



Program Review Self Study Template

Academic unit: Masters of Arts in Liberal Studies \_\_\_\_\_

College: Graduate School \_\_\_\_\_

Date of last review Spring 2010\_\_

Date of last accreditation report (if relevant) \_\_\_\_\_

List all degrees described in this report (add lines as necessary)

Degree Masters of Arts in Liberal Studies \_\_\_\_\_ CIP code \_\_\_\_\_

Degree \_\_\_\_\_ CIP code \_\_\_\_\_

1. Departmental purpose and relationship to the University mission (refer to instructions in the WSU Program Review document for more information on completing this section)

a. University Mission:

b. Program Mission (if more than one program, list each mission)

The mission of the majors program is to provide students the opportunity to design an individual interdisciplinary master's degree program by drawing on the resources of three or more departments. Many students have academic interests that do not neatly align with any of our current graduate programs but which can be pursued by combining courses from three or more areas and working under the supervision of faculty in those areas. For example, WSU does not have a graduate program in Medieval & Renaissance Studies but students interested in the area can combine course work in the departments of History, English, Art History, Philosophy, and Modern and Classical Languages to create a curriculum that mirrors graduate programs in medieval and renaissance Studies at other institutions. Given the breadth and extent of WSU's existing graduate programs, the opportunities for serious interdisciplinary graduate work are extensive: Asian Studies, American Studies, Classical Studies,





3. Academic Program: Analyze the quality of the program as assessed by its curriculum and impact on students. Complete this section for each program (if more than one). Attach program assessment plan (s) as an appendix (refer to instructions in the WSU Program Review document for more information).

a. For undergraduate programs, compare ACT scores of the majors with the University as a whole.

Last 3 Years	Total Majors- From fall semester	ACT – Fall Semester (mean for those reporting)	
		Majors	All University Students - FT
Year 1Æ			





The overall quality of the program is excellent. The extent and breadth of existing graduate programs at WSU provides students with practically unlimited opportunities to combine course work in various departments into a coherent, integrated interdisciplinary master's level curriculum. The students



Provide assessment here:

Given the diversity of programs created by mals students, there is no “most common” type of positions students can expect to find. Some students in the program are already teachers seeking to increase and expand their teaching competencies; some are pursuing interests in museum studies to prepare for careers in museums; some are working in social services and seeking to upgrade their expertise in new areas; some are interested in communications from a multi-disciplinary perspective; some are preparing to apply to Ph.D. programs or law schools; etc.

As long as there are students who have academic interests that do not neatly align with WSU’s current graduate departments, there will be a need for the mals program. This demand is underscored by the fact that we have admitted 12 highly qualified students to the program for fall 2011.

5. Analyze the cost of the program and service the Program provides to the discipline, other programs at the University, and beyond. Complete for each program if appropriate. Refer to instructions in the

6. Report on the Program's goal(s) from the last review. List the goal(s), data that may have been collected to support the goal and the outcome. Complete for each program if appropriate (refer to instructions in the WSU Program Review document for more information on completing this section)

The last review of the MALS program was conducted in the Spring of 2010 as a consequence of being triggered for low numbers of graduates. At that time the following goals were established for the next three years.

(For Last 3FYs)	Goal (s)	Assessment Data Analyzed	Outcome
	Recruit 10 new students to the program each year	Admission statistics	We admitted 15 new students for FY 2010 and 18 for FY 2011. We have already admitted 2 students for the fall of 2011 so the number of admitted students for FY 2012 already exceeded the target.
	Maintain a minimum of 25 students in the program each year	Enrollment statistics	There were 36 students active in the mals program in the fall of 2009 and 30 students active in the fall of 2010.
	Graduate a minimum of 5 each year	Graduation statistics	We graduated 9 students during FY 2010 and have graduated 3 so far during FY 2011 and 2 are pending July 2011 graduations.

## 7. Summary and Recommendations

- a. Set forth a summary of the report including an overview evaluating the strengths and concerns. List recommendations for improvement of each Program (for departments with multiple programs) that have resulted from this report (relate recommendations back to information provided in any of the categories and to the goals and objectives of the program as listed in the Identify three year goal(s) for the Program to be accomplished in time ar: Tc 0 Tw 5 0 3482

