



The world awaits...

Interested in Exploring Global Studies?

Excelsior College's fully online Master of Arts in Liberal Studies (MALS) could be right for you.

Q: Why would I choose a Master of Arts in Liberal Studies degree with a Global Studies Focus?

A: Are you interested in history, politics or current affairs? Globalization has changed the world. In virtually every career field, knowledge of individual worldview, the expansion of trade, social structures, and global interactions contributes to the ability for us all to more fully understand ourselves and the world around us. Business leaders, industry leaders, educators, nonprofit organization workers, those in the government, public service and lifelong learners all benefit from understanding global issues that shape the world's economy, reflect current politics and prepare you for the future.

Q: Why Liberal Studies?

A: An interdisciplinary liberal arts education gives you a broader vision and perspective and increases your ability to think both creatively and critically. It allows you to ponder your place in the world and the place of those around you. Core classes range from the study of classical literature to an understanding of capitalism and its roots and cross cultural understanding. In today's world and marketplace, knowledge of other cultures, practices and communication is essential. The MALS degree will provide you with not only focused study in Global issues but also basic understanding of the human condition, history of thought, meaning and identity and allow you to explore your own unique perspective on topics of your choice.

Q: What courses would I be taking?

A: The core of our program will introduce you to an important knowledge base including critical thinking and analysis, research, interdisciplinary study, cross cultural understanding and problem solving. During your first tier of study you start by studying the individual in classes like Mindsets: Cross Cultural Understanding which is based in autobiographical writing, allowing you to understand the individual aspects of cultural difference before moving forward to look at issues and actions on a global scale. In your second tier of study, you would focus on Global Studies issues with classes like:

- Geopolitical Brinkmanship
- Insecurity in the World
- Theories of Conflict and Conflict Resolution
- Religion in Society and World Politics

Take charge of your education, developing a course plan that works for you and your unique interests. For our most flexible option, you can also design your own classes with a veteran faculty member and the help of your academic advisor.

Sample Course Plan

Tier One

MLS500 Graduate Research and Writing
MLS623 The Search for Meaning and Identity in the Contemporary World
MLS673 Mindsets: Cross Cultural Understanding
MLS632 Capitalism and its Impact

Tier Two

MLS685 Strategic Problem Solving
MLS664 Geopolitical Brinkmanship
MLS665 Insecurity in the World
MLS669 Economic Development in Lesser Developed Countries
MLS 662 Ethics in a Changing World

Tier Three

MLS697 Methodology or MLS703 Historiography
MLS799 The Master's Thesis

Q: What is the Master's thesis and what is involved?

- A. The master's thesis gives you an opportunity to fine tune and expand your written communication skills, the value of which cannot be overestimated.

There are two options for fulfilling the thesis requirement:

The Creative thesis: For the capstone, you would choose a topic important to you and which would reflect your personal intellectual curiosity and passions. The end product would be a creative piece and an accompanying research piece. You could choose to write a collection of short stories, novella, book of poetry, screenplay or original artwork or musical composition.

The Research based thesis: Choosing a topic that is meaningful for you and excites you is the key to successes in meeting the capstone requirement. Choose an interdisciplinary topic you want to know more about and become expert in. Your topic should include at least two liberal studies disciplines.

In either case, you work with three distinguished faculty readers to help accomplish this goal including the Program Director and Academic Advisor who will have worked with you throughout your program of study and will provide continued support.

Q: Are there non thesis options to complete the degree?

- A. Yes. There is also a course based option. This capstone is 8 weeks and 3 credits. It will cover the Harlem Renaissance. This capstone is an excellent way to cap off your understanding of interdisciplinary studies. However, the thesis option allows you to explore a topic in Global Studies which would be more appropriate with this focus.

Student Support - You will receive continued support during your course of study with a national award winning academic advisor and recipient of [Distinguished Faculty Member](#) of the year award, Dr. Tracy Caldwell, PhD. She will be there for you throughout your entire course of study!