

LITERARY ARTS CERTIFICATE OF DISTINCTION PROGRAM

All students at MPA receive an education grounded in literature and story that builds empathy, human connection, emotional intelligence, and critical thinking. They are curious and able to evaluate information critically from various sources and perspectives. They develop an ability to live in nuance and resist easy answers. They communicate proficiently in writing and read extensively and thoughtfully. They also use their literary experience to better understand themselves, build relationships, and effect positive change in the world.

Those in our Literary Arts Certificate of Distinction program work to deepen their passion for literature. They undertake independent work that requires additional time, study, and individual responsibility to advance their interest, knowledge, and skills in studying literature and/or writing creatively. As a result, the student better understand their relationships and the experiences of others. They can more effectively communicate a richer understanding of the human condition.

If you are interested in pursuing a SCD, you should first discuss your plans with the Literary Arts GCD advisor who will be able to provide feedback and guidance with the process. From there, you may download a LACD packet from the MPA website. The packet includes all requirements, forms, and information to guide you through the process of achieving a STEM Certificate of Distinction. You must submit the STEM GCD letter of intent found in this packet by December 1st of your junior year. Since all requirements must be met by spring of senior year to receive a certificate, you must decide to pursue the certificate by the fall of your junior year. Portfolio building may begin starting in tenth grade.

You are responsible for obtaining the necessary approvals and maintaining your portfolio throughout your Upper School career. Students who complete all requirements submit their portfolio for review to the GCD Committee in the spring of senior year. Additionally, the committee will meet twice a year to check the work in progress of any student working towards a GCD. While the primary goal of the program is for students to gain skills and knowledge in literary arts, students who complete the program will also receive a certificate and academic distinction. While in the process, your transcript will note "Literary Arts Scholar Candidate." The following are the components that must be achieved, criteria that must be met, and forms that must be completed to obtain a Literary Arts Certificate of Distinction.

REQUIREMENTS

1. Academic

All English courses must be passed with a 3.5 GPA (B+) or higher.

2. Literary Experience

All MPA Upper School students are eligible to work toward a single certificate of distinction, including a Literary Arts Certificate of Distinction. You need to dive deeply into the literary world. You should first read across genres and authors that are new to you to broaden your experience. During your junior and senior years, you will narrow your focus and read an author, genre, or category (i.e., World War II fiction) exhaustively to become an expert. This reading should include critical theory. Or you may dive deeply into a creative writing project. You must propose your in-depth study to an English teacher by spring of your junior year.

3. Literary Life in the Community

The Greater Twin Cities Area is host to a vibrant literary scene. Over the course of your study, you will engage in literary events that may include author readings, poetry events, joining a reading or writing community, exploring libraries and independent bookstores. All these experiences will launch you into the local literary community. You may also choose to take a class or join a writing group at The Loft Literary Center.

4. Publication

You must venture into the world of publishing. This could be submitting original writing for publication, publishing reviews of works you have read, or exploring the publishing world through local publishing houses.

5. Service Project

Your senior service project must include outreach to encourage literary passions. Think creatively about how reading or writing could enrich the lives of others and move beyond your immediate circle.

Complete and submit the LACD Service Form to the GCD Committee before you start your service for pre-approval. You must include the completed and approved LACD Service Form in your LCD Portfolio.

6. GCD Portfolio and Reflection Project

All MPA Upper School students are eligible to work toward a single certificate of distinction, including a Literary Arts Certificate of Distinction. Personal Literary Experience must be approved by an English teacher at the end of your tenth-grade year and your intensive experience must be approved by an English teacher once at the time of proposal and again at the time of completion. You must submit a reading log and/or a writing portfolio for your personal literary experience reflecting approximately 80 hours of reading. Each text will count for approximately 4 hours. You will need 25 hours of Community Literary Experiences and 15 hours in Publishing Exploration. On the LACD Community Activities Forms, you must keep track of all activities including event, date, and description. You will also submit a 500-word (minimum) essay synthesizing what you have learned from these activities and how they contributed to your interest and growth in the Literary Arts as part of your LACD Portfolio.

REQUIREMENTS

The final Portfolio must include:

- Completed and approved reading log and/or writing portfolio
- Completed LAGCD Enrichment Activities Form and essay
- Completed LAGCD Reflective Essay (minimum of 500 words)
- Transcript
- Presentation of service project
- Oral Presentation
- LAGCD Checklist

Portfolios reviews are available (but not required) as you progress. They are available twice a year:

- Portfolios submitted by September 15 will be reviewed by October 1.
- Portfolios submitted by February 15 will be reviewed by March 1.
- Final portfolios must be submitted by May 1 of your senior year and will be evaluated by May 15. May 1 is the final deadline for submissions.

- Quarter 1: forms submitted by September 15 will be reviewed by October 1
- Quarter 2: forms submitted by November 15 will be reviewed by December 1
- Quarter 3: forms submitted by February 15 will be reviewed by March 1
- Quarter 4: forms submitted by May 15 will be reviewed by June 1

Completed LAGCD Portfolios are to be put in a three-ring binder and brought to the LAGCD Advisor. Students are advised to keep a copy of all materials

Literary Arts GCD Letter of Intent

Student:	Year of Graduation
Parent/Guardian:	Date:

LAGCD SERVICE REQUEST FORM

Student:	Year of Graduation:
	Date of Application:
Parent/Guardian:	Parent/Guardian:

Date(s) of Proposed Project and approximate number of hours:	Location of Project:
Supervisors of Project: Contact information:	
Give a brief description of what the service project entails	

Describe how the activity will contribute to your literary experience and understanding:

SCD Review Board Approval

Yes No

Date: ___/___/_____

US Director Signature