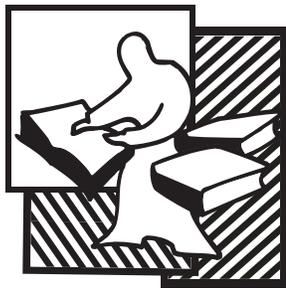




# Strategies for Success Advising Guide: Liberal Studies Major



The **Liberal Studies Associate in Science degree and Certificate** are flexible programs that allow you to explore a variety of subject areas. With its generous elective options, this program not only allows you to design your own area of concentration, but can also accommodate the diverse academic experiences that you have had prior to enrolling at Middlesex. An academic advisor can help you identify how to use the Liberal Studies Degree or Certificate programs to your advantage.

This advising guide includes information that will help you to explore your academic and career interests and determine whether the **Liberal Studies major** will support your long-term goals.

## Exploring Your Options

You should meet with your advisor at least 3 times per semester. Below, is a listing of activities to help you with your self-exploration and identify your interests. These activities are for your first year or during your first 30 credits at MCC.

- \_\_\_ During the first few weeks of your first semester at Middlesex, schedule an appointment to meet with your advisor to get acquainted, discuss your future plans and how the Liberal Studies degree can help you to achieve your goals.
- \_\_\_ Complete the Focus2 online career assessment tool which is located on our website at [www.middlesex.mass.edu/careerservices/FOCUS2.htm](http://www.middlesex.mass.edu/careerservices/FOCUS2.htm). After completing FOCUS2, schedule a meeting to discuss your results with a Career Counselor. Call 1-800-818-3434 or visit the Academic, Career and Transfer Centers in Lowell and Bedford to schedule your career counseling appointment.
- \_\_\_ Mid-Semester; schedule an appointment with your advisor to review your academic progress. Also, use this time to discuss your progress toward meeting your academic and career goals.
- \_\_\_ Before the semester ends, schedule an appointment to meet with your advisor to discuss the classes you will take the following semester. (Early November to plan for spring classes, early April to plan fall and summer classes.)

## The Career Path

The Liberal Studies program prepares students for a variety of career options. Careful planning with a career counselor is essential.

- \_\_\_ Work with your advisor to create a Career Plan. As a student who is on the Career Path, your focus should be on building your skill-set and marketing yourself for a job.
- \_\_\_ Work with a career counselor who can help you create a resume and cover letter. Consider looking for an internship to enhance your skills and establish some work experience. Call 1-800-818-3434 or visit

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## Advising Guide: Liberal Studies Major

the Academic, Career and Transfer Centers in Lowell and Bedford to schedule your career counseling appointment.

- \_\_\_ Consider taking some classes such as Speech, Mediation Training or Cooperative Field Experience that will further develop your skills and experience. Look for other opportunities to help you build your resume and will help you better sell yourself to future employers’.
- \_\_\_ Continue to work with a career counselor who can help you with interview skills and job search techniques. Schedule an appointment with your advisor to follow up on your career plan.
- \_\_\_ Consider building a career certificate into your Liberal Studies Degree:
  - Alcohol & Substance Abuse Counseling
  - Biotechnology Technician
  - Computer Forensics
  - CAD Technology
  - Computerized Accounting
  - Criminal Justice Law Enforcement
  - Direct Support in Human Services
  - Early Childhood Education
  - Energy Utility Technology
  - Entrepreneurship in Small Business Management
  - Graphic Design
  - Hospitality Management
  - Hospitality Management-Culinary Arts
  - Paralegal Studies
  - Studio Art
  - Travel Services Management
- \_\_\_ If you are interested in applying to a health career program, attend a Health Information Session. You can register for these sessions at [www.middlesex.mass.edu/health](http://www.middlesex.mass.edu/health)
- \_\_\_ Meet with your advisor before your last semester to make sure you have met all your intensive values and met your curriculum requirements so that you are ready for graduation.

### The Transfer Path

- \_\_\_ Work with your advisor to create a Transfer Plan. Identifying and applying to a Bachelor’s Degree program will be your focus. You’ll need to research academic programs of interests, colleges that offer these programs and be aware of deadlines for admissions, financial aid, and housing deposits (if you are interested on living on campus). The transfer process can be complex. Your advisor and transfer counselor can help you with this process.
- \_\_\_ Schedule an appointment to meet with a transfer counselor to learn about the transfer programs that are available to you as an MCC student, such as *MassTransfer*, transfer/articulation agreements with other colleges, and other programs. Also, ask about the Common Application and the benefits of using this form. Call 1-800-818-3434 or visit the Academic, Career, and Transfer Centers in Lowell or Bedford to schedule your appointment.
- \_\_\_ If the transfer institution that you are applying to requires that you write a college essay, make an appointment with a tutor in the writing center to help you edit and review your essay. Remember the essay reflects who you are as a student and is also a sample of your writing ability.
- \_\_\_ Look for transfer scholarships that may be available. Consider applying to the MCC Foundation Scholarships. The deadlines for these MCC scholarships are typically at the end of the fall semester.

### Liberal Studies Program Outcomes

Graduates of the program are prepared to:

- Use knowledge acquired at MCC as a foundation for continued study and/or practical application;

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# Strategies for Success

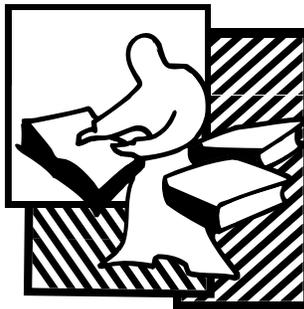
## Advising Guide: Liberal Studies Major

- Interpret and analyze information in order to engage in critical thinking and problem solving;
- Communicate, use information, and employ technology effectively;
- Communicate an understanding of the world from a global perspective;
- Demonstrate social responsibility within the college community;
- Demonstrate the capacity for on-going personal and professional development

Congratulations, you are half way toward completing your Liberal Studies Degree! At this point you can go one of two ways; *The Career Path* which is committing to your Associates Degree and then looking for a job after graduations or the *Transfer Path* continuing your education and transferring to a Bachelor's degree granting institute. Your advisor will guide you in the path you choose and help you reach your goal while ensuring that you meet your graduation requirements.

### **MCC Advising Resources:**

- Career Services: [www.middlesex.mass.edu/CareerServices](http://www.middlesex.mass.edu/CareerServices)
- Vocational Biographies: [www.middlesex.mass.edu/CareerServices/voc.biographies.htm](http://www.middlesex.mass.edu/CareerServices/voc.biographies.htm)
- Transfer Services: [www.middlesex.mass.edu/Transfer](http://www.middlesex.mass.edu/Transfer)
- MassTransfer: [www.mass.edu/masstransfer](http://www.mass.edu/masstransfer)
- College Board Match Maker: [http://collegesearch.collegeboard.com/search/adv\\_typeofschool.jsp](http://collegesearch.collegeboard.com/search/adv_typeofschool.jsp)
- Financial Aid: [www.middlesex.mass.edu/FinancialAid](http://www.middlesex.mass.edu/FinancialAid)
- Foundation Scholarships: [www.middlesex.mass.edu/foundation/scholarships](http://www.middlesex.mass.edu/foundation/scholarships)



### **Program Contact Information:**

If you have questions about the Liberal Studies Program, see your assigned advisor OR visit the Academic, Career and Transfer Centers in Lowell: City Building, Ground Floor or Bedford: Enrollment Center, Building 1