

# Liberal Arts Major

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## LAM Mentorship Guidelines

If you were accepted to the LAM program *after August 2014*, you are required to complete a LAM Mentorship of at least one upper-division credit in scope. Your LAM Mentorship offers you the unique experience of engaging with a faculty member while reflecting on the learning you achieved in your LAM and preparing for your next step whether this is entering a profession, advancing toward graduate studies, or attaining another personal goal. Your LAM Mentorship should take place in your last year of study.

### **Student and Faculty Roles in the LAM Mentorship**

**Student responsibilities:** During the LAM Mentorship you will formalize a working relationship with a supervising faculty member through the student-designed independent study (SDIS) process. You can find more information about this at: <https://www.metrostate.edu/academics/success/strategy/student-directed>. As a student, you must initiate the LAM Mentorship process and can easily do so by consulting with a faculty member who has depth of knowledge in at least one academic discipline included in your LAM. You will request that the faculty member sponsor your one upper-division credit SDIS LAM Mentorship. You will be able to register for the SDIS only upon completion of the SDIS proposal form with the consent of your sponsoring faculty mentor and the approval of your mentor's department.

At Metropolitan State, an SDIS is considered an alternative learning strategy and as such you may register for one after the Drop/Add period. You'll want to consult the university's Academic/Events Calendar to determine the pertinent registration deadline. You will need to approach an appropriate faculty member well before this deadline to allow time to complete the SDIS form and attain the necessary approvals. It is your responsibility to enroll in the LAM Mentorship SDIS in a timely manner.

At the end of your LAM Mentorship experience, you will also be *expected* to submit to the LAM Director an electronic copy of the materials you developed during this experience.

**Shared responsibilities:** At the heart of the LAM Mentorship are two projects: construction of a student portfolio and creation of a reflective essay.

The *student portfolio* should include items that best represent your achievement in the LAM. They should represent at least *three* courses in *two or more distinct disciplines* found within your LAM. Your faculty mentor can help you judge which materials are most appropriate to include given your future objectives. This is also a good time to discuss any additional steps you'll need to take to reach your post-graduation goals.

In addition to the portfolio, you will craft a *reflective essay* of approximately *5-pages* as an introduction to your portfolio. The reflective essay will *describe* the materials included in the student portfolio, *explain* how the items in the portfolio are related to one another, and *justify* how your portfolio demonstrates the attainment of one of the original goals you sought to achieve as a LAM.

**Faculty mentor responsibilities:** Faculty mentors will guide the creation of these projects by consulting with the student, commenting on drafts, and supervising revisions to the student's materials. All LAM Mentorships are graded on a S/NC basis. Faculty mentors must be timely in submitting their evaluations.