

Master of Arts

Classical Liberal Education

& Civic Leadership

2025-2026

Handbook

Master of Arts in Classical Liberal Education & Civic Leadership

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Accessing Current and Previous Handbooks

The current handbook can be found on the graduate web page <https://scetl.asu.edu/graduate-studies> or from the Director of the Graduate Programs and the Graduate Advisor.

Archived versions of the program handbook – all previous versions of the handbook when created, will also be found on our graduate webpage.

Introduction.....	5
Program Description.....	5
Admission Requirements	4
Accelerated Master’s Admission	6
Requirements.....	6
Tuition and	7
Costs.....	7
Applying for Financial Aid.....	7
Funding & Financial Assistance for Graduate Students	7
Fellowships & Scholarships.....	8
Automatic Admission	8
Residency Guidelines	8
Research and Teaching Assistants.....	8
International Teaching Assistant	8
The Master of Arts (M.A.) Degree Curriculum	8
Transfer Credit	8
In-Person and ASU Sync (Online) Options.....	8
Core Courses	10
Restrictive Elective	11
Electives	11
Summer Institute.....	11
Culminating Experience.....	12
Applied Project.....	12
Thesis.....	13
Scheduling the Defense.....	13
Format Review.....	13
ProQuest Submission.....	13
Deadlines.....	14
Plan of Study	15
Academic Advising	16
Advising Appointments	17
Plan of Study (IPOS)	17
Continuous Enrollment	17
Leave of Absence.....	17
Drop/Add and Withdrawal Process.....	18
Deadlines	18
Course Withdrawal Deadline	18
Complete Session Withdrawal Deadline	18
Medical/Compassionate Withdrawal	19
Voluntary Withdrawal from ASU	19
Voluntary Withdrawal from a Graduate Degree or Certificate Program	19
Satisfactory Academic Progress.....	19
GPA and Course Grades.....	20

Incomplete Grades.....	20
Performance and Review.....	20
Probation, Remediation, and Dismissal.....	20
Academic Probation.....	20
Academic Dismissals by the Graduate College and Academic Unit.....	22
Dismissal Criteria.....	22
Rules Regarding Recommended Dismissal.....	22
Student Support Services	23
Academic and Professional Development	23
Career Services	23
Graduate Academic Support Center	24
Healthcare and Insurance	24
Disability Resources	24
Veteran Resources	24
Counseling Services	25
Title IX	25
Business Services	25
Student Accounts	25
Parking and Transit	25
Sun Card	25
Campus Amenities	25
Dining	25
Shopping	25
Entertainment	26
Graduation and Degree Conferral	26
Student Responsibilities and Code of Conduct	26
Academic Integrity	26
Grievances and Appeals	27

Introduction

Welcome to a new kind of program. One that looks beyond time and borders to explore the fundamental questions of life, freedom, and governance. One that looks inward to the guiding principles of America’s founders and the leaders who have inspired us. One that combines classic works and altruistic statesmanship to develop a new kind of leader: trained in critical thought, humble about human imperfection, and ready for anything.

Program Description

The M.A. in Classical Liberal Education and Civic Leadership prepares teachers, civic leaders, public servants, and concerned citizens to think about the challenges of our time within the broader context of the abiding human questions. The SCETL Masters is an integrated, interdisciplinary course of study that is centered on student-learning centered. We employ the Socratic method of classroom dialogue rather than the large lecture hall model crafted for narrow specialization. SCETL’s Masters is ASU’s Lyceum, oriented to the classical, holistic pursuit of knowledge captured in the Aristotelian approach to education.

The curriculum of our Masters includes philosophy, politics, literature, ethics, history, and science. It combines theory and practice, ideas and application, incorporating inquiry about the good life with the practical challenge of leading others – nations, societies, and individuals – in the pursuit of a way of life that accords with the precepts of justice and the ethos of humanity. If the latter requires the art of civic leadership, teaching this art is the task of “the cultivators of the human mind...the teachers of the arts of life and the means of happiness.”

As Aristotle taught, there is no substitute for doing the right thing in the right way. This is true in how we educate our children, live with our neighbors, and govern our nation. SCETL’s Masters aims to prepare the next generation’s “cultivators of the human mind” and thoughtful civic leaders to meet the challenges ahead with foresight, integrity, and imagination.

This manual, compiled by the School of Civic and Economic Thought and Leadership (SCETL) Graduate Program Committee (GPC), is intended to serve as a guide to both faculty and students in all matters relating to the SCETL graduate program. It is a supplement to the Graduate Catalog, and must be understood with reference to—and thorough familiarity with—that bulletin. Students should also be cognizant of the various deadlines established by the ASU Graduate College. [The Graduate College web page](#) is a useful additional source of information. This guide is kept as up to date as possible but is always subject to change.

5Applicants must fulfill the requirements of both the Graduate College and The College that can be found at <https://admission.asu.edu/apply/graduate/admission>

Applicants are eligible to apply to the program if they have earned a bachelor’s or master’s degree in liberal arts, political science, history, philosophy, theology, the natural sciences, or a related field, from an accredited institution.

Applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00 = “A”) in the last 60 hours of their first bachelor’s degree program, or applicants must have a minimum cumulative

GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00 = “A”) in an applicable master’s degree program.

Applicants are required to submit:

1. Graduate admission application and application fee
2. Official transcripts
3. Three letters of recommendation from people in education or leadership positions
4. Written Statement

Additional Application Information

An applicant whose native language is not English must provide proof of English proficiency regardless of current residency.

