This is an excerpt from a recent successful application. (The student intends to take well more than the minimum 27 required hours of electives, which is why the ones she discusses here range over more than three departments.) It shows how a successful applicant “explained how her tentative courses fit together into an integrated whole.” (She went on to explain how they would prepare her to write her capstone Essay, but students do not have to come up with a topic for that Essay when applying. Some do not come up with their topic until after they have taken most of their classes.) This gives you an idea of what I am looking for in this part of your Goal Statement.

I hope to actively contribute time and effort to improve library resources and activities for older adults in the community.

I believe that the Master of Liberal Studies program can help me achieve this goal. For example, one of the classes I have listed on my tentative course list is ENG 65051 Literacy: Functions, Practices, and History, which would provide an historical overview of literacy studies. The content of Library Information Studies LIS 60612 Library Materials and Services for Adults includes the recent investigations of group and individual reading habits and information about adult education library programs, both of which would be relevant to the program I propose. A course in Sociology, SOC 52879 Aging in Society, covers analyses of demographic and sociological dimensions of aging. Another course with potential applicability is HIST 51071, American Social and Intellectual History 1876 to Present, which covers various subjects such as the development of social Darwinism, racism, and pragmatism. ENG 66505 Literary Modes is a course which analyzes works in various genres which generate similar responses and emphasizes defining the source of response, a course which would seem to have sociological implications as applied to my program. A course in Educational Psychology and Foundations (EDPF) pertaining to the area of study I have chosen is EDPF 65521 Adult Development, where the course content focuses on early through late adulthood. Psychology of Adulthood and Aging, PSYC 60610, looks at theory and research which relates to the psychology of adulthood through old age, both of which would provide key information about older adults and their thinking behaviors.

All of these courses are samples of classes which would ultimately provide a framework of knowledge on which to build a capstone essay on older adult populations and book clubs. I believe the knowledge gained from the Master of Liberal Studies program can help me make a more meaningful contribution to reading and literacy issues within my community.