



Southern Methodist University  
**MASTER OF LIBERAL STUDIES**  
Curricular Field Concentrations

## Self-Designed

### Curriculum Description

Students who want to design their own concentration within the Liberal Studies curriculum rather than concentrating in one of the other defined areas or receiving the general Master of Liberal Studies degree, may elect the Self-Designed concentration. With the advice and direction of a Faculty Advisor (Program Director/Department Chair) they will satisfy the introductory requirements, plan for six classes (18 credit hours) and a capstone/thesis topic to meet their special needs and interests. This concentration is not designed to be a professional or vocational credential, but rather to enrich the student's knowledge and understanding of their chosen curricular field of study.

Courses from departments at SMU other than Liberal Studies may be selected with the permission of both departments on a space-available basis (maximum of 6 credit hours). Non-GLS courses must be "in the spirit" of the Liberal Studies Degree Program with the approval of the Program Director and Department Chair. Independent Study courses may also be designed with designated faculty members (maximum of 6 credit hours) to supplement MLS course offerings, with the approval of the Program Director and Department Chair. The self-designed concentration will appear on the final transcript of record.

Students may participate in appropriate study abroad experiences, such as those offered in France and Italy and other sites through the Master of Liberal Studies program. A study tour may count toward the concentration electives.

### Format

Students who select a self-designed concentration must complete the following:

- 36 credit hours (required for MLS Degree)
- The 3 credit hour introductory required course: The Human Experience
- 3 credit hour designated writing intensive course (not part of the concentration)
- 6 elective courses related to the designated concentration (determined by the student and faculty member)
- 6 plus credit hour thesis or 3 credit hour capstone project



Simmons School of Education & Human Development

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