Graduate Degree Programs

Master of Arts in Liberal Studies for Community Leadership

Alvernia University
Imagine Being the Leader You Know You Can Be

Maybe you really do want to change the world. Idealistic? Perhaps. But that’s exactly what some people really want to do: Change the world … one community at a time. Are you one of them? Perhaps you have a passion for being a leader in a sustainable community, either in a profit or non-profit sector. Maybe you’re driven to explore community issues and really do want to change the way things work in our society. Whatever your goals, Alvernia’s Master of Arts in Liberal Studies (MALS) degree with an emphasis in Community Leadership can set you on a course that’s as individual as you are.

The MALS for Community Leadership degree program prepares you to excel in a leadership position in both public and private settings. It helps you truly become an agent of social change through critical discussion and analysis of community issues. You’ll acquire invaluable leadership talents to develop sustainable communities for the present and the future.

The program’s flexible, individualized curriculum design gives you a powerful, practical experience. You’ll be exposed to a unique blend of liberal arts courses, actionable research and skills for building and maintaining sustainable projects — all designed to meet the community’s cultural, economic, environmental and social needs.

The MALS degree program is designed around three distinct yet complementary ideas, all focused on the critical issue of sustainability:

■ Cultural Sustainability — You’ll examine the multiplicity of cultures, perspectives and experiences and the effect of their meaning and value on our natural world.

■ Environmental Sustainability — Discover the interconnections between the natural and man-made worlds and the roles played by humans in the design, construction and management of natural and built environments.

■ Economic Sustainability — Explore the legal, political, sociological and ethical perspectives of justice and social change, along with policy development, implementation and evaluation factors.

Alvernia’s Master of Arts in Liberal Studies degree program is approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Education, ensuring Alvernia provides you with an education that makes you an agent of social change.

Explore the full depth of our curriculum at www.alvernia.edu/mals
Follow Your Passion for Creating Positive Change
If your goal is to create — even transform — the concept of sustainable community and see your vision implemented, the MALS program gives you the tools to help make it happen.

Mastering the Skills You Need to Be in Demand
Developed by faculty with decades of experience in community development, Alvernia's MALS for Community Leadership curriculum will give you valuable insight and teach you how to effectively get involved in the community.

Diverse Career Opportunities
Your MALS degree can open doors to leadership positions within your current organization and many new career opportunities in other fields and agencies. Sustainable community change is needed everywhere, and Alvernia can help you be a part of it.

Network with Colleagues and Potential Employers
Connecting with classmates during the MALS experience helps you establish lifetime contacts, gain referrals and identify potential employers. In addition, you'll have opportunities to interact with fellow Alvernia faculty, alumni and community leaders and professionals on a local, state and national level who can be valuable throughout your career.

Community Experience, Downtown or Around the World
Your MALS courses will open doors and create opportunities for all kinds of relevant hands-on experiences. Students have traveled to Costa Rica to help create strategic plans for non-profit groups, as well as provided consulting services for local organizations. You'll be immersed in real-world learning you can use locally or across the globe.

Develop Your Full Potential
Beyond your MALS degree, the Alvernia Ph.D. in Leadership degree prepares professionals for leadership positions as agents of change in government and community organizations. The critical analyses regarding the impact of social welfare policies and procedures, along with community leadership skills acquired, will position you as an expert in your field.
First-Class Faculty

Experts. Advisors. Mentors.
At Alvernia, you will find a faculty of accomplished scholars and industry experts, along with outstanding learning facilities. Professors bring real-world experience into the classroom to ground learning in a practical setting that is ideal to help students successfully meet their personal and professional goals.

“Alvernia’s MALS program is designed for those who want to make a difference in the community. Its foundation in the liberal arts ensures a strong theoretical grounding in ethics and society and its pragmatic capstone and study of leadership provide the skills needed to be an effective change agent.”

Gerald S. Vigna, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Theology
Coordinator of MALS Program
I was intrigued by the MALS program; I loved the classes that composed the degree. Alvernia was close to home, which made for a convenient commute and fit easily into my busy lifestyle. I owe my new career path to Alvernia’s MALS degree program.

Angela L. Kase ’11
Elm Street Coordinator/ Public Relations
Our Town Foundation
Hamburg, PA
Affordable
Alvernia offers a quality education at a cost you can afford. Our tuition is competitive, and we are an outstanding value. We are committed to helping you find the best ways to finance your education. From our convenient payment plans to our popular tuition deferment program, you’ll find there are many options our Student Financial Planning Office provides to help make your tuition more affordable.

Flexible
Learning at Alvernia is designed to fit into your busy life. We offer flexible scheduling with evening, weekend and online classes in accelerated time frames available on multiple start dates. Alvernia offers the convenience you need so you can continue working full-time while earning your degree.

Attainable
Students can choose to take classes where and when it’s most convenient. The Master of Arts in Liberal Studies degree is offered on campus at our Reading and Philadelphia locations.