



WESTERN
ILLINOIS
UNIVERSITY

INTEGRATED BACCALAUREATE AND MASTER'S DEGREE IN LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES

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

The Integrated Baccalaureate and Master's Degree Program in Liberal Arts and Sciences provides an opportunity for outstanding undergraduate Liberal Arts and Sciences majors to complete both Bachelor and Master of Liberal Arts and Sciences (BLAS and MLAS) degrees in five years. This interdisciplinary program promotes an advanced level of critique, analysis, and comparison across disciplines. Students explore the broad questions faced by human beings, as well as the specific means by which individual disciplines in the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, and mathematics have addressed these questions.



Macomb Campus

Admission Requirements

Undergraduate Liberal Arts and Sciences (LAS) students may apply for admission to the Integrated Baccalaureate and Master's Degree Program (IBMP) after completing 60 semester hours (SH) of undergraduate coursework, of which a minimum of 30 SH must be at Western Illinois University. Applicants for admission to the integrated program in LAS must have a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.25 and 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

Applications will not be reviewed until all materials have been received.

Integrated Degree Course Requirements

Admission must be granted by the School of Graduate Studies before a student will be allowed to enroll in IBMP bridge ("B") courses. Students may begin taking bridge courses after the completion of 90 SH. Students in the integrated program may use up to 9 SH of bridge ("B") courses to satisfy both the BLAS and

MLAS degrees. A&S 495G/B and LAS 501/501B, 502/502B, and 503/503B may be taken as bridge courses to fulfill requirements in the integrated program.

BLAS Portion

The minimum semester-hour requirement for the Bachelor of Liberal Arts and Sciences (BLAS) degree is 120 SH. All students seeking the integrated BLAS/MLAS degree must fulfill the following for the BLAS degree (for a complete explanation of requirements, please refer to the *Undergraduate Catalog*):

- I. University General Education and College of Arts and Sciences Bachelor of Liberal Arts and Sciences Requirements: 57 SH
- II. Core Courses: 6 SH
A&S 195 Introduction to Liberal Arts and Sciences (3 SH)
A&S 495/495B Liberal Arts and Sciences Senior Capstone (3 SH)
- III. Emphases of Study (select Multidisciplinary Studies Emphasis Environment Emphasis, or Paired Minor Emphasis; at least 18 SH must be at the 300 or 400 level): at least 33 SH
- IV. Minor: minimum of 16-24 SH
- V. Open Electives: 0-8 SH

MLAS Portion

The Master of Liberal Arts and Sciences (MLAS) program's core courses provide a broad overview of the three areas of the arts and sciences: humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences and mathematics. The electives allow students to develop their interdisciplinary interests through courses across the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS). Finally, the exit option is an opportunity to apply coursework through a thesis, applied project, or internship experience, depending on the student's educational, personal, and career goals.

“What I like the most about the Liberal Arts and Sciences integrated degree is the multidisciplinary nature of the program. I feel like I have had the opportunity to take control of my education and design my plan of study according to what interests me the most. My experience in the program has challenged my mind, allowed me to express my creativity, and provided me with the critical thinking skills that are valued by many employers.”

WIU.EDU/LAS

– Heather Powless, BLAS/MLAS integrated degree student



Distinctive Features

The BLAS/MLAS integrated program has many distinctive features and opportunities for its students:

- **Flexible Program Structure** – In addition to a variety of elective options, students can write a thesis, work on an applied project, or pursue an internship. All of these options feature a close working relationship with a faculty director chosen from the graduate faculty within the CAS.
- **Research and Scholarly Activities** – There are many activities in which students in the program can participate: annual departmental conferences; WIU Graduate Research Conference; departmental, College, and University speaker events; professionalization workshops; and graduate organizations, clubs, and so on. In Macomb, LAS students are active in the LAS Graduate Student Organization (LASGO).

Degree Requirements

The minimum semester-hour requirement for the master's degree is 33 SH. All students seeking the integrated BLAS/MLAS degree must fulfill the following for the MLAS degree:

- Core Courses: 9 SH
 - LAS 501/501B Tradition and Change: Focus on the History and Philosophy of the Sciences (3 SH)
 - LAS 502/502B Tradition and Change: Focus on the Social Sciences (3 SH)
 - LAS 503/503B Tradition and Change: Focus on the Humanities (3 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: 18 SH
- Select One of the Following Exit Options: 6 SH
 - *Thesis*
LAS 667 Thesis (6 SH)
 - *Internship*
LAS 695 Internship Preparation (3 SH)
LAS 696 Internship (3 SH)
 - *Applied Project*
LAS 699 Applied Project (6 SH)

Total Program: 33 SH

Career Opportunities and Personal Development

The LAS integrated program offers interdisciplinary degrees emphasizing comparative critical thinking, communication, and the application of a broad range of methodologies and applied skills. The degrees prepare graduates to adapt to different social and professional contexts, and to be creative problem solvers. Students who plan their coursework and graduate exit option in consultation with faculty mentors open a variety of opportunities for new employment, career advancement, or further study.

Assistantships and Other Funding Opportunities

There are numerous funding opportunities available for graduate students in the program through awards, scholarships, and fellowships in the Graduate School, as well as university-wide assistantships.

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 specific program questions, 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. Check out www.facebook.com/LASWIU. Follow us on Twitter @LASWIU.