

Pre-2024 Bread Loaf MLitt Degree Requirements

- To earn an MLitt degree, students must complete 10 units within a 10-year period (though, under exceptional circumstances, may apply for an extension of that time (see Credits), receiving a B- or better in each. A grade of B or below will place a student on Academic Probation.
- All MLitt students must attend the Vermont campus for at least one summer. We encourage students to attend as many campuses as possible, to take full advantage of the diversity of the campus and curricular offerings.
- During the first summer, MLitt candidates will design a specialized program of study in the field of literature, pedagogy, creative writing, theater arts, or some combination of two, in consultation with Bread Loaf's associate director. Seven of the required 10 units must be in that field. MLitt candidates who have earned the MA at Bread Loaf may not repeat courses taken during the MA.
- Candidates must submit a revised proposal for the program of study by the last day of classes of the first summer; all proposals must be approved by the associate director. Only students in good standing with an approved program of study will be eligible for re-enrollment in the MLitt program for the second summer. Any significant changes to the focus or curriculum of the approved MLitt program of study must be approved by the associate director.
- Although no thesis is required, in the final summer any student pursuing a literary track must pass a comprehensive written and oral examination, which covers the field of concentration and is based on texts and issues the student has defined as central to the program of study. Ordinarily, writing students will present a portfolio of creative or pedagogical work, and theater students will produce an appropriate dramatic project; in both cases, this work may be carried out in conjunction with an Independent Reading Project. Students should be in touch with the associate director during the penultimate summer to discuss plans for culminating work.

MLitt Examination for Students Pursuing a Literary/Critical Concentration

- The MLitt examination consists of two parts: a written component (which the examinee has 24 hours to complete) and a one-hour oral follow-up.
- The examination will be set by an examining committee of two faculty members. The committee will be appointed by the associate director in consultation with the candidate. The written examination consists of 3-5 essay questions and is open-book. The oral examination may probe questions already covered on the written part, or it may introduce new questions.
- In consultation with the committee, students will schedule both parts of the exam, all of which needs to be completed by the fifth week of the session.
- In preparation for the examination, candidates will submit to the associate director by the second week of the summer session a list of all field courses, as well as a list of 5–6 key questions defining the program of study, and a bibliography of primary and

secondary texts that have been central to the program of study. Examiners will use these as a guide to the student's focus.

- After the oral component is complete, the committee will determine the grade for the whole using a Pass/Fail designation.
- A student who fails the MLitt exam may retake the exam one time in a subsequent summer.

MLitt Project for Students Pursuing a Concentration in Creative Writing, Theater Arts, or Pedagogy

- The MLitt project should approximate a master's thesis in scope and depth, consisting of roughly 8,000 words (depending on the nature of the project).
- The project will be reviewed by an examining committee of two faculty members, who will evaluate the project and conduct a one-hour oral examination of the candidate, addressing the relation between the project and the candidate's program of study. The committee will be appointed by the associate director in consultation with the candidate. In consultation with the committee, the candidate will schedule dates for the submission of the project and for the oral follow-up, all of which needs to be completed by the fifth week of the session.
- In preparation for the project review, the candidate will submit to the associate director a list of field courses taken, a list of 5–6 key questions and a bibliography of texts that have been central to the program of study, and a 4-5 page description of the project and its relation to the program of study.
- To receive course credit for the MLitt project, candidates may complete the project in the final year as an Independent Reading Project or Independent Summer Project in Theater Arts.
- The project and oral examination will be graded Pass/Fail; if the candidate is submitting the project as an IRP or ISP, the faculty supervisor will submit a letter grade and a narrative evaluation to the Bread Loaf office.
- Students who receive a failing grade for a submitted MLitt project may not redo it. Candidates may submit a new project in a subsequent summer.