

# POLITICAL SCIENCE | MASTER OF LIBERAL STUDIES (POLITICAL LEADERSHIP AND PUBLIC SERVICE)

## About the Program

Our communities - local, state, regional, national, and global - face a multiplicity of vexing challenges but also offer numerous opportunities for "the common citizen" to have a positive impact on economic, political, cultural, social, and religious matters. You may be one of many individuals who help out in a community organization, non-profit organization, or church. Or you may want to take your duties as a citizen seriously and get involved in some way. Undoubtedly, you work in either the public, non-profit, or private sector. Whatever the case, it is our hope that this MLS concentration will help you develop a knowledge base and skills that will empower you to more ably contribute to the communities and organizations that are important to you - and to us, too.

In order to achieve these goals, this MLS concentration centers on three basic aspects of our current condition:

1. political institutions and processes,
2. leadership and change-making, and
3. ethics.

Each of these three basic aspects, and the learning goals associated with them, are briefly described below. After that, the courses in curriculum of the concentration are listed (course descriptions are included).

- **Political Institutions and Processes:** Political leadership and civic engagement requires a solid working knowledge of government and non-governmental organizations and processes. Students will understand political dynamics and develop capacities to influence the public policymaking processes.
- **Leadership and Change-Making:** Effective political leadership and civic engagement in democratic societies is intended to produce change for the common good. This process requires students to initiate and sustain grassroots change and to develop variety of analytic, communication, and network abilities.
- **Ethics and Political Leadership and Civic Engagement:** Perhaps the greatest challenge facing today's leaders is establishing high ethical standards. Students will develop the moral and social responsibilities necessary for political and civic leaders as they mobilize the citizenry to confront the challenges of our society.

## Program Overview

Code	Title	Hours
<b>MLS Core Courses</b>		
IDS 801	Introduction to Graduate Liberal Studies	1
IDS 802	Ways of Knowing in Comparative Perspective	3
IDS 803	Origins and Implications of the Knowledge Society	3
IDS 804	Information Literacy	3
<b>Concentration Core</b>		

COMM 810	Organizational Communication and Leadership	3
LDRS 640G	Principles of Civic Leadership	3
LDRS 801	Theoretical Foundations of Leadership	3
LDRS 818	Ethical Leadership	3
Select one course from the following:		3
POLS 611G	Policy Analysis	
POLS 621G	American Civil Liberties	
POLS 651G	Recent Political Theories	
POLS 653G	American Political Thought	
Select one course from the following:		3
POLS 664G	Political Behavior	
POLS 665G	Interest Groups and Lobbying	
<b>Culminating Experience</b>		
Select one course from the following:		3
IDS 820	Projects in Liberal or Professional Studies	
IDS 890	Internship in Liberal or Professional Studies	
Course Approved by MLS coordinator		
Masters Degree Comprehensive Examination/Assessment		
Masters Degree Comprehensive Examination/Assessment (Concentration)		
<b>Total Hours</b>		<b>31</b>

## Graduate School Graduation Requirements

### All Graduate degrees <sup>1</sup> require:

- Maintain a C or higher in all coursework.
- Maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher. (Refer to program)
- A minimum of 30-75 hours of Graduate course work. (Refer to program)
- Comprehensive Examination or equivalent assessment is required. (Master of Liberal Studies requires a Comprehensive Examination **and** Concentration Exam)
- Degree completion within 8 years.

<sup>1</sup> Refer to degree program for any additional requirements.

### Note for MLS and MPS degree concentrations:

**Master of Liberal Studies (MLS)** programs are administratively housed within the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences but are listed in the catalog within the academic unit related to the relevant concentration area for ease in navigation.

**Master of Professional Studies (MPS)** programs are administratively housed within the College of Health and Behavioral Sciences but are listed in the catalog within the academic unit related to the relevant concentration area for ease in navigation.