

LIBERAL AND INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES, M.A.

1100 West Market St.

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The M.A. in Liberal and Interdisciplinary Studies program provides students and working professionals a unique mix of knowledge, tools, and experience that are relevant to the current world and its complexity. Program readings and assignments encourage students to think creatively, question assumptions, and imagine solutions to real-world problems thus creating a pathway to transformative thinking.

Transformative Thinking

Students bring their unique skills, knowledge and values to the program and work toward connecting the dots between big ideas, historic movements, and global events. The program helps students gain mastery in the following five attributes to become a transformative thinker and doer.

1. Intellectual curiosity (develop the desire to dig deep, be creative, experiment, and take risks in order to learn).
2. Integrative thinking (see the big picture, think holistically, recognize patterns, and make imaginative leaps based on those patterns).
3. Intercultural competence (understand cultural differences to help one think, act, and move beyond global, cultural, and organizational boundaries).
4. Adaptability (be flexible, agile when handling change, resilient in ambiguous situations, and able to find unexpected solutions).
5. Empathy (demonstrate effective listening, collaboration, and communication skills and be humble enough to be inclusive and considerate of the views of others).

Program Format

Liberal and Interdisciplinary Studies courses are seven weeks long, asynchronous (no set class times), and offered online. Assignments and projects have set due dates, but otherwise the program offers the flexibility for students to pursue their degree without synchronous class meetings. At the same time, instructors use a variety of tools to personalize the online classroom.

The Capstone course follows the completion of four core courses and five electives and provides the opportunity to students to synthesize and apply their learning to a project of their choosing, such as a current challenge in their workplace or community.

For information regarding deadlines and requirements for admission, please see <https://grs.uncg.edu/programs/>.

In addition to the application materials required by the Graduate School, applicants must submit a three- to four-page essay describing their academic background and interest in liberal and interdisciplinary studies and the program.

Degree Program Requirements

Required: 30 credit hours

| Code | Title | Credit Hours |
|--|---|--------------|
| Core Courses (12 credits) | | |
| <i>Humanities Series (3 credits)</i> | | |
| Select one course (3 credits) from the following: | | 3 |
| MAS 610 | Culture and Ideas | |
| MAS 611 | Design Thinking | |
| MAS 612 | The Contemporary World | |
| MAS 613 | Literature of Migration | |
| MAS 614 | Global Arts | |
| MAS 615 | The Reel World: Contemporary History on Screen | |
| MAS 616 | Creative Expression – Making Poetry | |
| MAS 617 | Modern China | |
| <i>Social Sciences Series Course (3 credits)</i> | | |
| Select one course (3 credits) from the following: | | 3 |
| MAS 620 | Human Nature and Society | |
| MAS 621 | Systems Thinking | |
| MAS 622 | Global Trade | |
| MAS 623 | Global Human Rights | |
| MAS 624 | Dignity, Identity, and Power | |
| MAS 625 | Dangerous Minds: Terrorism, Political Violence, and Radical Orthodoxies | |
| MAS 626 | Ethical Leadership | |
| MAS 627 | Simple Living in a Complex Age | |
| <i>Scientific Reasoning Series Courses (6 credits)</i> | | |
| Select two courses (6 credits) from the following: | | 6 |
| MAS 630 | Scientific Reasoning | |
| MAS 631 | Understanding Data | |
| MAS 633 | Science, Environment, and the Media | |
| GES 632 | Geography of Livable Cities | |
| GES 688 | Topics in Environmental Sciences | |
| Elective Courses (15 credits) | | |
| Select 15 credits of elective courses * | | 15 |
| Capstone Experience (3 credits) | | |
| MAS 695 | Applied Capstone Experience | 3 |
| Total Credit Hours | | 30 |

* From any MAS graduate courses not applied to the Core Courses requirement. Students may select up to 12 credits of electives from 600-level courses outside of MAS with approval from their advisor.