

3-18-1985

Proposed Changes in Master of Arts in Liberal Studies Program

The College at Brockport, College Senate

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Resolution #19, 1984-85

TO: President John E. Van de Wetering

FROM: The Faculty Senate

Meeting on 3/18/85

RE: X I. Formal Resolution (Act of Determination)
II. Recommendation (Urging the fitness of)
III. Other (Notice, Request, Report, etc.)

SUBJECT: Proposed Changes in the Master of Arts in Liberal Studies Program



(see attached)

Signed [Signature] Date Sent 8/20/85
(For the Senate)
Kenneth P. O'Brien, President, Faculty Senate

TO: The Faculty Senate

FROM: President John E. Van de Wetering

RE: I. Decision and Action Taken on Formal Resolution

- a. Accepted. Effective Date Fall 85
- b. Deferred for discussion with the Faculty Senate on _____
- c. Unacceptable for the reasons contained in the attached explanation

II., III. a. Received and acknowledged

b. Comment:

DISTRIBUTION: Vice Presidents: All attached list

Others:

Distribution Date: 3/26/85

Signed: [Signature]
(President of the College)

Date Received by the Senate: _____

Proposed Changes in the Master of Arts
in Liberal Studies Program

March 7, 1985

Admission Requirements

1. Bachelor's degree from an accredited institution.
2. Written essay (100-200) words on reasons for wishing to enroll in the program.
3. Personal interview.
4. 3.0 GPA or better undergraduate record.

or

satisfactory performance on GRE.

or

Six hours of graduate level courses successfully completed.

Administration

The Administration of the MALS Program shall rest with the Dean of Letters and Science, or his/her designee.

The Dean shall appoint a standing Committee, consisting of the Chairpersons or Designees of interested Departments and others, who shall act as a Faculty Advisory Committee to the MALS Program. The Committee shall be responsible for advising the Dean regarding the suitability of existing and proposed courses for the MALS Program and additional responsibilities as the Dean shall see fit. This Committee shall also act to accept students into the MALS Program.

Faculty members who wish their courses to be included in the MALS curriculum should submit a proposed or existing syllabus to the Dean, with a statement as to why the course is suitable for the MALS Program.

Only courses which require a substantial research component shall be eligible for inclusion in the MALS curriculum.

Courses designated for inclusion in the MALS curriculum shall retain that designation for no more than two years, after which the course must be reviewed.

Curriculum

A total of 30 credits of graduate level courses are required.

Each candidate shall be required to complete successfully three specially designated interdisciplinary courses, one each in the Humanities, Social Sciences, and Natural Sciences. At least one course shall be available every semester, beginning in the Fall, 1985.

In addition two other 600-level graduate courses must be completed, for a total of 15 graduate credits at this level.

The remaining 15 hours may be taken in any of the graduate courses offered by the College which are designated as suitable for MALS students. No more than 9 hours shall be taken in any single discipline or department. A maximum of 9 hours may be taken from the professional disciplines.

Students may opt for up to 6 hours in the form of independent study projects, provided the number of hours in any discipline does not exceed 9.

LS 610 Humanities Seminar

Main Currents in Western Thought. An interdisciplinary seminar that will explore the ideas of a series of major figures in a given era (e.g. the Renaissance, the Enlightenment, the 19th Century) or a given field (e.g. economics, literature, political theory). To vary according to the instructor. (3 credits).

LS 620 Natural Science Seminar

Issues in Science and Society. An interdisciplinary seminar that will explore the impact of scientific knowledge on modern society. Selected topic areas will vary according to the instructor. (3 credits)

LS 630 Social Science Seminar

Social and Cultural Change. An interdisciplinary study of modern society and the ways in which it responds to economic, social, and political change, focusing primarily on the 20th century. (3 credits)

NOTES - MISC

1. Upon acceptance into the program, the student will be assigned a temporary faculty advisor by the Dean or his/her designee. The student would be expected to select a permanent advisor before completion of 9 semester hours.

2. Graduate Transfer Credit. A maximum of 12 semester hours of degree credits may be earned at other colleges and universities with the approval of the MALS Faculty Advisory Committee.
3. The Dean or his/her designee should solicit from Departments courses to be included in the program (see administration). This should be accomplished soon, so that the Advisory Committee may review courses and have a list in place for Fall '85. Note that courses should be in the evenings and have a substantial research component.

Rationale for the Master of Arts in Liberal Studies

The Master of Arts in Liberal Studies (M.A.L.S.) is an inter-disciplinary program in the liberal arts and sciences for adult students who seek an alternative to the usual specialized graduate programs. Consisting of a broad, inter-disciplinary course of study in the Fine Arts, Humanities, Social and Natural Sciences, the M.A.L.S. enables adults to acquire deeper understanding of contemporary society, to sharpen their critical and writing skills, and to discuss significant ideas and issues in the company of similarly interested adults representing a variety of backgrounds and perspectives.

Unlike other Master's programs, the M.A.L.S. is not meant to be a step toward the doctorate. As such, it is open to all qualified college graduates and professionals regardless of the subjects in which they have previously concentrated. It is designed for those individuals who seek intellectual development, personal enrichment, and the intrinsic rewards of advanced liberal arts education. The M.A.L.S. may also be of interest to teachers seeking certification whose special needs or interests are not met by the college's registered permanent certification programs.

Entrance Requirements

Persons who hold a bachelor's degree from an accredited, four-year college are eligible for admission to the M.A.L.S. program.

Transfer of Credit

With the permission of the M.A.L.S. Program Director, students may transfer up to 12 graduate credit hours earned at other institutions.

General Structure of the M.A.L.S. Program

To receive an M.A.L.S. degree, students must earn a total of 30 graduate credit hours. Since Brockport graduate courses are generally worth three credit hours each, a normal M.A.L.S. course of study consists of ten graduate courses. Candidates for the degree are required to complete three specially designed interdisciplinary seminars, one in the Humanities, one in the Social Sciences, and one in the Natural Sciences. At least one of these courses will be available each semester beginning with the Fall, 1985 semester. The interdisciplinary seminars are "600 level courses" -- that is, all of the people enrolled are graduate students and the work assigned is relatively advanced. In addition to these three 600 level courses, M.A.L.S. students must take at least two additional 600 level courses. Candidates for the M.A.L.S. may take the remaining 15 hours in other graduate courses which the M.A.L.S. Program Committee deems suitable for M.A.L.S. students. However, M.A.L.S. students may take no more than 9 hours within any single department or discipline, and no more than 9 hours from the professional disciplines, e.g., Curriculum and Instruction, Public Administration, and Counselor Education. M.A.L.S. students may complete up to 6 hours in independent study projects.

Required Interdisciplinary M.A.L.S. Seminars

HMS 610 Humanities Seminar

Main Currents in Western Thought. An interdisciplinary seminar that explores the ideas of a series of major figures in a given era (e.g. the Renaissance, the Enlightenment, the 19th Century) or a given field (e.g. economics, literature, political theory). Topics to vary according to the instructor.

NSM 620 Natural Science Seminar

Issues in Science and Society. An interdisciplinary seminar that explores the impact of scientific knowledge on the ethical beliefs and practices of modern society. Topics to vary according to the instructor.

SSM 630 Social Science Seminar

Social and Cultural Change in the 20th Century. An interdisciplinary study of modern society and the ways in which it responds to economic, social, and political change, focussing primarily on the 20th century. Topics to vary according to the instructor.