Application Fee

Each application to an ASU graduate program must be accompanied by a non-refundable application fee, payable by credit or debit card at the time of submission. The application fee covers Graduate Admission Services’ administrative costs of processing all applications and is not refundable under any circumstance.

Domestic application fee: \$70

International application fee: \$115

Applicants receive an email acknowledgement once the application has been successfully submitted. The acknowledgement includes an ASURITE ID and activation code so that students may follow the progress of their application through My ASU. Applicants should review My ASU to monitor their application status, “To Do” items and “Holds”.

Accelerated Master’s Admission Requirements

The Accelerated Master’s program allows students to accelerate their studies by combining undergraduate with graduate coursework, which may allow them to earn a bachelor’s and a master’s degree in as few as five years total.

Applicants must be eligible to apply and ready to apply. Eligibility requirements include a GPA of 3.5 or higher. Readiness includes having completed 75 credit hours of undergraduate coursework. Interested students are encouraged to meet with their undergraduate advisor in their junior (third) year to assess eligibility and readiness. If suitable, then students will submit an Accelerated Master’s “Agreement” for approval. Once approved, students can then apply to the graduate program, which they will enter after their senior undergraduate year. In the latter year, up to 12 credits may be applied to both the undergraduate and graduate degrees (at least 6 such credits must be 500-level courses).

Tuition and Costs

As a graduate student, you'll pay ASU for tuition and fees. The cost of tuition will vary based on your residency status. See details on [ASU's tuition estimator](#). Housing and meals, books and supplies, transportation, and personal expenses will vary depending on your spending choices and should be budgeted into your college expenses.

Applying for Financial Aid from the Federal Government

To receive federal financial aid (grants, loans and work-study) you must submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid each year. The FAFSA opens every Oct. 1 and ASU's priority filing date is Jan. 15. Aid is awarded on a first-come, first-served basis, so apply early.

Once you submit your FAFSA, check your "Priority Actions" box in [My ASU](#) regularly to be sure that ASU does not need any additional documents from you to verify your FAFSA. All requests will be listed in My ASU or sent to your ASU email.

Funding & Financial Assistance for Graduate Students

ASU offers a variety of [funding resources](#). To learn more about the financial aid process [here](#). The Graduate and Professional Student Association (GPSA) is a student organization that provides funding opportunities. Visit [GPSA's funding webpage](#) for more information.

Fellowships & Scholarships

SCETL offers its graduate students several fellowship and scholarship opportunities with the ability to reapply annually. A number of our fellowships cover much or even all the cost of tuition and fees for chosen recipients. Future and current students will regularly receive an updated listing of available fellowships and application deadlines.

The Graduate College offers various fellowships and awards to graduate students. Some awards require department nomination; some are open for student application. Information and instructions regarding applying for these awards will be sent to the student emails periodically.

Many prospective and current students in our MA program are eligible for a unique funding opportunity through the Arizona Teachers Academy (ATA)—a scholarship program for those interested in teaching. If you are already working in Arizona public schools (including charter schools) or plan to, you may be eligible for ATA-funded tuition coverage. Please contact the Director of Graduate Studies for more information.

Automatic Admission

ASU undergrads who meet certain eligibility requirements can receive automatic admission into the MA program. Please contact the Director of Graduate Studies or Graduate Advisor scetlgraduate@asu.edu for more information.

Residency Guidelines

Your [residency classification](#) is initially determined via the admissions application according to residency guidelines provided by the [Arizona Board of Regents](#). As a non-resident, you may request reclassification if you think you should be a resident for tuition purposes. If you choose to do so, you would be responsible for providing objective evidence for all factors necessary to provide a basis for this change.

The [online residency petition](#) is only available to current, active, non-resident students. New or future students do not become current or active until they are admitted to the University and enrollment begins for the student's semester of admission (see the ASU [Academic Calendar](#) for enrollment dates).

Research and Teaching Assistants

The MA program considers applications for graduate research assistants. The research assistant positions may be available for .25 FTE (10 hours/week) or .50 FTE (20 hours/per week). Research duties may be performed at the ASU Tempe Campus or as determined by the research advisor.

Examples of Responsibilities:

In close collaboration with the research supervisor, the Research Assistant may:

- Conduct literature reviews
- Collect and analyze qualitative data
- Assist in drafting and/or editing of manuscripts to be submitted for conference presentation and/or publication
- Perform additional duties as assigned

More details on required qualifications and the application process can be provided by request. ASU also provides [additional information and policies](#) regarding graduate appointments. Teaching assistant opportunities will be made available as needed.

International Teaching Assistant

The ITA program ([International Teaching Assistants](#)) serves Arizona State University (ASU) academic departments that employ international students as teaching assistants, and ASU international graduate students who want to become teaching assistants. The program provides testing services, teacher training, and language support services. The SPEAK Test, SPEAK Workshops, and the ITA Teacher Training Course are administered through the ITA Program, which has served thousands of students for over 30 years.

The Master of Arts (M.A.) Degree Curriculum

All students in the MCLE&CL will complete 30 credit hours to qualify for degree conferral. Requirements include three core courses (9 credit hours), one restricted elective topics course (3 credit hours), four or five elective courses (12 or 15 credit hours, respectively), and the Capstone culminating experience. The Capstone involves either a thesis (6 credit hours) or an applied project (3 credit hours). Students choosing the latter option will need to take five electives to graduate. Transfer credits may be accepted and will be assessed on a case-by-case basis according to the guidelines of the Graduate College (with a maximum of 12 credit hours from accredited institutions). Up to three credits may be earned through our study abroad programs, known as Global Intensive Experiential (GIE) courses.

