
**MASTER OF ARTS IN LIBERAL STUDIES
PROGRAM CONTRACT
WORKING DRAFT**

Student's Name: _____

Student I.D. _____ Date: _____

Program Title: _____

Expected Semester of Graduation: _____

APPROVED

Student: _____
Signature Date

M.A.L.S. Office: _____
Signature Date

Important Information about Your M.A.L.S. Contract

General Information

1. Your M.A.L.S. contract must be typed, single-spaced, size 12 font only.
2. Be certain you answer all requests thoroughly and thoughtfully.
3. When the working draft of your contract has been approved in the MALS office, it becomes an agreement between you and The University of Memphis for the fulfillment of the requirements for a Master of Arts in Liberal Studies Degree from University College. The contract may be amended only through the process described in the “Student Handbook.”
4. A copy of the approved “working draft” will be returned to you. The original copy will be kept in the M.A.L.S. office. When you are assigned to a Faculty advisor, a copy of the “working draft” will be sent to your advisor. You and your advisor should meet periodically to review the contract and your progress.
5. Before you can be cleared to register for your last semester, the “working draft” and the “final draft” of the Program Contract must be submitted to the M.A.L.S. office for approval. Copies of the “Final Draft” are available in the M.A.L.S. office. Please refer to the “Student Handbook” for further directions.

Specific Requirements

1. At least 24 semester hours of your M.A.L.S. program must come from courses numbered 7000.
2. Your Coordinated Study program must be made up of courses from at least two different departments.
3. Your Coordinated Study program may contain no more than 12 semester hours from a single department.
4. Because some of the courses in your Coordinated Study may not be offered while you are a M.A.L.S. student, be sure to enter the three optional courses where called for in the “working draft” of the program contract.

Directions

Use your computer to respond to each request under “Academic Goal Statement” and “Special Project” on the following page. Type each item; then type your response under it. When you have finished, organize the materials in this order: “Academic Goal Statement,” “M.A.L.S. Program: Working Draft,” “Special Project.” Staple these materials behind the cover sheet.

Academic Goal Statement

1. “Reflective thought” is central to all liberal learning. “Reflective thought” is the form of thinking by which we try to understand the origins of our beliefs and actions and the consequences to which they might lead us. Explain why you entered the M.A.L.S. program at this point in your life. Discuss the goals you are pursuing in the program and explain how accomplishing those goals will benefit you in the future.
2. A “Coordinated Study” is a program of study in which a group of courses work together to develop a specific program theme. State the theme of your program, explain how you developed it, and explain how your theme is consistent with the goals and purposes of liberal studies.
3. Identify each of the seven courses you have selected for your Coordinated Study (e.g., Sociology 7851, Medical Sociology) and explain how each (1) contributes to the development of the theme of your program and (2) complements the other courses in your Coordinated Study. Then list the courses in the spaces provided on the sheet entitled, “M.A.L.S. Program: Working Draft.”
4. Because some of the courses in your Coordinated Study may not be offered while you are in the program, identify three alternative courses and explain why each course would make a suitable substitution in your program of study. Then list the courses in the space provided on the “working draft” sheet.

Special Project

The Special Project is the last requirement for the degree. It should be a substantial piece of independent research or a significant artistic performance that is logically consistent with the theme of your program. Although your idea for your Special Project may be tentative at this time, describe it as best you can in responding the following requests. Entitle this section of your work “Special Project.”

1. State the proposed title of your Special Project.
2. State the purpose of your Special Project and describe the activities you will undertake to complete it.
3. Explain how the topic of your Special Project is related to your Coordinated Study.
4. Describe how the courses in your Coordinated Study will provide you the knowledge necessary to undertake and complete your project.
5. Each project must produce a tangible product to leave on file in the M.A.L.S. office. Describe the tangible product of your Special Project (for example, a research paper, a video production, a portfolio, a field-based study, a model for humanistic interactions, an instructional program, a stage production, etc.).
6. All Special Projects must have a formal written, research component. If you are not planning to complete a research paper, please state what the written research component of your project will be.

