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 (6 credits):
COR 510  Morals Leadership
COR 600  Organizational & Professional Ethics
(taken within the final 12 credits)

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

Required Courses (up to 15 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 (6 credits):
LAS 670  Seminar with Supervised Field Experience in Community Service

Special Topics Course Policy & Cohort Development:
Students may substitute up to nine (9) credits from the LAS course rotation 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 course rotation. Possible courses already in place at Alvernia include but are not limited to:
MBA 506  Economics & Finance  MCC 520  Counseling Theories
MBA 520  Marketing Services  MED 500  Curriculum Innovations
MBA 610  Legal Environment  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.

CONTACT INFORMATION
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