



WESTERN
ILLINOIS
UNIVERSITY

INTEGRATED BACCALAUREATE DEGREE IN FOREIGN LANGUAGES & CULTURES (BA) AND MASTER OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES (MLAS)

Higher Values in Higher Education
Academic Excellence • Educational Opportunity
Personal Growth • Social Responsibility

The Integrated Foreign Languages & Cultures Baccalaureate and Master's Degree in Liberal Arts and Sciences Program provides an opportunity for outstanding undergraduate Foreign Languages & Cultures majors to complete both a Bachelor of Arts in Foreign Languages & Cultures and a Master of Liberal Arts and Sciences (MLAS) in five years. This program gives Foreign Languages & Cultures majors an opportunity to examine their undergraduate curriculum through another linguistic and cultural lens. As they pursue graduate-level study, students develop an appreciation and understanding of the principles and methodologies of a variety of disciplines in the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, and mathematics.



Admission Requirements

Undergraduate Foreign Languages & Cultures students may apply for admission into the integrated baccalaureate and master's degree program after completing 60 SH of undergraduate coursework. Application for admission to the Integrated BA Foreign Languages & Cultures/MLAS Degree Program requires a cumulative grade point average of 3.25 or higher as well as a major GPA of at least 3.25.

To apply to the integrated program, students are to submit the following documents to the School of Graduate Studies:

- A School of Graduate Studies Application form (available at wiu.edu/grad)
- Official transcripts from each college or university previously attended
- A 1- to 2-page personal statement that explains their larger personal career goals and how the MLAS degree will further those objectives
- An academic paper of at least 5 to 10 pages that demonstrates an ability to develop a thesis and make a sustained, well-researched argument
- Three confidential letters of recommendation

Benefits of an Integrated Degree

- **Start graduate courses earlier.** Upon acceptance, integrated degree students may take up to three graduate courses that can count toward both undergraduate and MLAS degrees (called "bridge" courses). As a result, integrated degree students get a "jump start" on their graduate degree and eventual career.
- **Save money.** Integrated degree students have 9 SH fewer of tuition/fee expenses, and they can "lock in" the tuition rate in the *Graduate Catalog* from when they first continually enroll at WIU.
- **Acquire a unique credential.** Integrated degree students acquire concrete, practical language skills while developing higher order analytical skills as they work across disciplines. This broad range of skills and flexibility is in demand by employers.

Integrated Degree Requirements

Students in the integrated BA Foreign Languages & Cultures/MLAS degree program may use up to 9 SH of the following bridge courses in both the BA Foreign Languages & Cultures and the MLAS degrees:

- FL 450G Foreign Language Workshop (1 to 6 SH) limited to 3 SH for bridge credit
- FR 438G/B 20th Century French Literature (3 SH)
- SPAN 401G/B Modern Spanish Syntax I (3 SH)
- SPAN 402G/B Modern Spanish Syntax II (3 SH)
- SPAN 408G/B Spanish Civilization and Culture (3 SH)
- SPAN 409G/B Spanish American Civilization (3 SH)
- SPAN 449G/B Spanish for Content-Based Instruction (3 SH)
- SPAN 452G/B Spanish Literature of the 19th Century (3 SH)
- SPAN 453G/B The Generation of 1898 (3 SH)
- SPAN 454G/B Spanish Literature of the 20th Century (3 SH)
- SPAN 456G/B Masterpieces of Spanish American Literature (3 SH)
- SPAN 457G/B Contemporary Spanish American Prose (3 SH)
- SPAN 460G Professional Readings in Spanish (1 SH repeatable to 3 SH for different topics)

If taken after the undergraduate degree has been completed, these courses should not be taken with the "B" designator.

Undergraduate Degree Requirements—Bachelor of Arts in Foreign Languages & Cultures

The minimum semester-hour requirement for the baccalaureate degree is 120 SH. All students seeking the integrated BA Foreign Languages & Cultures/MLAS degree must fulfill the requirements for the BA in Foreign Languages & Cultures (for a complete explanation of requirements, please refer to the *Undergraduate Catalog*):

- I. University General Education and College of Arts and Sciences Curriculum Requirements (60 SH)
- II. Core Courses (13 SH)
 - A. FL 101 and 490 (4 SH)
 - B. 300-level language:
 1. Conversation in the primary language: FR/GER/SPAN 325 (3 SH)
 2. Composition in the primary language: FR/GER/SPAN 326† (3 SH)
 3. Introduction to Literature in the primary language: FR/GER/SPAN 327 (3 SH)

“The Liberal Arts and Sciences integrated program has provided me with many opportunities. I enjoyed taking graduate courses as an undergraduate because the courses were challenging and rewarding. Also, the dual credits and time length for the program were appealing because it allowed me to not only challenge myself as a student but also consider my financial needs. Overall, this program has allowed me to customize my degree without financially straining myself.”

