Master of Arts in Liberal Studies | Community Leadership

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS IN BRIEF

Alvernia is a Franciscan University rooted in the Catholic and liberal arts traditions, dedicated to the ideals of service in the helping professions. Our rich heritage of service and strong faith resonates in contemporary ways in our campus life and academic programs. Alvernia University’s graduate programs are designed for the focused working professional who places equal value on intellectual achievement and professional growth. Our faculty and staff are committed to teaching, guiding, and supporting our students in all aspects of their experience at Alvernia University, from course selection and scheduling, to connecting with peers and colleagues.

The MALS for Community Leadership is an interdisciplinary program founded in the liberal arts tradition and designed for leadership in sustainable community development. The MALS degree program prepares professionals who will excel in positions of leadership in public and private settings. For the purposes of this program, leadership for sustainability is defined in cultural, economic and environmental terms. The MALS program helps students become agents of social change through critical discussion and analysis of community issues and the creation of graduate level service and/or research projects to mitigate community challenges.

ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

Students are eligible for admission to the Master of Arts in Liberal Studies program when the following criteria have been met:

- Successful completion of undergraduate coursework
- Minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or higher
- Completion of graduate entrance application with supporting documentation

DISTANCE EDUCATION

The MALS in Community Leadership is designed to meet the needs and demanding schedules of adult learners. In addition to course offerings in traditional semester format, courses may be offered periodically in alternative formats including condensed modules, online (electronic), hybrid (part traditional and part electronic), and short-term residencies.

CAREER SUCCESS

At Alvernia University we measure our success by our graduates’ personal and professional satisfaction and by the ways they contribute to the greater good in all areas of society. Individuals who benefit from this program come from non-profit and for-profit sectors including cultural and environmental agencies, human and social services, and governmental agencies. No matter what your aspirations and dreams, we’ll give you the tools and support to help you thrive.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Activity Advisor  Human Relations Manager
Community Organizer  Market Researcher
Data Analyst  Patient Advocate
Diversity Consultant  Policy Analyst
Event Planning Specialist  Program Director
Executive Director  Volunteer Coordinator
CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Master of Arts in Liberal Studies (33 credits)

Community Leadership

Required Interdisciplinary Courses (3 credits):
COR 520 Ethics and Moral Leadership

Required Entry Level Courses (6 credits):
LAS 508 Leadership for Sustainable Communities
LAS 537 Introduction to Research Methods

MALS Elective Courses (up to 21 credits from the following courses):
LAS 542 Cultural Studies & Heritage Conservation
LAS 555 Policy & Policy Analysis
LAS 590 Special Topics
LAS 603 Culture, Ecology, & Religion
LAS 613 Social Justice & Ethics
LAS 620 Cross-Cultural Conflicts in our Communities
LAS 638 Sustaining our Environment
LAS 679 Independent Research
LAS 680 Thesis
LAS 690 Special Topics

Required Capstone Course (3 or 6 credits):
LAS 670 Seminar with Supervised Field Experience in Community Service (6 credits)
LAS 671 Seminar with Supervised Field Experience in Community Service (repeatable for MALS degree) (3 credits)

Special Topics Course Policy & Cohort Development:
Students may substitute up to nine (9) credits from the LAS elective courses for special topic courses. This option may be useful especially for cohort development in which a grouping of special topic courses could be developed to meet specific community and/or organizational needs. These nine credits would form a modular curricular plan (MCP) for cohorts to focus on one of three areas of sustainability within the program: culture, economics, or environment.

Independent Research & Thesis Course Options:
LAS 679 Independent Research
LAS 680 Thesis

MALS Internal Transfer Policy
MALS students may take up to nine (9) credits from other Alvernia University master level programs that can be counted toward the MALS elective courses. When taking a graduate course outside the MALS program, students must get approval from the graduate program coordinator in which that course resides. Possible courses already in place at Alvernia include but are not limited to:

MBA 506 Economics & Finance
MBA 520 Marketing Services
MBA 610 Legal Environment
MCC 500 Introduction to Counseling
MED 600 Language & Literacy in Cross-Cultural Settings

MALS External Transfer Policy
Students may transfer up to six (6) credits from another accredited institution of higher education upon approval of the MALS Coordinator on the Alvernia University main campus. Transferred courses must be related to the MALS program mission and objectives.

LOCATIONS
Students can choose to take classes where and when it is most convenient. This program is offered on campus at our Reading and Philadelphia locations.

CONTACT INFORMATION
School of Graduate Studies
Phone: 1.888.ALVERNIA ext. 6 (1.888.258.3764/610.796.5187)
graduate@alvernia.edu
www.alvernia.edu

12/13