In-Person and ASU Sync (Online) Options

The MCLE&CL program offers a combination of in-person and synchronous online options. In the first of its kind program for ASU, our hybrid degree allows both in-state and out-of-state students to enjoy the benefits of Socratic, seminar-style, synchronous online courses. ASU Sync students will join classes with their in-person peers via Zoom, allowing them to participate in the critical in-class conversations while still earning their degree online. All MCLE&CL students can participate in in-person experiences as well through our Summer Institute, discussed below.

Core Courses (9 credit hours required)

CEL 501 Literary Leaders (3 credit hours)

This seminar examines literary leaders, both in respect to depictions of leadership in works of classical and compelling literature, as well as literary authors who led the way and set the standards in their respective genres.

CEL 503 Classic Texts in Political Philosophy and Justice (3 credit hours)

This course provides an overview of the four major periods of political thought – ancient, medieval, modern, and post-modern – and engages students in close readings of classic texts from each of these periods. The concept of justice will serve as an organizing theme, complemented by analyses of other political concepts such as virtue, the common good, natural law, rights, liberty, and equality.

CEL 513 Classic Texts in Historical Leadership and Statesmanship (3 credit hours)

Students will encounter classic texts featuring leading historical figures confronting critical circumstances requiring the art of statesmanship. Students will examine civic leaders within the historical context that shaped their challenges and choices, as well as consider the timeless principles of effective and prudential leadership.

Restricted Elective (3 credit hours total and one must be chosen from among the following courses offered by the School of International Letters and Cultures (SILC).)

SLC 598: Tragedy and Comedy in the Greek Polis (3 credit hours)

In ancient Greek civic thought, poets wielded influence beyond that even of philosophers. Not merely entertainment, theater was the venue in which the body politic saw itself, and its values, both reflected and criticized. This course examines the tragedies of Aeschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides, the comedies of Aristophanes, and the criticism of Plato and Aristotle, with a view to their impact on political ideas both ancient and modern. The course will be taught in English and texts will be read in English translation.

SLC 598: Greco-Roman Ideas of Leadership and Politics (3 credit hours)

This course is intended to include a number of rotating topics, in accordance with student interest and faculty availability. These include “Leadership in Epic,” “Theorizing the Ancient State,” “Education in Antiquity,” and “Christianity and Classical Culture.” In each of these, both Greek and Roman authors will be studied for their views of the proper function of the leader in the state. The course will be taught in English and texts will be read in English translation.

SLC 598: The Classical Tradition (3 credit hours)

The impact of the ancient Greeks and Romans on the construction of modernity is hard to underestimate, but often poorly understood. This course traces that influence through literature, philosophy, and the arts, and shows how it influences modern societies, including the way that its fundamental ideas are framed. The course will be taught in English and texts will be read in English translation.

LAT 421: Roman Literature (3 credit hours)

Readings in the Latin masterpieces. Authors read change each year in accordance with needs of the class. May be repeated for credit. Texts read in the Latin language; LAT 202 or equivalent proficiency in Latin is a prerequisite.

Electives

The courses below are sample electives. We often rotate in or add new courses based on student interest and faculty expertise.

CEL 598 Topic: Classic Texts in Faith and Reason (3 credit hours)

The question of the relationship between faith and reason is a perennial one, occupying political philosophers and theologians from ancient times to the present. This course explores the relationship between faith and reason through a reading and discussion of the classic authors such as Plato, Aristotle, Augustine, Maimonides, Al Farabi, St. Thomas Aquinas, Martin Luther, John Locke, Kierkegaard, Flannery O’Connor, and others. Themes explored include the status of divine revelation, the power and limits of reason, the relationship of reason and revelation to happiness.

CEL 598 Topic: Natural Law and Rights (3 credit hours)

The ideas of natural law and natural rights have had long, contested, and intertwined histories. Both find their origins in pre-modernity and undergo significant developments in the modern era. This course explores the ideas of natural law and natural rights, both in themselves and in their complicated relationship to one another, particularly as the differing and even conflicting conceptions have impacted political thought and practice. Works by authors such as Aristotle, Aquinas, Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, Thomas Jefferson, and James Wilson will be studied.

CEL 598 Topic: Ethics, Character, and Leadership (3 credit hours)

This course examines the fundamental issues of ethics, including the relationship among character, prudence, and happiness for the individual, and the relationship among character, prudence, strategy, and civic leadership in the political community. Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics* will form the essential text for the course, supplemented with other materials and cases.

CEL 598 Topic: Constitutional Government (3 credit hours)

This course examines the history and principles of constitutional government and the rule of law. Topics such as the social compact, popular sovereignty, nationalism, federalism, limited government, rule of law, natural rights, individual rights and responsibilities, and self government will be addressed.

CEL 598 Topic: Constitutional Controversies (3 credit hours)

In this course, the classroom transforms into a courtroom. Students become lawyers and judges, arguing and deciding cases that hinge upon our most important constitutional controversies. Students will grapple with contentious issues in the context of the U.S. Constitution, legal history, and the philosophy of law.

400 Level Elective Courses

Upper division undergraduate 400-level courses may be taken by MCLE&CL graduate students, albeit no more than 6 credit hours of 400-level coursework may be included in a graduate student plan of study.

Summer Institute (3 Credit Hours)

The MA program now hosts an annual Summer Institute in Flagstaff, known for its relatively moderate summertime climate. Students are shuttled up to Flagstaff where they spend a week living together, dining together, and taking a 3-credit elective. The Summer Institute is an important opportunity to build a cohesive cohort among graduate students. It is also of particular value to out-of-state students who can complement their usual online courses with

this in-person summer experience. Course topics will vary by summer; please contact the Director of Graduate Studies for more details.

