

HUMANITIES (MA)



Master of Arts in Humanities

Unit: College of Arts and Sciences (<https://louisville.edu/artsandsciences/>) (GA)

Department: Interdisciplinary and Public Humanities (<http://louisville.edu/humanities/>)

Program Website (<https://louisville.edu/humanities/graduate/ma/>)

Academic Plan Code(s): See Concentration Requirements tab.

Program Information

The MA in Humanities is an interdisciplinary, comparative, and globally-oriented master's program offered by the Department of Comparative Humanities in the College of Arts and Sciences. It is designed for students who seek to integrate two disciplines in the arts and humanities, and/or historical periods, with community enrichment. The MA in Humanities can be undertaken as an intensive two-year program, but there is the possibility of a part-time schedule for students with full-time jobs.

Degree Summary

Code	Title	Hours
Concentration (see tab) ¹		21-24
Research Methods		3
Thesis/Directed Project ²		3-6
Minimum Total Hours		30-33

A minimum of 15 credit hours must be at the 600 level, excluding HUM 655. In addition to the coursework requirements listed above, some students may need to satisfy the foreign language competency requirement.

¹ Hours vary between concentrations and depending on whether students opt for a Thesis or a Directed Study Project option.

² Thesis option students take six (6) credit hours of HUM 645; Directed Study Project option students take three (3) credit hours of HUM 655.

Specific coursework information can be found on the Degree Requirements tab.

Areas of Concentration

The MA in Humanities offers three areas of concentration:

- Interdisciplinary Humanities
- Linguistics
- Public Humanities

Soaring Scholar Accelerated BA/MA in Humanities

Undergraduate students interested in the program's accelerated option should visit the catalog page for the BA in Humanities (<https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/majors/humanities-ba/>) for more information.

Admission Requirements

Regular admission to the Master of Arts in Humanities occurs twice yearly, for entry during the fall and spring semesters. The official deadline for Fall admission is January 15. The official deadline for Spring admission is September 15.

All applicants must have completed a BA in an appropriate field of study prior to beginning the program.

Applications should consist of the following:

- Online Graduate Application (<https://graduate.louisville.edu/admission/apply/>) for admission
- Payment of Application fee
- A statement of intent (about 1000 words) focusing on the research interests or the applicant's professional goals
- A scholarly or creative writing sample (5,000-10,000 words)
- Official transcripts of all undergraduate and graduate-level work
- Two letters of recommendation from former instructors/co-workers attesting to capability for graduate-level work and/or work ethic.
- If applicable, proof of English proficiency (for international students from countries where English is not the native language).

Program Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
Concentration (see Concentration tab) ¹		21-24
First Core Area (12-15 credit hours)		
Second Core Area (9-12 credit hours)		
Research Methods		3
HUM 609	Interdisciplinary Theory: Arts and Humanities or HUM 610 Methods and Theories in the Study of Religion	
Thesis/Directed Project ²		3-6
HUM 655	Directed Study Project or HUM 645 Thesis Guidance	
Minimum Total Hours		30

In addition to the course work requirements listed above, students in two of the three concentrations need to satisfy a foreign language competency requirement.

¹ Concentration credit hours vary depending on whether students opt for a Thesis or a Directed Study Project.

² Thesis option students take six (6) credit hours of HUM 645; Directed Study Project option students take three (3) credit hours of HUM 655.

Concentrations

These concentrations are designed to provide students with a broad grasp of the Arts and Humanities with special strengths in selected areas such as Linguistics, Interdisciplinary Humanities, and Public Humanities.

In each track, students take a minimum of eight or nine classes and either write and defend a Thesis or a Directed Study Project at the end of the program.

Each concentration requires a minimum of 30 credit hours, with a minimum of 15 credit hours at the 600 level (excluding HUM 655 or HUM 645).

Beyond the course work requirements outlined below, students in two of the three concentrations need additional credits to satisfy the foreign language competency requirement.

