METROPOLITAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Liberal Arts Major

LAM Guidelines

A **Liberal Arts Major (LAM)** is an opportunity for you and your advisor to customize a major within the College of Liberal Arts (CLA). Because a LAM is intended to reflect your unique interests, your customized major cannot resemble an existing major in CLA. Once you have designed your LAM, you must submit it as a proposal to a faculty panel which will then review it and either approve it, or return it to you with suggestions for revisions. LAM proposals consist of four parts: (1) Rationale of Coherence, (2) Course List, (3) Checklist, and (4) Major Declaration Form. If your LAM is approved, you will also complete the 1 credit upper-division LAM Mentorship SDIS described separately.* All LAMs are at least 33 upper-division credits.

Rationale of Coherence

The Rationale of Coherence is your explanation of why you have chosen to major in a particular area and your justification of why the courses you selected meet your goals. A Rationale of Coherence should be 500-1000 words in length, well edited, and should include your name, your advisor's name, and the date. Every Rationale of Coherence must answer all of these questions:

- What is the central theme of your individualized LAM?
- How do the courses you've selected advance an in-depth understanding of this theme?
- How do these courses reflect your academic interests?
- What skills and knowledge do you expect to gain from your LAM?
- How do you anticipate being able to apply your major after graduation?

Course List

The Course List presents the courses you propose for your LAM. The key rules are

- At least 32 upper-division semester credits (3xx-, 4xx-, or 5xx-level courses).
- At least half of your LAM program credits must be earned at Metropolitan State.
- No more than 8 LAM semester credits can be in non-CLA courses or disciplines.
- No D grades are acceptable in any LAM.

With advisor permission, up to 8 credits in an approved LAM plan may be amended; changing more than 8 credits decertifies the LAM, which must then be resubmitted.

*See link on the LAM homepage titled "LAM Mentorship Instructions" for more details.