
Mission Statement

Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts is a public, residential, liberal arts college, which offers both undergraduate and graduate programs. Its distinctive purpose is to provide a high quality alternative to private liberal arts institutions at a lower cost.

Special features include selective admission, small classes, individualized attention, and academic excellence in an attractive college setting. A challenging curriculum provides flexibility for motivated students to shape their own course of study and encourages them to combine traditional coursework with experiential learning, such as internships, study abroad, and other field experiences. Working with a diverse student body in an intellectually challenging environment, MCLA faculty and staff develop liberally educated citizens with the knowledge, perspectives, critical thinking abilities, and values necessary to become active members of their communities and leaders in their chosen professions.

To accomplish this mission, we seek to develop curricula that integrate liberal arts and professional studies; affirm the value of excellent teaching and reward scholarly and creative activity; expand opportunities for experiential learning to include field experiences, community service, international programs and independent studies; create a campus community that fosters intellectual, cultural, social and recreational activities that enrich education and where the value and worth of all people are affirmed and celebrated; achieve greater diversity within our faculty, administration, staff, and student body; challenge students to succeed and support them in their efforts; and extend our cultural and educational resources to enhance the quality of life in the Berkshires.

Accreditation Statement

Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Inc., a nongovernmental, nationally recognized organization whose affiliated institutions include elementary schools through collegiate institutions offering post-graduate instruction.

Accreditation of an institution by the New England Association indicates that the institution meets or exceeds criteria for institutional quality, which are periodically assessed through a peer review process. An accredited school or college has the resources necessary to achieve its stated purposes through appropriate educational programs, does so substantially, and gives reasonable evidence that it will continue to do so in the foreseeable future. Accreditation also requires the demonstration of institutional integrity.

Nondiscrimination Policy

Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts is committed to maintain and promote a policy of nondiscrimination on the basis of race, creed, religion, color, gender, sexual orientation, age, disability, veteran status, marital status, and national origin. This policy incorporates by reference and where applicable the requirements of Federal Executive Orders 11246 and 11375 as amended; the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended; the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1988; the Civil Rights Act of 1991; Title IX of the Higher Education Rehabilitation Act of 1973; the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990; Section 402 of the Vietnam Era Veterans Readjustment Assistance Act of 1974; and pertinent Laws, Regulations and Executive Orders; directives of the Board of Higher Education, the Board of Trustees of Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and other applicable local, state, and federal statutes.

Information concerning the College's Affirmative Action Plan may be obtained from the Affirmative Action Office located in Mark Hopkins Hall, Room 1.