Culminating Experience (3 or 6 Credit Hours required)

SCETL MA students have **two options** for their Capstone culminating experience: either (1) a 6-credit thesis or (2) a 3-credit applied project.

Each of these two options constitutes the culmination of a student's degree. It reflects the research area of specialization identified by the student in consultation with the advisory committee or applied project chair. Before any formal work on the thesis or applied project is begun, students must complete the Capstone Canvas Course, which is an online form wherein students identify their respective topics and list the names of faculty members who have committed in writing to serving on their committees. A student's committee chair may require a prospectus prior to the student's enrollment in either CEL 593 Applied Project or CEL 599 thesis. The prospectus is a statement of the topic area, a brief discussion of its significance, the primary questions to be addressed, and the research or project design.

Applied Project

Students must have an approved iPOS prior to registering for their applied project or capstone course. An applied project requires registration in the Applied Projects course (CEL 593) and requires a grade of "B" or better. Students will select a chair and one additional committee member for their applied project.

Thesis

Committee Selection

SCETL MA students must choose a culminating experience advisory committee. Upon entering the program, students will initially work with the Director and Associate Director of Graduate Studies, as well as with the Academic Advisor, to discuss their interests and intentions, and become familiar with the areas of expertise of SCETL faculty. The Director, Associate Director, and/or Academic Advisor will assist students in forming their committee, at which point the committee chair will take on a greater advisory role.

The thesis advisory committee (consisting of 3 members—a chair and two other faculty members), or the applied project advisory committee (consisting of 2 members—a chair and one other faculty member) oversees and approves the Plan of Study (iPOS); guides and monitors academic progress; and directs the thesis or applied project and its oral defense. The chair and at least one other member of the committee must be faculty of the School of Civic and Economic Thought and Leadership.

When the advisory committee is satisfied with the progress of the thesis, the student presents and defends their thesis in an oral examination. If a student pursues an applied project, the student's committee determines the best form of evaluation, be it an oral examination, a written evaluation, or some combination thereof. In the case of the thesis defense, it must be scheduled according to the Graduate College policy, and the student should contact the Graduation section in the Registrar's office well in advance of the defense. Notice of the student's defense, with an abstract, must be posted for SCETL faculty and students no later than one week before the date of the defense. Interested parties may attend the defense. After the thesis defense, the committee members and the graduate director sign the Report for Master's Thesis Defense. A copy of the defense form and the thesis must be taken to Graduate Education. The chair must also give a copy to the SCETL graduate coordinator.

Scheduling the Defense

At least 10 working days prior to the planned defense of a thesis, dissertation or equivalent, students schedule the defense through their iPOS. See [Graduation Deadlines](#). Students work with their supervisory committee and the academic unit's graduate support staff to identify a suitable date and reserve a room. When a defense date and location have been identified and the defense has been scheduled through My ASU, students submit a complete draft copy of the thesis/dissertation to be defended by uploading the document to their Interactive Plan of Study. The defense will be published on the [Graduate College Master's/Doctoral Defense Schedule](#) website.

Format Review

The [Format Manual](#) is a comprehensive guide to formatting a thesis, dissertation or equivalent document and it always overrides a style guide if the two conflict. Students must use the Format Manual to prepare their thesis/dissertation. Unsure how to interpret the Format Manual? Have a situation that seems unique? Email a format advisor gradformat@asu.edu.

The Graduate College's [Formatting Tool](#) uses the Format Manual guidelines to generate a template into which students can insert their document's text. The formatting tool is designed to help students with the basic format requirements such as margins and spacing, and greatly improves the format review process for students.

ProQuest Submission

Students are required to create a new user account specific to the submission of their document, and must use their ASU email address. UMI/ProQuest requires all students to submit a PDF version of their final document. The Graduate College requires that the PDF document is in compliance with the formatting standards presented in the format manual. Students will receive final format approval only after the submitted PDF document has successfully passed a format review. Students have an opportunity to order bound copies of their document for themselves through UMI/ProQuest. The Final Document will also appear

archived in the [ASU Digital Repository](#).

Deadlines

The [graduation deadlines and procedures](#) are set by the Graduate College and are available online. Deadline dates vary slightly depending on the calendar year, so students should check them carefully in advance of the semester they plan to defend their thesis/dissertation. It is very important that students become familiar with these deadlines so that graduation can occur during the expected term.

Recommended General Schedule for Writing a Thesis

Students opting to write a thesis are *strongly encouraged* to consult and implement this schedule in at least rough outline to successfully execute their project.

1. More than a year prior to the semester in which students wish to receive the degree they should
 - a. Begin Formulating a topic.
 - b. Consult with faculty whom they wish to serve on their committees about the topic and their willingness to serve either as supervisor or committee members.

Faculty supervisors must be regular tenured or tenure track SCETL faculty. In some cases a regular SCETL faculty member may be willing to co-supervise the thesis with another, non-tenured faculty member.

- c. Having obtained the faculty's approval of the topic and agreement to serve on the committee, students should formulate and submit a draft proposal, including a bibliography of 8-10 works to be consulted, to their faculty committee for suggestions, comments, and approval.
 - d. Research and read about their chosen topic.
2. In the first semester of the thesis, students should
 - a. continue researching and reading
 - b. consult with their supervisor, if not all members of the committee, periodically to discuss their progress, the direction in which their thoughts are developing, and to solicit further suggestions or recommendations
 - c. draft an outline of their thesis to be submitted to their faculty supervisors by the beginning of spring semester.
3. In the second semester of the thesis, students should

- a. submit a draft of their thesis to members of their committee by midterm break
 - b. establish a day and time committee to defend their thesis with their committee.
 - c. Revise the thesis in response to the comments and suggestions of their committee.
4. After they have successfully defended their theses, students will need to submit a copy of the thesis to the university formatted according to the instructions in the Graduate Manual.

