural contexts.
- Demonstrate advanced communication skills (written, spoken, computer-assisted) at levels required for effective performance in professional and other social or cultural contexts.

## Program Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
<b>Foundational Seminars</b>		<b>12</b>
MALS 5000	Intro. to Graduate Studies	3
MALS 5020	Intro to Graduate Studies II	3
Choose two from the following: <sup>1</sup>		6
ART 5000	Great Works in Art History	
ENGL 5000	Great Books	
MALS 5800	Selected Topics/Liberal Studie	
MUSC 5000	Great Works in Music History	
PHIL 5000	Classics in Philosophy	
MALS 5010	Ethics, Technology, & Culture	
<b>Academic Concentrations</b>		<b>18</b>
Choose one option from the following:		
Option 1: English		
Choose six of any of the Graduate (5000/6000) Level ENGL courses listed in this catalog or others which are offered and approved by the MALS program director and Dean of Graduate Studies.		
Option 2: History		

Choose six of any of the Graduate (5000/6000) Level HIST courses listed in this catalog or others which are offered and approved by the MALS program director and Dean of Graduate Studies.

Option 3: Liberal Arts

Choose a combination of any six Graduate (5000/6000) Level courses as listed in this catalog with the following prefixes: ART, ENGL, HIST, IDST, MALS, MATH, MUSC, PHIL, POLS, or others which are offered and approved by the MALS program director and Dean of Graduate Studies.

Option 4: Philosophy

Choose six of any of the Graduate (5000/6000) Level PHIL courses listed in this catalog or others which are offered and approved by the MALS program director and Dean of Graduate Studies.

### Capstone Experience 6

Choose one option from the following:

Non-Thesis Option

MALS 6890 Non-Thesis Prof Paper Research

MALS 6899 Non-Thesis Comprehensive Exam

Thesis Option

MALS 6995 Master's Thesis Research

MALS 6999 Master's Thesis Preparation

Internship Option

MALS 6901 Internship I

MALS 6902 Internship II

### Total Credit Hours 36

## Capstone Experience Requirements

### Non-Thesis Option

Code	Title	Credit Hours
<i>Choose one or both from the following:</i>		
MALS 6890	Non-Thesis Prof Paper Research	1-3
MALS 6899	Non-Thesis Comprehensive Exam	1-6
<b>Total Credit Hours</b>		<b>8-15</b>

The Non-Thesis option is available to candidates in all tracks. Candidates who choose this option must either:

- present a paper at a university-sponsored event or conference;
- present a paper at a state, regional, national or international academic conference;
- or submit and/or have an article accepted for publication in a peer-reviewed journal.

Students selecting this option must also pass a comprehensive exam of major coursework prepared by a committee comprised of at least three MALS faculty.

### Thesis Option

Code	Title	Credit Hours
MALS 6995	Master's Thesis Research	3
MALS 6999	Master's Thesis Preparation	1-3
<b>Total Credit Hours</b>		<b>6</b>

Students who have completed all of their course work in the areas of Foundational Seminars and their Academic Concentration may select

the capstone internship option to fulfill their degree program. Students identifying this option may take a writing course to support the area of writing required within their career focus. During MALS 6901 Internship I students focus on their career goals, including identifying a potential internship. Various other projects that focus on the internship will be required. The Internship Coordinator will assist students with completing an internship learning agreement (ILA) that must be approved by the course instructor. During MALS 6902 Internship II, students are required to complete 250 hours (16 hours a week) of an internship experience with an approved agency. Beyond the in-person hours, students will also be required to write a summary paper that critically examines their experiences. In addition, students will be evaluated by their site supervisor who will offer a critique of the student's performance.

### Internship Option

Code	Title	Credit Hours
MALS 6901	Internship I	3
MALS 6902	Internship II	3
<b>Total Credit Hours</b>		<b>6</b>

Students who have completed all of their course work in the areas of Foundational Seminars and their Academic Concentration may select the capstone internship option to fulfill their degree program. Students identifying this option may take a writing course to support the area of writing required within their career focus. During MALS 6901 Internship I students focus on their career goals, including identifying a potential internship. Various other projects that focus on the internship will be required. The Internship Coordinator will assist students with completing an internship learning agreement (ILA) that must be approved by the course instructor. During MALS 6902 Internship II, students are required to complete 250 hours (16 hours a week) of an internship experience with an approved agency. Beyond the in-person hours, students will also be required to write a summary paper that critically examines their experiences. In addition, students will be evaluated by their site supervisor who will offer a critique of the student's performance.

## Second Master of Arts in Liberal Studies Requirements

Students may pursue a second Master of Arts in Liberal Studies degree program in a different concentration. The following policies and procedures must be followed:

- Students must meet normal admission requirements for the second degree program.
- Students must complete 36 hours of degree requirements for the second degree.
- Course and resident credit used to satisfy the requirements of one Clayton State degree cannot be used to satisfy the requirements of another degree.
- A maximum of 9 graduate credits from an accredited institution, including Clayton State, can be applied toward the requirements for a second Master's degree as long as:
  - those credits were taken within 6 years of admission to the second degree program
  - the courses are recommended by the student's advisor, and
  - a first Master's degree has been completed before admission to a second Master's degree.
- Only transfer credits of a B or above will be considered, and no Pass/Fail credits will be accepted. Transfer credit must be contained on an

official transcript from an accredited degree granting institution. See *Policy on Transfer Credit at the Master's Level in the Academic Policies section of the catalog*.

- Students must complete a minimum of 24 credits in courses other than the capstone courses in the approved program of study. See *Residency Requirement in the Graduation Requirements section of the catalog*.
- Specialization in the second master's degree must be different from that of the first master's degree. No courses within that specialization can duplicate courses in the first master's degree.
- Any specific requirements (Non-Thesis, Thesis, or Internship Options courses) must be completed as part of the second program.

**Please Note:** Students will have to request a course substitution to ensure all coursework for the second master's degree is 36 hours of distinctly different coursework from the first master's degree.

## Faculty

Augustine Ayuk  
 Virginia Bonner  
 Benjamin Buckley  
 Brigitte Byrd  
 Christy Burton  
 Matthew Carter  
 Shannon Cochran  
 Michael Dancs  
 Jason Davis  
 David Gilbert  
 Randall Gooden  
 Barbara Goodman  
 Cantice Greene  
 Jason Guthrie  
 Alexander Hall  
 Lisa Holland-Davis  
 Todd Janke  
 E. Joe Johnson  
 Terrence Johnson  
 Sipai Klein  
 Bryan LaBrecque  
 Mary Lamb  
 Marko Maunula  
 Joshua Meddaugh  
 Nasser Momayezi  
 Eugene Ngezem  
 Kelli Nipper  
 Kathryn Pratt-Russell  
 Amy Sanford  
 Matthew Sansbury  
 Patricia Smith  
 Sheryne Southard  
 Kavita Surya  
 Steve Spence  
 Adam Tate  
 Robert Vaughan  
 Christopher Ward  
 Mark Watson  
 Carol White