



School of Liberal Arts Master of Arts in Liberal Studies

Guidelines for Writing Your Admissions Essay

The admissions essay is your opportunity to explain your interest in earning a Master of Arts in Liberal Studies from Excelsior College. This essay is the primary means by which we will assess your preparedness for the program. Because good writing skills will be very important to your success in this program, we will use your essay to assess your ability to communicate effectively in writing. Therefore, the essay should represent your best writing effort.

In a direct, concise essay of 800–1200 words, your personal essay should address how the MALS program can help you achieve your personal, professional, and academic goals; your preparedness for graduate-level study; your experience and/or aptitude for completing academic work at a distance; and any special abilities, qualities, or life experiences you will bring to the program.

There are two options for students wanting to complete the MALS degree: the Capstone option and the Thesis option. For the Capstone option, students take an 8-week Capstone course designed to allow students to showcase their skills in performing interdisciplinary study of a topic presented in the course, ending with a culminating project. Students choosing the Capstone option should note that in their essay and also discuss why interdisciplinary studies is important to their goals. Alternatively, students may choose the Thesis option in which the program concludes with the 15-week Thesis course and submission of the Master's Thesis. Students specifically interested in the Thesis option should note that in their essay and also explore an area of focus that they wish to examine throughout the program and for their thesis.

NOTE:

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