Students should understand that the purpose of the thesis requirement is not simply for them to compose a long paper of 50-60 pages. A paper of 30-35 pages, typed double-space (i.e., the length of most scholarly articles) should suffice, if the paper is well argued and based on thorough research. Thorough research will include responses to alternative interpretations or explanations of the topic—the work, phenomenon, or problem—under investigation. In a Master’s thesis, the author is not expected merely to summarize and report what he or she has read.

The proposed schedule may be adapted for a student who wants to begin work on a thesis in the middle of the academic year and graduate in the summer or fall instead of spring.

Plan of Study

To graduate in a timely manner, students should follow a recommended plan of study. Deviation from a plan of study should be discussed with the graduate support coordinator and program director. Failure to follow a plan of study may result in delayed graduation

Plan of study, One Year

Term	Course	Credits
Year 1- Fall	CEL 503 Classic Texts in Political Philosophy and Justice	3
	CEL 500-level elective	3
	CEL Elective	3
	CEL 599 Thesis or CEL Elective (if doing Applied Project)	3
Year 1 - Spring	CEL 501 Literary Leaders	3
	CEL 513 Classic Texts in Leadership and Statesmanship	3
	CEL Elective	3
	SLC Restrictive Elective	3
	CEL 599 Thesis or CEL 593 Applied Project	3
Year 1 - Summer	CEL Elective	3

Plan of study, 18 Months

Term	Course	Credits
Year 1- Fall	CEL 503 Classic Texts in Political Philosophy and Justice	3
	CEL 500-level elective	3
	CEL Elective	3
Year 1 - Spring	CEL 501 Literary Leaders	3
	CEL 513 Classic Texts in Leadership and Statesmanship	3
	CEL 599 Thesis or CEL Elective (if doing Applied Project)	3
Year 1 - Summer	CEL Elective	3
Year 2 - Fall	CEL Elective	3
	SLC Restrictive Elective	3
	CEL 599 Thesis or CEL 593 Applied Project	3

Plan of study, 2 Years

Term	Course	Credits
Year 1- Fall	CEL 503 Classic Texts in Political Philosophy and Justice	3
	CEL 500-level elective	3
Year 1 - Spring	CEL 501 Literary Leaders	3
	CEL Elective	3
Year 1 - Summer	CEL Elective	3
Year 2 - Fall	CEL Elective	3
	SLC Restrictive Elective	3
	CEL 599 Thesis or CEL Elective (if doing Applied Project)	3
Year 2 - Spring	CEL 513 Classic Texts in Leadership and Statesmanship	3
	CEL 599 Thesis or CEL 593 Applied Project	3

Academic Advising

Students are responsible for meeting all degree and program requirements; however, SCETL graduate support staff are available to assist with interpreting policies and navigating university systems. Graduate support staff provide advising in many areas, including but not limited to:

- Admissions
- New student orientation
- Registration (including overrides/waivers)
- Degree requirements

- Plan of study
- Degree milestones (eg., exams, defense)
- Graduate College policy
- Graduation

Advising Appointments

Advising is available by email or appointment (phone or in-person). Students can visit the SCETL graduate advising webpage to make an appointment during a given semester. Students are strongly encouraged to review the SCETL Graduate Program Handbook prior to making an advising appointment. General inquiries sent to scetlgraduate@asu.edu will be routed to the appropriate person.

Plan of Study (IPOS)

The plan of study (iPOS) is a record of a student's completed and anticipated coursework. It functions as a contract between the student, SCETL's MA Program, and the Graduate College. SCETL MA students must submit an iPOS in their first semester. The Graduate College will place an enrollment hold on a student's account if he/she has not submitted an iPOS by this time. Only coursework applicable towards a student's degree must be listed on the iPOS.

A draft of the iPOS is first approved by the thesis advisory committee or applied project chair. The draft is then reviewed by the SCETL graduate coordinator and the graduate director. Finally, the iPOS is submitted electronically to the Graduate College for approval. The SCETL graduate coordinator will help ensure proper on-line entry and submission of the iPOS. Information regarding the iPOS can be found at <https://graduate.asu.edu/current-students/completing-your-degree/your-plan-study-ipos>.

Continuous Enrollment

Once admitted to the SCETL graduate degree program, students must be registered for a minimum of one graduate credit hour per regular semester of their graduate education. Graduate students planning to discontinue registration for a semester or more must submit a Leave of Absence request via their Interactive Plan of Study (iPOS). This request must be submitted and approved before the anticipated semester of non-registration. Students may request to maintain continuous enrollment without course registration for a maximum of two semesters during their entire program. Students should contact their adviser as soon as possible if they will not be able to meet continuous enrollment. All work towards the SCETL M.A. should be completed within five consecutive years, barring a leave of absence.

Leave of Absence

Students may request up to two semesters of non-enrollment during their entire program. Submit a Leave of Absence petition via the iPOS. This request must be submitted and approved before the anticipated semester of non-registration. Students may request a

maximum of two semesters of leave during their entire program. Having an approved Leave of Absence by the Graduate College will enable students to re-enter their program without reapplying to the university.

Students who do not register for a fall or spring semester without an approved Leave of Absence are considered withdrawn from the university under the assumption that they have decided to discontinue their program. Students removed for this reason may reapply for admission to resume their degree program; the application will be considered along with all other new applications to the degree program.

