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Liberty University

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LU offers residential opportunity for graduate students

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Liberty University offers residential master's programs in the departments of Communication Studies, English and Modern Languages, History, Ethnomusicology, and the Center for Counseling and Family Studies and Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary.

Dr. Fred Milacci, Dean of Academic Administration for the Graduate School, talks about Liberty's unique graduate options:

Q. How do residential programs differ from online programs?

A. The vast majority of our graduate students are online, but several of the online programs have residential components, called intensives. Intensives serve to communicate core competencies that are best learned in a face-to-face environment.

With the programs that are uniquely residential, the disciplines are, again, best delivered in a face-to-face environment. Another advantage is that in each of those programs we hire graduate student assistants who help teach at the undergraduate level.

Q. What are the advantages to choosing a residential graduate program?

A. There is something about coming here and picking up the vibe of Liberty University. There's that educational component, but on a broader level, I like the fact that students get to come and really experience and see Liberty for what it is. Another thing is that residential students are able to have prolonged interaction with our core faculty — professors who are the heart and soul of our programs.

Q. Can you explain the role of graduate assistants?

A. Yes. We have almost 200 graduate student assistants who assist faculty in a variety of ways including teaching at the undergraduate level, grading, advising and doing research. [Having assistants is] a real win for the institution and it's a win for the students because they are paid a stipend, and their tuition is taken care of. They also get experience, and it's really good for their resume.

Q. What would you say to students who are looking at the resident graduate programs?

A. Faith integration is what makes us unique. If a student wants a solid academic degree, to learn professional and personal integrity by example and then to have all that fused with the content of a Christian worldview, then there's no better place than Liberty University. Nobody does a better job of blending the Dr. Fred Milacci is dean of academic administration for the graduate school at Liberty University. Jordan Crossingham academics, which we're really good at, and melding it with the ethics and core content of Christian truth.

It's more than just reading a Bible verse or praying. We really emphasize how our worldview informs a particular vocation or career field.

As a Christian educator, I'm always interested in hope. We want to offer people hope — our students and whomever we are training.

Formed in fall 2008, the Graduate School at Liberty University guides the university's schools and academic departments in developing and maintaining distinctively Christian and academically excellent graduate programs. Visit www.liberty.edu/graduate for a complete listing of residential, online and blended program options.