

Rationale and Proposal Process for Concentration in Individualized Studies, M.A. in Liberal Studies

Rationale and Requirements

Flexibility and innovation within the M.A. in Liberal Studies curriculum are essential in order to allow students to engage new trends in higher education and to pursue their academic interests. Though MALS offers concentrations in many interdisciplinary subjects, new areas of study continue to emerge at a rapid pace. The concentration in Individualized Studies empowers enrolled students who identify a new area of study for which a MALS concentration does not currently exist to work closely with a MALS faculty member to create an individualized concentration of study within the program. It also enables current students to take courses across different concentrations to create a combined concentration. Prospective students are not eligible to apply for this concentration before admission to the program.

The coursework required for completion of this concentration includes Introduction to Graduate Liberal Studies (3 credits), two core courses selected from two different concentrations (6 credits), electives chosen from among courses offered across the doctoral and certificate programs at the GC (18 credits), and a Master's thesis/capstone program (3 credits).

Proposal Process

In order to enroll in this track, students must submit the following to Kathy Koutsis (kkoutsis@gc.cuny.edu), MALS Assistant Program Officer, who will forward the proposal to the EO and DEO for review:

1. A short (1-2 page) **written proposal** to the MALS Executive Officer outlining the proposed course of study. Explain why existing MALS concentrations are not feasible for such a course of study.
2. A completed **Individualized Studies Request Form**.
Guidelines:
 - On the Request Form, please identify two core courses selected from two different concentrations to serve as the core courses of the individualized study. Also include a list of courses offered within the last two years across the doctoral and certificate programs at the GC that could serve as electives.
 - Your consulting faculty member must review your request and proposal before signing the Request Form.

Final approval of the individualized course of study shall be given by the MALS EO.

Deadlines

Spring Semester – March 15th by 5pm
Fall Semester – November 15th by 5pm