Ursuline College offers a Master of Arts in Liberal Studies (MALS) Program that prepares students for a lifetime of learning in their personal and professional lives. Students choose from one of two options—a 30 hour thesis option or a 33 hour essay option. This self-designed degree allows adults with a bachelor’s degree or previously earned advanced degree to tailor their curriculum to meet their personal interests and/or professional goals.

MALS emphasizes expressions (from buildings and land use to literature and cinema) and their embedded values as ways of understanding various cultures around the globe. Students are able to construct their own areas of concentration by taking courses within the MALS Program as well as courses from other graduate programs in the college. We offer a bridge program whereby undergraduate students at Ursuline are able to earn up to six credits towards the MALS Program. Please contact the MALS Director, Dr. Timothy K. Kinsella, at 440 646 8389 or tkinsella@ursuline.edu if you have any questions.

**CURRICULUM**

**Core Requirements** (12 credit hours for thesis option; 9 hours for essay option)

- MLS 501 Introduction to Liberal Studies 3
- MLS 502 Values and Their Expressions 3
- MLS 507 MALS Essay 3
- (Choose one)
  - MLS 598 Capstone Tutorial I – Thesis 3
  - MLS 599 Capstone Tutorial II – Thesis 3

**Dedicated Electives** (18 credit hours for thesis option, 24 credit hours for essay option)

- MLS 503 Cultural Literacy 3
- MLS 505 Multiculturalism and American Values 3
- MLS 506 End of Life Issues and the Catholic Church 3
- MLS 507 Men and Women Dressing the Part 3
- MLS 508 The American Cinema Since World War II 3
- MLS 509 Transcultural Health Care Issues 3
- MLS 510 U.S. Civil War: Present Day Implications 3
- MLS 512 The Drug Culture in American Society 3
- MLS 513 The Built Environment: Outside 3
- MLS 514 The Built Environment: Inside 3
- MLS 515 Social Justice From a Christian Perspective 3
- MLS 516 Family: A Christian Perspective 3
- MLS 519 The Novel as a Nexus for Cross Cultural Values 3
- MLS 520 Women and Leadership 3
- MLS 588 Special Topics/Readings 1-3
- MLS 589 Independent Study 1-3

**Total Credits** 36

**ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

- A bachelor’s degree from an accredited institution.
- Evidence of ability to do graduate coursework as indicated by an undergraduate grade point average of 3.0 shown on the applicant’s transcript.
- Application for Admission and $25.00 application fee.
- Official transcripts for all undergraduate and graduate coursework sent directly to the Office of Graduate Admission.
- Three recommendations written by appropriate professionals (confidential recommendation form required).
- Completion of an interview with the MALS Program Director and/or MALS committee.

**WHY MALS AT URSULINE COLLEGE?**

Committed Faculty. The interdisciplinary nature of the program calls together a diverse and specialized faculty, each with expertise in a specific content area as well as the liberal arts tradition.

Clear Focus. “Values and their expressions” provides a unifying theme that guides all stages of the program at the same time that its flexibility allows students to personalize their coursework and research.

Seminar Approach. Classes encourage critical thinking by engagement in research, collaboration with peers, and invitation to student-teacher dialogue.

Tuition Reduction. Educators and administrators in public and private schools and community librarians are eligible for a one-third tuition reduction.

Bridge Program. Undergraduate students at Ursuline College may earn up to six credits toward the MALS program.

Concentration. Students may choose to develop a concentration (12 hours) in a particular area.
A focus on values and their expressions in contemporary American society and around the globe offers the advantages of a clear organizing principle, while an emphasis on critical thinking and analysis calls attention to the ethical and intellectual responsibilities that life in today's world entails.

A Liberal Studies degree not only stimulates creative thinking for anyone who enjoys learning but also provides benefits across a wide spectrum of careers, from education to the humanities to business and professional programs. It encourages ethical reflection, fosters public discourse and active citizenship, and enhances leadership potential in every field.

Our classrooms have no walls, but our projects do.