WIU.EDU/LAS

– Ashley Clinton, BLAS/MLAS integrated degree student



III. Directed Electives (9-14 SH)

- FR/GER/SPAN 400-level linguistic or literature course in the primary language (3 SH)
- FR/GER/SPAN 400-level civilization course in the primary language (3 SH)
- Secondary language (Must be different from the primary language) (3-8 SH)

Choose one of the following:

- Two semesters of another foreign language at the elementary level: CHIN/FR/ GER/JPN/SPAN 121/122
- One semester of another foreign language at the intermediate level: CHIN/FR/ GER/JPN/SPAN 223/224

IV. Departmental Electives (5-10 SH)

Notes:

- At least 6 SH should be taken in the primary language
- FR/GER/SPAN 121, if taken as the primary language, does not count toward the 32 SH major requirement

V. Approved minor (16-20 SH)

Only one course (up to 5 SH) of the secondary language may be used in the minor.

VI. Open Electives (4-17 SH)

†FR/GER/SPAN 326 fulfills the Writing Instruction in the Disciplines (WID) graduation requirement.

Graduate Degree Requirements—Master of Liberal Arts and Sciences

I. Core Courses (9 SH)

- LAS 501 Tradition and Change: Focus on the History and Foreign Languages & Cultures of the Sciences (3 SH)
- LAS 502 Tradition and Change: Focus on the Social Sciences (3 SH)
- LAS 503 Tradition and Change: Focus on the Humanities (3 SH)

II. Electives (18 SH)

Any College of Arts and Sciences Post-Baccalaureate Certificate and/or Directed Electives approved by the Director of Liberal Arts and Sciences. No more than 3 SH of electives may be independent work. No more than 9 SH of bridge courses in Foreign Languages & Cultures may count toward both the BA in Foreign Languages & Cultures and the MLAS.

III. Select one of the following exit options (6 SH)

A. Thesis

LAS 667 Thesis (6 SH)

B. Internship

LAS 695 Internship Preparation (3 SH)

LAS 696 Internship (3 SH)

C. Applied Project

LAS 699 Applied Project (6 SH)

Total Program: 33 SH

Distinctive Features

The integrated BA Foreign Languages & Cultures/MLAS degree program has many distinctive features and opportunities for its students:

- Research and Scholarly Activities** – Integrated students participate in many activities: departmental conferences, WIU Graduate Research Conference, speaker events, and professionalization workshops. Students are also active in the LAS Graduate Student Organization (LASGO) in Macomb and the LAS Student Organization (LASSO) in the Quad Cities, and they participate in German, Spanish, and French Conversation Hours.
- Flexible Program Structure** – For their exit option, students can write a thesis, develop an applied project, or pursue an internship. Through a close mentoring relationship with a faculty director, individuals choose and tailor their exit options to meet their personal or professional goals, including preparation for further graduate work, a new career, or advancement within a current career.

Contact Information

For admissions process and general program information, contact the School of Graduate Studies, Western Illinois University, 1 University Circle, Macomb, IL 61455, (309) 298-1806, (877) WIU GRAD toll-free, Grad-Office@wiu.edu, wiu.edu/grad.

For questions about the *undergraduate* portion of the program, contact Department of Foreign Languages & Literatures, Morgan Hall 332, Western Illinois University, 1 University Circle, Macomb, IL 61455, (309) 298-1558, languages@wiu.edu, wiu.edu/languages.

For specific questions about the *graduate* portion of the program, contact Dr. Amy Mossman, Director, Liberal Arts and Sciences Program, Tillman Hall 301B, Western Illinois University, 1 University Circle, Macomb, IL 61455, (309) 298-3025, grad-las@wiu.edu, wiu.edu/las.

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