The Doctor of Liberal Studies degree requires 36 credits of coursework (including four foundational courses). Students must also pass both the written and oral qualifying examinations and successfully complete and defend a doctoral thesis.

Foundation Courses
During the first four regular semesters in the program, students are required to complete, in sequence, the four Seminar Foundational courses. These courses are specifically designed to develop students’ understanding and mastery of interdisciplinary approaches to academic research, argumentation, values reflection, and oral and written communication.

Qualifying Exam
At the conclusion of the coursework, doctoral candidates sit for both an oral and a written qualifying exam to demonstrate proficiency in the areas required to progress to the final thesis defense.

Thesis
DLS students pursue a range of topics in their theses, and many have seen their research published as books. Past thesis topics have included research around globalization, war, peace, religion, politics, and major events of human history.

WHO SHOULD APPLY
As courses are offered exclusively in the evenings and on occasional Saturdays, the DLS program attracts many working professionals from a wide variety of industries and occupations, including, but not limited to:

- Federal Government
- Private Industry
- Associations
- Healthcare
- Education
- Government
- Nonprofit
- Media
- Entertainment
- Technology
- Academia
- Policy
- Nonprofit
- Consulting
- Entrepreneurship

Applicants to the program must possess a completed graduate degree, or one that will be completed no later than the semester prior to the fall start. Students begin the program as a cohort, and as such, applications are only accepted once a year.

Applications and required materials must be received by February 1 in order to be considered for admission in the following fall’s cohort.