Students with a Graduate College approved Leave of Absence are not required to pay tuition and/or fees but in turn are not permitted to place any demands on university faculty or use any university resources. These resources include university libraries, laboratories, recreation facilities or faculty and staff time.

Drop/Add and Withdrawal Process

Visit <https://students.asu.edu/drop-add> for more information.

Deadlines

Registration deadlines determine the last day you are able to add, drop or withdraw from classes. Each class has its own set of registration deadlines which are based on the length of the class as well as the session in which the class is held. The drop/add/withdrawal deadlines listed on the [Academic Calendar](#) apply to classes scheduled in the regular A/B/C sessions. If your class does not follow the A/B/C session timelines, the drop/add/ withdrawal deadlines are prorated. The best way to determine the registration deadlines for a class you are registered for is to sign in to [My ASU](#) and click on the calendar icon next to the class in the My Classes box. To determine the registration deadlines for a class you have not yet registered for, use the online [Class Search and Course Catalog](#) to search for the class and click on the Dates column in the search results.

Course Withdrawal Deadline

This is the last day to request a withdrawal from a class while staying enrolled in other classes in the same session. A withdrawal from a class after this date is only available as part of a complete session withdrawal (see below).

Complete Session Withdrawal Deadline

This is the last day to request a complete withdrawal from a session. As part of a complete session withdrawal you must withdraw from all of your classes in the session. Beginning the first day of the fall and spring semesters undergraduate students are required to contact their college/school to facilitate the withdrawal process.

Medical/Compassionate Withdrawal

There are appropriate circumstances when students may need to withdraw from the university (i.e. medical withdrawal, compassionate leave). The policies for such withdrawals are the same for both undergraduate and graduate students. Types of withdrawals and procedures can be found at <https://students.asu.edu/drop-add>. For course withdrawals contact the University Registrar's Office.

The goal is to make the medical/compassionate withdrawal (MCW) process an understandable, manageable experience. To ensure a timely review, it's important to review all information provided on [this page](#). This page is intended to guide students of The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences through the process of submitting a Medical/Compassionate Withdrawal.

Voluntary Withdrawal from ASU

Students who wish to withdraw from their graduate degree or certificate program and the university must complete and submit a [Voluntary Withdrawal form](#). Students must separately complete the appropriate forms with the University Registrar to withdraw from their courses. International students should contact the [International Student and Scholars Center \(ISSC\)](#) before submitting a Voluntary Withdrawal form, as it most likely will affect their visa status. Voluntary Withdrawal from a Graduate Degree or Certificate Program Students who wish to transition from one graduate program to another graduate program should complete and submit a Voluntary Withdrawal form. Students should not take this action until they have been admitted to the other graduate degree program.

Voluntary Withdrawal from a Graduate Degree or Certificate Program

Students who wish to transition from one graduate program to another graduate program should complete and submit a [Voluntary Withdrawal form](#). Students should not take this action until they have been admitted to the other graduate degree program.

Satisfactory Academic Progress

All graduate students are expected to make systematic progress toward completion of their degrees. Students are responsible for verifying and tracking satisfactory progress policies as required by Graduate Education. If a student fails to satisfy the requirements, the student may be dismissed from his/her program based on the Graduate Director's recommendation to Graduate Education. Students are required to adhere to the [Graduate College's policies](#) on maintaining academic progress towards degree completion including maintain a minimum 3.00 for all GPAs (see definitions below). All students will be asked to submit a yearly progress report and be evaluated by the faculty. Students will then be provided individualized feedback by the graduate director

Grade Point Averages and Course Grades

SCETL MCLE&CL students must maintain a minimum 3.00 (scale is 4.00 = “A”) grade point average (GPA) to maintain satisfactory academic progress and to graduate. The minimum 3.00 GPA must be maintained on all GPA’s (Plan of Study (iPOS) GPA, Overall Graduate GPA and Cumulative GPA).

1. The iPOS GPA is calculated on all courses that appear on the student’s approved iPOS.
2. The Cumulative GPA represents all courses completed at ASU during the graduate career.
3. The Overall Graduate GPA is based on all courses numbered 500 or higher that appear on the transcript after admission to a graduate program (or graduate non-degree). This includes shared 500-level coursework taken as part of an approved accelerated bachelor’s/master’s program.

Transfer credits and some courses taken in the Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law are not calculated on in the iPOS GPA or the Graduate GPA. Courses lower than a “C” cannot appear on the iPOS but will be included when calculating the Graduate GPA. Courses with an “I” grade cannot appear on the iPOS.

If a student’s GPA falls below 3.0, the student will be notified in writing and placed on probation. If the student’s GPA is not raised to at least a 3.0 by the end of the next semester, a recommendation will be made to Graduate Education to remove the student from the SCETL Master’s program. To receive the M.A. degree, students also are required to earn at least a B (3.0) in the Capstone.

Incomplete Grades

Students who receive an “Incomplete” grade in a graduate-level course (500-level or above) must complete the necessary work within one calendar year. If the coursework is not completed within one year the incomplete will become part of the student’s permanent transcript and cannot be used on a student’s plan of study. If a student repeats a class that they earned an incomplete in the new grade will not replace the “I” on the student’s transcript.

Performance and Review

To ensure that students are making progress towards their degree in a timely manner and to ensure the students’ responsibilities are met, the Director, the student’s faculty advisor, or academic advisor will review students’ progress each semester. The review is an opportunity to address any extenuating circumstances that may contribute to delays in completing milestones. The Academic Advising Manager will send instructions and deadlines to students at the appropriate time who are not on not making satisfactory academic progress.

Unsatisfactory reviews may result in a written warning. Refer to Probation, Remediation, and Dismissal for details (pages 20-21).

