

Faculty Agreement to Supervise Final Project

Student name: _____

Project Title: _____

Supervisor: _____

The MALS final project is the culminating educational experience of the Liberal Studies program. Since the MALS degree is not a stepping-stone to a Ph.D., the project's purpose is *not* to demonstrate that the student can contribute specialized knowledge to a particular field of study. Instead, the project provides an opportunity for students to integrate the knowledge and skills that they have gained through the program to produce independent work of the student's own design.

The project usually involves a sustained piece of writing on a topic of mutual interest to the student and faculty supervisor, but it may also involve a practical, creative, or research-based component. We hope that students' projects will integrate material or perspectives from a number of disciplines, and we encourage students to be creative and innovative in their approach. Some students will use the project semester to expand and further develop a paper written for a previous course; others will develop an idea that places their professional interests within the broader academic context of their MALS studies; still others will undertake a creative project. In all cases, however, we expect that the project will include a written, analytical component.

During the project semester, you should plan to meet regularly with the student. We recommend meeting about every two weeks.

The student's proposal will be reviewed by the Liberal Studies Faculty Advisory Committee. After that meeting, MALS director Donna Zapf will be in touch to pass along the comments, suggestions, and concerns of this committee. Sometimes we will ask that the student revise and resubmit the proposal.

After the student's proposal has been approved you will receive a contract letter. In the meantime, please feel free to contact the director at (684-3222) or e-mail her at dzapf@duke.edu if you have questions.

By signing this form, you agree to the following:

____ I agree to supervise the final project of the above MALS student.

____ I have read and approved the student's Final Project proposal.

____ I have arranged a regular schedule of meetings with the student. Our next meeting is scheduled for

Signature: _____ Date _____: