

LIBERAL AND INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES, M.A.

1100 West Market St.

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The M.A. in Liberal and Interdisciplinary Studies program provides students and working professionals a unique mix of knowledge, tools, and experience that are relevant to the current world and its complexity. Program readings and assignments encourage students to think creatively, question assumptions, and imagine solutions to real-world problems thus creating a pathway to transformative thinking.

Transformative Thinking

Students bring their unique skills, knowledge and values to the program and work toward connecting the dots between big ideas, historic movements, and global events. The program helps students gain mastery in the following five attributes to become a transformative thinker and doer.

1. Intellectual curiosity (develop the desire to dig deep, be creative, experiment, and take risks in order to learn).
2. Integrative thinking (see the big picture, think holistically, recognize patterns, and make imaginative leaps based on those patterns).
3. Intercultural competence (understand cultural differences to help one think, act, and move beyond global, cultural, and organizational boundaries).
4. Adaptability (be flexible, agile when handling change, resilient in ambiguous situations, and able to find unexpected solutions).
5. Empathy (demonstrate effective listening, collaboration, and communication skills and be humble enough to be inclusive and considerate of the views of others).

Program Format

Liberal and Interdisciplinary Studies courses are seven weeks long, asynchronous (no set class times), and offered online. Assignments and projects have set due dates, but otherwise the program offers the flexibility for students to pursue their degree without synchronous class meetings. At the same time, instructors use a variety of tools to personalize the online classroom.

The Capstone course follows the completion of four core courses and five electives and provides the opportunity to students to synthesize and apply their learning to a project of their choosing, such as a current challenge in their workplace or community.

For information regarding deadlines and requirements for admission, please see <https://grs.uncg.edu/programs/>.

Degree Program Requirements

Required: 30 credit hours

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Core Courses (12 credits)		
<i>Humanities Series (3 credits)</i>		

Select one course (3 credits) from the following:		3
MAS 610	Culture and Ideas	
MAS 611	Design Thinking	
MAS 612	The Contemporary World	
MAS 613	Literature of Migration	
MAS 614	Global Arts	
MAS 615	The Reel World: Contemporary History on Screen	
MAS 616	Creative Expression – Making Poetry	
MAS 617	Modern China	
<i>Social Sciences Series Course (3 credits)</i>		
Select one course (3 credits) from the following:		3
MAS 620	Human Nature and Society	
MAS 621	Systems Thinking	
MAS 622	Global Trade	
MAS 623	Global Human Rights	
MAS 624	Dignity, Identity, and Power	
MAS 625	Dangerous Minds: Terrorism, Political Violence, and Radical Orthodoxies	
MAS 626	Ethical Leadership	
MAS 627	Simple Living in a Complex Age	
<i>Scientific Reasoning Series Courses (6 credits)</i>		
Select two courses (6 credits) from the following:		6
MAS 630	Scientific Reasoning	
MAS 631	Understanding Data	
MAS 633	Science, Environment, and the Media	
GES 632	Geography of Livable Cities	
GES 688	Topics in Environmental Sciences	
Elective Courses (15 credits)		
Select 15 credits of elective courses *		15
Capstone Experience (3 credits)		
MAS 695	Applied Capstone Experience	3
Total Credit Hours		30

* From any MAS graduate courses not applied to the Core Courses requirement. Students may select up to 12 credits of electives from 600-level courses outside of MAS with approval from their advisor.