Probation, Remediation, and Dismissal

All graduate students are expected to make systematic progress toward completion of their degree. This progress includes maintaining Satisfactory Academic Progress, and achieving the milestones and requirements set by the individual degree programs as well as the Graduate College. If a student fails to satisfy the requirements of their degree program and/or the milestones outlined in the Programs Section, the student may be placed on probation or be recommended to the Graduate College for dismissal from their program.

Academic Probation

Students are placed on academic probation under the following circumstances:

1. Whenever their overall graduate GPA, cumulative ASU GPA, or iPOS GPA drops below 3.0, as per Graduate College policy. Students on this type of probation have one semester to raise the GPA to 3.0 or above and thus return to good standing.
2. Upon failure to correct a situation outlined in a prior warning. This may include: nonresponse on the Student Annual Review, unsatisfactory performance on the Student Annual Review, missed milestones, unprofessional or nonresponsive communication with faculty, students, and/or staff, or failure to maintain faculty advisor relationship.

Students will be notified and receive a probation letter with the expectations. Upon meeting the conditions of probation, the student will be notified in writing of their restoration to good academic standing.

No grades of Incomplete may accrue while a student is on Academic Probation, and Incompletes received prior to the probationary period must be completed by the end of the probationary period. Any Incomplete not resolved by the end of the probationary period will be changed to E.

A student may, with their faculty advisor, appeal probation based on reasons in #2 above if there are extenuating circumstances. The faculty advisor must provide justification for the deficiency to the Graduate Committee and/or Graduate Director, who will make a determination. Probation based on GPA deficiency may not be appealed.

Failure to address the deficiency outlined in the probation notice may result in the following:

- Loss of partial or full department financial support, including research/ travel funds
- Recommendation for dismissal from the program

Academic Dismissals by the Graduate College and Academic Unit

Students who do not comply with Graduate College policies may be withdrawn from their graduate program after review by the Dean of the Graduate College.

In addition, academic units may recommend withdrawal of students from graduate programs for lack of compliance with published departmental policies or lack of satisfactory academic progress. All such recommendations must be submitted to the Graduate College with appropriate documentation (e.g., nature of issue, communications with student). Only the Dean of the Graduate College may withdraw students from a graduate program due to lack of compliance with satisfactory academic progress policies.

Students who have been withdrawn from a graduate program due to lack of compliance with published departmental or Graduate College policies, or lack of satisfactory academic progress are eligible to apply for admission to the same program only after one year has passed from the term of the withdrawal. Students who have been withdrawn from a graduate program due to an Academic Integrity violation are not eligible for readmission to Arizona State University.

Dismissal Criteria

Possible causes for recommended dismissal include the following:

- Failure to maintain satisfactory academic progress as defined by SCETL and Graduate College
- Deception or falsification of statements in the admissions application • Unauthorized periods of absence from the graduate program
- Seriously compromising the relations of the Department with the public • Breaches of ethical judgment or professional responsibility
- Breaches of academic or scientific honesty (e.g., plagiarism, falsification of research data)
- Serious instances of personality or character traits or behaviors inappropriate to prepare him/herself
- Serious misuse of departmental or university facilities

Rules Regarding Recommended Dismissal

The dismissal discussion is confidential.

The student may, but is not required to, appear before the SCETL Graduate Committee, or provide the faculty with a written statement, or both. Any oral or written statement by the student is expected to focus solely on the matter under consideration. Performance standards on which a recommended dismissal could be based are written and made available to students upon entering the program. These standards may be found in a variety of sources internal and external to the program. Internal program documents include course syllabi, evaluation criteria, program milestone deadlines, and comprehensive examination standards.

Documents external to the program include university regulations concerning academic or scientific misconduct, and federal regulations regarding the conduct of research with human subjects, as administered by the Institutional Review Board at ASU. Documents external to the program, being subject to change at any time, always supersede internal program documents when there are discrepancies between them.

The dismissal recommendation is made by the SCETL Graduate Committee on a majority vote, based on examination of the evidence.

If the committee's decision is in favor of dismissal, the recommendation to dismiss the student is communicated in writing to the student and to Graduate College. The Dean of the Graduate College makes the final determination.

Student Support Services

Academic and Professional Development

[ASU Library](#), the main social sciences and humanities library, constitutes another valuable source of research information, particularly via its collection strengths in subject areas such as: social sciences, social policy, economic development, community development, and in its [Government Documents Collection](#).

In addition to providing reference assistance in person, by telephone, or by e-mail in all of the ASU Library locations, the ASU Library system offers a 24/7 virtual real-time chat reference service.

Career Services

[ASU Career Services](#) offers many services and resources, including career advising, assistance with resume writing, interview preparation, networking, and job search. Career Services holds job fairs on-campus every semester and has recently implemented [Handshake](#), a new online tool for connecting with prospective employers for internships and employment.

Graduate Academic Support Center

ASU offers a dynamic, supportive learning environment and programs for ASU graduate students enrolled in any graduate certificate or graduate degree program.

Graduate students can work with consultants at [Graduate Writing Tutoring](#) at any stage of the writing process to hone their writing skills and to receive coaching advice about navigating graduate life. ASU offers both online writing tutoring in addition to four on campus locations to serve ASU graduate students. The Tempe, Thunderbird, West, and Downtown Phoenix campus centers also offer graduate students a place to read and write or to meet with a writing group.

Healthcare and Insurance

All students, whether they have health insurance or not, are eligible to use [ASU Health Services](#). Graduate students must be enrolled in a graduate degree or certificate program and registered for at least three credit hours or one dissertation/thesis hour.

