

Master of Arts in Liberal Studies

Delta State University awards a Master of Arts in Liberal Studies (MALS). The MALS degree program promotes an interdisciplinary approach to graduate education by offering a diverse set of humanities and social science tracks. This program is designed for students who want to pursue advanced understanding of the nature of societal values and ideals that influence the human condition in the context of past and present human behavior and institutions. Students are exposed to perspectives that are useful for solving real problems while deciphering major philosophical, cultural, and social concepts about the world around us. The program targets full-time and part-time students from diverse backgrounds and stages in their professional lives, whether they are or returning to school for graduate education as practicing lawyers, ministers of religion, policy makers, teachers, politicians, administrator or are recent graduates who want to sharpen their analytical, critical thinking, writing and research skills by working with a highly qualified and diverse group of faculty.

Students can choose from one of the following tracks that reflect an interdisciplinary approach to education:

1. Evolving Human Voices: Studies of the Written Word
2. Gender and Diversity Studies
3. Globalization Studies
4. Mississippi Delta Studies
5. Philosophy
6. Religious Studies

Admission. To be considered for admission, applicants must:

1. Have earned a baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution;
2. Have earned a grade point average of 3.2 or higher on all undergraduate coursework;
3. Have an acceptable score on the Analytical Writing section of the GRE Revised General Test;
4. Submit a graded writing assignment from an upper-level undergraduate class.

Applications will be considered by the MALS coordinating committee, which consists of the MALS program coordinator, the advisors for each track, and the chairs of the divisions of Social Science & History and Languages and Literature.

Applicants may be granted provisional admission status for the first nine (9) hours of graduate course work. All admission requirements must be met within these nine hours. Applicants must have an undergraduate GPA of 3.0 or above to be admitted provisionally.

Degree Requirements. A candidate for the Master of Arts in Liberal Studies is required to:

1. Fulfill the general requirements for a graduate degree at Delta State University;
2. Complete graduate work consisting of core courses and elective hours as specified;
3. Earn a grade point average of at least 3.0 overall;

4. Earn a grade of B or higher in GLS 600;
5. Pass an oral and/or written comprehensive exam administered by a committee appointed by the MALS coordinator;
6. With the consent of the advisor, elect to research and write a thesis for 6 hours credit;
7. Earn at least one-half of all hours toward the MALS degree at the 600 level.

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Curriculum

- A. GLS 6003
GLS 600 (must be taken and passed with a grade of B or above before formal admission to a track)
- B. Required Courses (stated below by track).....3-18
- C. Electives (stated below by track).....15-30
Electives must be relevant to the objectives of the track and chosen from any offerings in the DSU Graduate Catalog, with advisor approval.

Concentrations of 18 hrs in ENG, GEO, HIS, PHI, and SOC are optional.

Track Requirements

Evolving Human Voices: Studies of the Written Word

- A. GLS 6003
- B. Required Courses.....18
 - 1. ENG 601.....3
 - 2. Writing, Rhetoric and Linguistics: Choose 3 hrs from.....3
ENG 502, 504, 506, 512, 605, 680 or COM 540
 - 3. Modern Literature: Choose 3 hrs from.....3
ENG 511, 514, 547, 548, 655 or 657
 - 4. Major Figures: Choose 3 hrs from.....3
ENG 532, 535, 536, 540, 542, 545 or 651
 - 5. Diversity: Choose 3 hrs from.....3
ENG 515, 552, 553, 554, 561, 570, 599, 692, COM 500 or FRE 551
 - 6. Popular Culture: Choose 3 hrs from.....3
ENG 516, 560, 581, 689 or FRE 689
- C. Electives.....15

Thesis Option: ENG 690 and 9 hours from relevant course offerings in the DSU Graduate Catalog, with advisor approval

Non-thesis Option: Choose 6 hrs from ENG and 9 hrs from relevant course offerings in the DSU Graduate Catalog, with advisor approval

An 18 hr concentration in ENG is optional.

Gender and Diversity Studies

- A. GLS 6003
- B. Required Courses.....12

Choose from SOC 501, 514, 521, 522, 550, 556; 532
600, 601, 624, 670

- C. Electives.....21

Non-thesis: Choose 21 hrs from relevant course offerings in the DSU Graduate Catalog, with advisor approval

Thesis: SOC 699 and 15 hrs from relevant course offerings in the DSU Graduate Catalog, with advisor approval

An 18 hr concentration in SOC is optional.

Globalization Studies

- A. GLS 6003
- B. Required Courses.....12

GEO 680 or GEO 690 (3 hrs)
GEO 685 (3 hrs)
Choose at least 3 hrs from GEO 505, 506, or 507
Choose at least 3 hrs from GEO 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 562

- B. Electives.....21

Non-thesis: Choose 21 hrs from relevant course offerings in the DSU Graduate Catalog, with advisor approval

Thesis: GEO 699 and 15 hrs from relevant course offerings in the DSU Graduate Catalog, with advisor approval

An 18 hr concentration in GEO is optional.

Mississippi Delta Studies

- A. GLS 6003
- B. Required: HIS 500 and HIS 631.....6
- C. Electives.....27

Non-thesis: Choose 21 hrs from course offerings in the divisions of Social Sciences & History and Languages & Literature and 6 hrs from other relevant course offerings in the DSU Graduate Catalog, with advisor approval

Thesis: HIS 690 and choose 18 hrs from course offerings in the divisions of Social Sciences & History and Languages & Literature and 3 hrs from other relevant course offerings in the DSU Graduate Catalog, with advisor approval

An 18 hr concentration in HIS is optional.

Philosophy

- A. GLS 6003
- B. Required: PHI 601.....3
- C. Electives.....30

Non-thesis: Choose 30 hrs from relevant course offerings in the DSU Graduate Catalog, with advisor approval

Thesis: PHI 690 and 24 hrs from relevant course offerings in the DSU Graduate Catalog, with advisor approval

An 18 hr concentration in HIS is optional.

Religious Studies

- A. GLS 6003
- B. Required Courses.....12
PHI 601, THL 601 and THL 602
- C. Electives.....24

Non-thesis: Choose 24 hrs from relevant course offerings in the DSU Graduate Catalog, with advisor approval

Thesis: THL 690 and 18 hrs from relevant course offerings in the DSU Graduate Catalog, with advisor approval