

# COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS



**EXPLORE**  
YOUR WORLD

**ENGAGE**  
YOUR MIND

**ENRICH**  
YOUR LIFE

**EARN**  
A LIVING

**MIDDLE  
TENNESSEE**  
STATE UNIVERSITY.

# CLA

## *College of Liberal Arts*

EXPLORE/ENGAGE/ENRICH/EARN

### CONGRATULATIONS!

**You have been accepted to  
Middle Tennessee State University.**



**Dr. Leah Tolbert Lyons**  
Dean, College of Liberal Arts

As an MTSU student, you are more than just a student in your chosen major. You are also a CLA student.

What is CLA? The College of Liberal Arts—CLA—is one of MTSU's academic colleges. Universities are divided into academic units that are often called colleges. Each of these colleges contains even smaller units called departments or schools. If you have selected a major at MTSU, your major is housed in a department or school.

CLA is led by its dean, Dr. Leah Tolbert Lyons, and an outstanding team whose role is to support our students, faculty, and staff. As a CLA student, you have unique opportunities available to you. We have highlighted some of them here in this publication. Please take the time to read it and follow up with us if you have any questions. Welcome!

# Why liberal arts at MTSU?

The word “liberal” refers to freedom of thought, so the liberal arts refer to the study of a wide variety of subjects designed to encourage dynamic, critical thinking. Whether in the arts, humanities, or social sciences, each discipline gives you a framework for creativity, problem solving, communication, and other skills that can be applied to an endless range of career fields and jobs. These skills have become invaluable in today’s rapidly changing professional landscape.

With the growing amount of technology and data created daily comes an increased demand for people with creative, communication, and problem-solving skills to interpret these developments and make them accessible to the consumer. With rapid advances in technology and industry, a liberal arts degree is more relevant than ever, equipping you with the adaptability and flexible thinking crucial to navigating a professional life in the evolving landscapes of the workforce.

As a CLA student at MTSU, you will have access to some of the most dedicated faculty on campus who will help you explore your world, engage your mind, enrich your life, and earn a living. Your experiences will prepare you to shape the future, solve real-world problems, showcase your skills, and succeed with the liberal arts.



**EXPLORE**  
YOUR WORLD  
*shape the future*

# Advising

CLA believes competent and caring advisors are an essential part of a college student's academic success, and we are committed to excellence in all advising processes. As a CLA student, you will be assigned two advisors—one college advisor and one faculty member.

## College Advisors

- are degree requirement specialists and assist in creating a program of study to complete requirements in a timely and manageable fashion
- follow your progress each semester and can recommend support services for overcoming challenges or offer advice for navigating University processes

## Faculty Advisors

- are experts in their disciplines and serve as mentors to help you understand and excel in your field
- assist with selecting electives or minors to complement career interests
- provide guidance regarding internship or study abroad opportunities, strengthening resumes and portfolios, and other activities that enhance readiness for graduate school or a profession

Working together with you, this advising team helps you to reach your goals and position yourself for success!

# Cocurricular Engagement

Getting involved in cocurricular activities enriches your experience on campus. It can create a sense of belonging and connectedness and enhance academic success, mental health, and career readiness. From taking the field with our Band of Blue to competing with Model United Nations to conducting undergraduate research, CLA offers a variety of cocurricular opportunities for you. You can also join specific clubs for your major(s), community engagement groups, and academic honor societies. Whatever your interests, opportunities abound for you in CLA.

Annually, CLA offers short-term study abroad programs led by our faculty, along with semester/yearlong international exchanges. CLA provides financial support for unpaid internships and study abroad scholarships because we know that immersive learning leads to life-changing experiences.



**ENRICH**  
YOUR LIFE  
*showcase your skills*



**EARN**  
**A LIVING**  
*succeed with liberal arts*

## Liberal Arts Mentoring Program

As a CLA student, you can sign up for the Liberal Arts Mentoring Program (LAMP) during your first year at MTSU. In LAMP, new students (mentees) are paired with more experienced students (mentors) based on similar majors, backgrounds, or interests. Mentees receive encouragement and information about University resources from mentors to help keep them on track for success. Most importantly, mentees can draw from mentors' experiences about how to succeed in coursework, get involved on campus, and prepare for their future careers. LAMP can help you become a better student and set goals for your time at MTSU and beyond. You can learn more about LAMP at [mtsu.edu/liberalarts/lamp.php](https://mtsu.edu/liberalarts/lamp.php).

# Next Steps Checklist

## ☐ Get Ready for Your First Semester

Check your MTSU email often so you know about academic updates, important payment deadlines, and special events.

## ☐ Attend CUSTOMS

CUSTOMS is our new student orientation program for incoming first-year and transfer students. During CUSTOMS, you will meet with an advisor and register for classes. For more information and to register for CUSTOMS, visit [mtsu.edu/customs](https://mtsu.edu/customs).

## ☐ Stay Connected with MT One Stop

Located in the Student Services and Admissions Center (SSAC), MT One Stop staff are ready to help you with questions regarding financial aid, registration, tuition, bills, and transcripts.

## Contact CLA

[cla@mtsu.edu](mailto:cla@mtsu.edu)

615-898-2534

[mtsu.edu/liberalarts](https://mtsu.edu/liberalarts)

@mtsuccla



**We are excited  
to welcome  
you to MTSU!**



I AM *true***BLUE**

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