Interdisciplinary Humanities (formerly "Traditional" track)

Academic Plan Code(s): HUM_MA_TRD, HUM_MA_TAC

Students in this track can combine the study of two disciplines or focus on the culture of a particular historical period. The cultural periods included are: Ancient, Medieval and Renaissance, Early Modern, and Modern/Contemporary.

In addition to the course work listed below, MA students in the Interdisciplinary Humanities concentration must satisfy a foreign language competency requirement and complete a final oral defense of a thesis or Directed Study Project.

Code	Title	Hours
Interdisciplinary Humanities, Thesis		
First Core Area ^{1,2}		12
Second Core Area ^{1,2}		9
HUM 609	Interdisciplinary Theory: Arts and Humanities	3
or HUM 610	Methods and Theories in the Study of Religion	
HUM 645	Thesis Guidance	6
Minimum Total Hours		30
Interdisciplinary Humanities, Directed Study Project		
First Core Area ^{1,2}		15
Second Core Area ^{1,2}		9
HUM 609	Interdisciplinary Theory: Arts and Humanities	3
or HUM 610	Methods and Theories in the Study of Religion	
HUM 655	Directed Study Project	3
Minimum Total Hours		30

A minimum of 15 credit hours for the degree must be at the 600 level (excluding HUM 655).

¹ Core Areas may include (but are not limited to) the following: Art History, Classical and Modern Languages, Literature, Film, Jewish

Studies, Music History, Philosophy, Religious Studies, Theatre Arts, Medieval/Renaissance Studies, Early Modern (17th and 18th Century Studies), Pan African Studies, Latin American and Latino Studies, Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies or Modern and Contemporary Cultural Studies.

² Students without either Hum 590 or Hum 595 in their undergraduate coursework may be required to take one of these as part of their core area course work.

Public Humanities

Academic Plan Code(s): HUM_MA_PH

Students in this track are interested in bringing the ideas of academic debate into the public sphere, or are enrolled in the Joint JD/MA (<https://louisville.edu/humanities/graduate/ma/accelerated/jd-ma/>) or MA/MBA (<https://louisville.edu/humanities/graduate/ma/accelerated/dual-mba-ma-concentration-in-public-humanities/>) Programs. They can combine the study of Public Humanities with a discipline or a focus on the culture of a particular historical period. The cultural periods included are: Ancient, Medieval and Renaissance, Early Modern, and Modern/Contemporary.

In addition to the course work listed below, MA students in the Public Humanities concentration must complete one required internship, but have no foreign language competency requirement. They can choose between a final oral defense of a Directed Study Project or a Thesis.

Code	Title	Hours
Public Humanities, Thesis		
Public Humanities Core Area, including:		12
HUM 636	Introduction to Public Humanities	
HUM 650	Graduate Internship	
HUM 671	Introduction to Public History	
Second Core Area ¹		9
Required HUM course (Theories and Methodologies)		
HUM 609	Interdisciplinary Theory: Arts and Humanities	3
or HUM 610	Methods and Theories in the Study of Religion	
HUM 645	Thesis Guidance	6
Minimum Total Hours		30

¹ Core Areas may include (but are not limited to) the following: Art History, Classical and Modern Languages, Literature, Film, Jewish Studies, Music History, Philosophy, Religious Studies, Theatre Arts, Medieval/Renaissance Studies, Early Modern (17th and 18th Century Studies), Pan African Studies, Latin American and Latino Studies, Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies or Modern and Contemporary Cultural Studies.

Code	Title	Hours
Public Humanities, Directed Study Project		
Public Humanities Core Area, including:		12-15
HUM 636	Introduction to Public Humanities	
HUM 650	Graduate Internship	
HUM 671	Introduction to Public History	
Second Core Area ¹		9-12
Required HUM course (Theories and Methodologies)		
HUM 609	Interdisciplinary Theory: Arts and Humanities	3

or HUM 610	Methods and Theories in the Study of Religion	
HUM 655	Directed Study Project	3
Minimum Total Hours		30

A minimum of 15 credit hours for the degree must be at the 600 level (excluding HUM 655 or HUM 645).

¹ Core Areas may include (but are not limited to) the following: Art History, Classical and Modern Languages, Literature, Film, Jewish Studies, Music History, Philosophy, Religious Studies, Theatre Arts, Medieval/Renaissance Studies, Early Modern (17th and 18th Century Studies), Pan African Studies, Latin American and Latino Studies, Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies or Modern and Contemporary Cultural Studies.

Linguistics

Academic Plan Code(s): HUM_MA_LIN, HUM_MA_LAC

Students in this track combine in a unique way the study of the interdisciplinary humanities with a specialized concentration in linguistics. Students take three core courses and then a minimum of two additional 600-level linguistics courses. Along with our Humanities faculty, students are able to study with linguists in the adjacent departments of Classical and Modern Languages, English, Philosophy, and Psychology.

In addition to the course work listed below, MA students in the Linguistics concentration must satisfy a foreign language competency requirement and complete a final oral defense of a Directed Study Project or a Thesis.

Code	Title	Hours
Linguistics, Thesis		
Linguistics Core Sequence ¹		9
LING 603	Syntax	
LING 610	Phonetics and Phonology	
or LING 630	Language and Culture	
or LING 640	Linguistic Anthropology	
Six (6) additional credits from the following:		6
Sociocultural Linguistics		
LING 523	History of the English Language	
or ENGL 523	History of the English Language	
LING 570	Language and Social Identity	
or ENGL 570	Language and Social Identity	
LING 621	Sociolinguistics	
Structural Linguistics		
LING 522	Structure of Modern English	
or ENGL 522	Structure of Modern English	
LING 606	Historical and Comparative Linguistics	
LING 620	Special Topics in Linguistics	
LING 624	Language and Cognition	
LING 641	Recent Philosophy of Language	
Other graduate-level Linguistics courses		
LING 600	Independent Study	
LING 690	Seminar in Linguistics	
Second Area Core ³		9

HUM 609	Interdisciplinary Theory: Arts and Humanities	3
or HUM 610	Methods and Theories in the Study of Religion	
HUM 645	Thesis Guidance	6
Minimum Total Hours		33

Code	Title	Hours
Linguistics, Directed Study Project		
Linguistics Core Sequence ¹		9
LING 603	Syntax	
LING 610	Phonetics and Phonology	
LING 630	Language and Culture	
or LING 640	Linguistic Anthropology	
Six additional credits from the following:		6
Sociocultural Linguistics		
LING/ENGL 523	History of the English Language	
LING/ENGL 570	Language and Social Identity	
LING 621	Sociolinguistics	
Structural Linguistics		
LING/ENGL 522	Structure of Modern English	
LING 606	Historical and Comparative Linguistics	
LING 624	Language and Cognition	
LING 641	Recent Philosophy of Language	
Other graduate-level Linguistics courses		
LING 600	Independent Study ²	
LING 620	Special Topics in Linguistics	
LING 690	Seminar in Linguistics	
Second Core Area ³		9
HUM 609	Interdisciplinary Theory: Arts and Humanities	3
or HUM 610	Methods and Theories in the Study of Religion	
HUM 655	Directed Study Project	3
Minimum Total Hours		30

A minimum of 15 credit hours for the degree must be at the 600 level (excluding HUM 655 or HUM 645).

¹ Students with no prior undergraduate linguistics coursework are encouraged to audit or enroll on a pass/fail (P/F) basis in LING 325. These credits will not apply to the hours needed to complete the MA degree.

² Under direction of Linguistics-affiliated faculty

³ Core Areas may include (but are not limited to) the following: Art History, Classical and Modern Languages, Literature, Film, Jewish Studies, Music History, Philosophy, Religious Studies, Theatre Arts, Medieval/Renaissance Studies, Early Modern (17th and 18th Century Studies), Pan African Studies, Latin American and Latino Studies, Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies or Modern and Contemporary Cultural Studies.