

Major/Program: Master's of Liberal Studies

Annual ASSESSMENT of the Major/Program

Fall 2021-Spring 2022

What are the student learning outcomes in the **major/program**?

To summarise: It is our view that all students and graduates of the Masters of Liberal Studies degree (MLS) at IU Northwest will be able to communicate well at an advanced level as they obtain more tools that will enable them to become better critical thinkers, more informed and engaged citizens of the Northwest Indiana region, and strongwe leaders academically and professionally.

Upon graduation, all MLS graduates from IU Northwest should be able to:

- 1. Write at an advanced level, both professionally and academically in the discipline of their focused studies, as well as in general (which is a skill that they can use in their career)*
- 2. Have the capacity and ability to engage with their professional and scholarly peers and to present new ideas. This includes having the advanced ability to contribute new ideas and to connect with their peers and others in their classes and community.*
- 3. Deconstruct various theories and practices in order to create and answer critical questions based on a variety of different subjects in the Humanities or Sciences.*
- 4. Demonstrate ethical and effective oral and written communication, appropriate to chosen audience and context.*
- 5. Demonstrate all aspects of critical inquiries (both written and visual) that are concentrated on the historical, theoretical, and critical issues/subjects that pertain to the student's chosen disciplines of study in the liberal arts.*
- 6. Become advanced criical thinkers. This means, graduates will be able to Identify, analyse, and evaluate improtant subjects and topics of their community and our world because of the various experiences and perspectives they obtained through the foundational disciplinary knowledge as discussed and presented in their courses.*
- 8. Become better citizens and leaders in their local community (and their career).*

Which outcome(s) did you assess this academic year?

We are overhauling the MLS programme as to improve the diversity of our courses. As such, we are taking a look at all of our offerings as to see how we can improve. We have also created an all-online degree with our sister campuses of Indiana University, and we are currently building up this particular MLS option.

How did you assess the learning outcomes this academic year?

We are comparing what we are doing in terms of our programmatic structure (including the breadth of our courses) with peer institutions as to see how we may improve. In terms of the all-online MLS, we meet monthly and at time bi-weekly to continue to share ideas, build up the degree further, and work collaboratively.

Please **summarize the data** you have collected this academic year.

We did not collect any data in this pandemic year, as we are examining the programme on the whole. Our evaluation is being done by the director, comparing what we are doing here at IU Northwest with what is happening at sister institutions. Moreover (and as previously stated), along with others IU campuses with MLS degrees, we are constantly streamlining what we are doing and working together as a team as to improve the degree for all of us.

Please **describe any programmatic changes you have made or are planning to make based on the data you have collected (action steps).**

Under the leadership of Professor Scooter Pégram, the MLS at IU Northwest joined the *Association of Graduate Liberal Arts Studies Programmes* (AGLSP). Moreover, we have also created a IU Northwest chapter of *Artes liberales regnat*, which is the honour society for Liberal Studies programmes at the graduate level across the United States. The biggest change is our participation in the new all-online MLS degree that is offered together by all campuses of Indiana University that have MLS degrees. The MLS at IU Northwest is an enthusiastic member of this collaborative degree.

Please report on the progress of your **action steps** reported in 2021-2022. See <http://www.iun.edu/campus-assessment/assessment-results/index.htm> for your previous unit reports.

The biggest progress that we have made is our continued enthusiastic participation in the all-online collaborative MLS degree with our sister institutions of Indiana University. This was an exciting new step for us. Furthermore, our previous goal was to create a MLS honour society at IU Northwest, and we have met that goal.

****Note:** Please use this template to provide the responses to the prompts above.**