Visit [ASU Health Services](#) for additional information and instructions regarding Student Health Coverage Options, Eligibility & Enrollment.

International students will automatically be enrolled in the student health plan upon registration for class.

All students are required to meet the measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) [immunization requirement](#) before class registration. You will see a MMR Immunization hold in the Priority Tasks module in My ASU until your MMR information is received and verified.

For your convenience, SCETL is providing the following resources for our students:

[Graduate Wellness Resources](#)

[10 Best Practices in Graduate Student Wellbeing](#)

Disability Resources

[Student Accessibility and Inclusive Learning Services\(SAILS\)](#) provides services to qualified students with disabilities on all ASU campuses. Services include testing accommodations, note taking services, on-campus transportation, and more. Students new to ASU must fill out a [new student registration form](#) to get started with registering with the SAILS office. Contact SAILS to determine eligibility and submit required documentation.

Veteran Resources

ASU has a robust veteran student services center. [The Pat Tillman Veteran Center](#) offers advising, assistance with GI benefits, military transfer credit and other services. The Tillman Center is staffed almost entirely by veterans who relate to the challenges that new students experience and provide support in navigating complex governmental systems.

Counseling Services

Students are eligible for personal counseling services at ASU. [ASU Counseling Services](#) offers confidential, time-limited, counseling and crisis services for students experiencing emotional concerns, problems in adjusting, and other factors that affect their ability to achieve their academic and personal goals. They will talk with you, help you identify solutions or support, and connect you with those services at ASU or in the community.

Title IX

ASU is committed to providing an environment free from discrimination based on sex and provides a number of resources and services to assist students, faculty and staff in addressing issues involving sex discrimination, including sexual violence. The university's full statement and policies related to [Title IX](#) are available online.

Business Services

Student Accounts

Student Business Services offers a variety of student account services including tuition and billing, student refunds (including financial aid), receipt and payment processing, support for past due accounts, third party sponsorship assistance and loan repayment. Contact [Student Business Services](#) for assistance with student account questions.

Parking and Transit

ASU offers many parking and transit services, including permitted lot and garage parking, campus shuttles, bike lockers and bike valets. Visit [ASU Transportation](#) for parking maps, shuttle routes, and permit policies. City of Tempe also has options for traveling to and from campus, including bus, neighborhood circulators, and light rail

Sun Card

Students must obtain an ASU identification card. The Sun Card is the official student ID for ASU and provides access to campus amenities and services, including secure buildings and elevators as needed. The Sun Card office is located in the Memorial Union lower level. Visit [Card Services](#) for more information on the types of cards offered.

Campus Amenities

Dining

There are multiple options for dining on-campus. [Sun Devil Dining](#) manages dining halls, kiosks, restaurants, and convenience stores in the Memorial Union and other locations at the Tempe campus. Students may make purchases with cash or conventional card payment or use meal plan credits.

Shopping

Textbooks, supplies, ASU apparel and gifts, and computing technology can be purchased on campus at the [Sun Devil Campus Stores](#). There are two locations at the Tempe campus, on Orange Street and at the Sun Devil Marketplace.

Entertainment

ASU offers many options for culture and entertainment on campus. From top-rated

Broadway shows at [ASU Gammage](#) to BIG12 [Sun Devil Athletics](#), from the ASU [Art Museum](#) to the [Marston Exploration Theater](#), there is something for everyone.

Graduation and Degree Conferral

Students must [apply for graduation](#) at the beginning of the term in which they plan to graduate. You can apply for graduation through your My ASU page. You can find that in My Programs, under the graduation tab. If a student chooses not to attend the graduation or commencement ceremonies, they must still apply for graduation to earn their degree. Students who do not complete all requirements in the semester they intend to graduate will need to reapply for graduation the next semester; the application will not be automatically renewed. Students must have their iPOS approved before they can apply for graduation. The application to graduate should be submitted online before the application deadline to avoid late fees.

Student Responsibilities and Code of Conduct

All students are expected to become familiar with and abide by university and program policies and procedures. This information is available online. Most importantly, you should visit the following websites for policy and procedure information: • [The Graduate College](#) • [Graduate College Policies and Procedures](#)

All students are expected to adhere to the Arizona Board of Regents [Student Code of Conduct](#).

Academic Integrity

The SCETL Graduate Program does not tolerate academic dishonesty. Any allegation of academic dishonesty will be referred to the SCETL Graduate Standards Committee for review and recommendation to the Director of the Program. If any student is found to have engaged in academic dishonesty in any form – including but not limited to cheating, plagiarizing and fabricating – that student shall receive a grade of XE for the class and will be dismissed from the school. Additional information pertaining to this can be found [here](#).

ASU has clear definitions of academic integrity. The ASU student [academic integrity policy](#) lists violations in detail. These violations fall into five broad areas that include, but are not limited to:

- Cheating on an academic evaluation or assignment
- Plagiarizing (includes self-plagiarism)
- Academic deceit, such as fabricating data or information
- Aiding academic integrity policy violations and inappropriately collaborating
- Falsifying academic records

Violation of these standards can result in course failure or expulsion from the program.

Grievances and Appeals

Students who are enrolled in a College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (The College) course and believe they have been unfairly or improperly graded may be assured of just treatment and fair consideration. Any such grievance must be started within the regular semester immediately following the course at issue, whether the student is enrolled in the university or not.

There are two stages to the grade grievance process, the informal process and the formal process. Each contains a series of steps. The steps must be followed by any student seeking to appeal a grade. This process does not address academic integrity allegations, faculty misconduct or discrimination.

Refer to [The College Academic Grievance Policy](#) for more information and specific processes.