

## Master of Arts Liberal Studies

### Program / Student Learning Outcomes: What Will I Learn?

Select an outcome statement to see the related measures and results. Graduates of the Master of Arts in Liberal Studies program will be able to:

1. [Demonstrate the integration and application of knowledge in two or more liberal arts and science disciplines.](#)
2. [Evaluate arguments for logical coherence and supporting evidence.](#)
3. [Create connections between issues and their historical and/or social context.](#)
4. [Demonstrate an understanding of cultural differences and knowledge of contributions from various cultures.](#)
5. [Demonstrate critical and analytical thought in the examination of a range of issues by designing and implementing a substantive research investigation.](#)

**Assessment Methodology**
**Metrics, Assessments, and Levels of Achievement**

The table below provides a brief overview of the measures selected to assess program outcomes for the Masters in Liberal Studies program. Assessment of program outcomes includes both direct and indirect measures. Benchmarks have been established to differentiate between three levels of program outcome achievement (exceeds expectations, meets expectations, and does not meet expectations). These three levels of achievement are color coded and used in the section below to indicate the level of achievement for each measure, for each learning outcome.

Metric Type	Direct Measures		Indirect Measures	
	Assessments	Master's Thesis Research Paper or Capstone course MLS798	Course-Embedded	Exit Survey
Metrics	The percentage of the students demonstrating mastery of the learning outcome in their master's thesis.	The percentage of the students demonstrating mastery of the learning outcome in the course embedded assessment.	The mean of the graduates' perceptions of their achievement of the related program outcomes (on a 6-pt Likert-type scale).	The mean of the graduates' perceptions of their achievement of the related program outcome (on a 6-pt Likert-type scale).
Exceeds Expectations	≥ 95% of work Meets Expectations, 25% Exceeds Expectations, and <5% Does Not Meet Expectations	≥ 85% of work Meets Expectations, ≥ 15% Exceeds Expectations, and ≤15% Does Not Meet Expectations	Mean ≥ 5%	

Meets Expectations	At least 90% of student work Meets Expectations, and ≤10% of student work Does Not Meet Expectations	At least 80% of student work Meets Expectations, and ≤20% of student work Does Not Meet Expectations	4.0 - 4.99
Does Not Meet Expectations	< 90% of work Meets Expectations, and/or >10% Does Not Meet Expectations	< 80% of work Meets Expectations, and/or >20% Does Not Meet Expectations	Mean < 4

*Note: The results of the one year post-graduation survey are used as a reference to provide a longitudinal perspective on students' perception of their attainment of program (student) outcomes.*

**Key:**

Result
N

### Program / Student Learning Outcome Achievement Results

Direct Measures January 2016 to December 2016; Indirect Measures September 2015 to June 2016 Graduates (Exit Survey) and July 2014 to September 2014 Graduates (One-Year Survey)

#### Program / Student Learning Outcome 1

Demonstrate the integration and application of knowledge in two or more liberal arts and science disciplines.

Direct Measure		Indirect Measure	
The Master's Thesis Research Paper	100%	Exit Survey	5.40
	n = 3		n = 17
MLS623 The Search for Meaning and Identity in the Contemporary World	95.7%	One-Year Survey	5.83
	n = 46		n = 14

Assignment/Project in MLS798 Capstone	100%
	n = 19

**Program / Student Learning Outcome 2**

Evaluate arguments for logical coherence and supporting evidence.

Direct Measure		Indirect Measure	
The Master's Thesis Research Paper	100%	Exit Survey	5.53
	n = 3		n = 17
Assignment/Project in MLS697	95%	One-Year Survey	5.67
	n = 20		n = 14
Writing Assignment in 500 Graduate Research and Writing	67.7%		
	n = 31		

**Program / Student Learning Outcome 3**

Create connections between issues and their historical and/or social context.

Direct Measure		Indirect Measure	
The Master's Thesis Research Paper	100%	Exit Survey	5.40
	n = 3		n = 17
Assignment in MLS634, MLS624, and LMS632	87.7%	One-Year Survey	5.83
	n = 73		n = 14

Assignment/Project in MLS798 Capstone	100%
	n = 19

**Program / Student Learning Outcome 4**

Demonstrate an understanding of cultural differences and knowledge of contributions from various cultures.

Direct Measure		Indirect Measure	
The Master's Thesis Research Paper	100%	Exit Survey	5.47
	n = 3		n = 17
MLS673 Mindsets: Cross Cultural Understanding	98%	One-Year Survey	5.50
	n = 40		n = 14
Assignment/Project in MLS798 Capstone	100%		
	n = 19		

**Program / Student Learning Outcome 5**

Demonstrate critical and analytical thought in the examination of a range of issues by designing and implementing a substantive research investigation.

Direct Measure		Indirect Measure	
The Master's Thesis Research Paper	100%	Exit Survey	5.40
	n = 3		n = 17
Assignment in 500 Graduate Research and Writing	78%	One-Year Survey	5.58
	n = 49		n = 14

Assignment/Project in MLS798 Capstone	100%
	n = 19