CURRICULUM

CODE	DESCRIPTIVE TITLE	UNITS
	CORE COURSES	
ALS 204	Methods of Research in Alternative Learning System	3
ALS 205	Research Presentation and Publication	3
ALS 206	Philosophy and Principles of ALS	3
	MAJOR COURSES	
ALS 211	Understanding the Nature of the ALS Learner	3
ALS 221	ALS Curriculum (Life Skills Approach) and Designing its Learning Environment	3
ALS 231	Instructional Modalities and Assessment of Learning in ALS	3
ALS 241	Current Trends, Issues, and Concerns in ALS	3
ALS 251	Innovative Project in ALS	3
ALS 261	Instructional Materials Development for ALS	3
ALS 271	Experiential Learning in Teaching and Management of ALS	3
ALS 281	Redesigning ALS Learning Experiences	3
ALS 291	Digital Citizenship and Distance Education	3
	ELECTIVE COURSES	
ALS 216	Risk Reduction and Disaster Management in ALS Setting	3
ALS 217	Culture, Gender and Development in the ALS Setting	3
ALS 218	Administration and Supervision of the ALS	3
	MASTERS THESIS	
ALS 300-A	Thesis A	3
ALS 300-B	Thesis B	3
	MASTERS PROJECT	
ALS 301-A	Master's Project A	3
ALS 301-B	Master's Project B	3

CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS TO FINISH THE DEGREE

THESIS TRACK

CORE COURSES	9
MAJOR COURSES	15
ELECTIVE COURSES	6
MASTER'S THESIS	6

- Pass a Comprehensive Exam
- Master's Thesis
- Evidence of submission of publication in a refereed journal and proof that the journal is peer reviewed

(BOR Res. No. 44, s. 2023; CMO 15 s. 2019, CMO 21 s. 2025, Admin Memo 0015 s. 2026)

TOTAL UNITS: 36

NON-THESIS TRACK

CORE COURSES	9
MAJOR COURSES	21
ELECTIVE COURSES	6
MASTER'S PROJECT	6

- Pass a Comprehensive Exam
- Master's Project
- Evidence of submission of publication in a refereed journal and proof that the journal is peer reviewed

(BOR Res. No. 44, s. 2023; CMO 15 s. 2019, CMO 21 s. 2025, Admin Memo 0015 s. 2026)

TOTAL UNITS: 42

FEES
(EFFECTIVE SY 2025-2026)

PARTICULARS	AMOUNT
Admission Fee (new student):	
- local	₱ 100.00
- foreign	$ 25.00
Tuition Fee Per Unit	₱ 1,000.00
Technology Fee	₱ 3,000.00
Medical-Dental Fee	₱ 100.00
Library Fee	₱ 350.00
ID Card Fee (new student only)	₱ 186.00
Miscellaneous Fee	₱ 100.00
Entrance Fee (new student only)	₱ 100.00
ID Validation Fee (every semester)	₱ 12.00

VISION
Glocally renowned community of learning promoting collaboration, research, innovation, and knowledge sharing beyond traditional landscape.

MISSION
Provide quality life-long education for all through open, distance, and e-learning systems.

GOALS
1. To design and deliver accessible, high-quality degree programs through distance learning, leveraging technology, industry partnerships, and learner support services to meet the evolving needs of students and society.

2. To establish a sustainable continuing education system that fosters professional growth and lifelong learning through accessible, high-quality programs and industry-aligned opportunities.

3. To design and implement flexible and innovative delivery systems tailored to the needs of distance learners, ensuring accessibility, engagement, and effective learning outcomes.

4. To cultivate leadership in open and distance education by advancing expertise, research, and best practices in innovative and inclusive learning methodologies.

5. To ensure the accessibility of instructional packages for all learners through strategic collaboration, institutional partnerships, and innovative distribution mechanisms.

Benguet State University

OPEN UNIVERSITY

MASTER IN ALTERNATIVE LEARNING SYSTEM

BOR. Res. No. 44, s. 2023

"Bringing quality and affordable education to your doorsteps."

CONTACT US

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ABOUT THE PROGRAM

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION
The Master in Alternative Learning System (MALS) is a degree program that intends to equip ALS educators and practitioners with competent knowledge, skills, and attitudes required for the implementation of a responsive, pragmatic, and progressive alternative learning system, thereby assuring the attainment of equal access to basic educational services by the masses.

MODE OF INSTRUCTION
A combination of self-study modules and synchronous sessions at designated learning centers (online) will be provided to participants once a month in a semester. Field activities, assignments, and examinations will supplement this.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

ALS 204: METHODS OF RESEARCH IN ALTERNATIVE LEARNING SYSTEM
This course prepares the students at the graduate level for research in the academe and in the field. Different research methods used in the alternative learning system are introduced. Quantitative, qualitative, or mixed research designs are discussed in detail, with examples in contrived and actual/field settings. Alignment between problem statements and research methodologies (design, sampling, instrumentation, and data-gathering procedure) is emphasized that will improve the relevance, coverage, and quality of the research.

ALS 205: RESEARCH PRESENTATION AND PUBLICATION
Statistics and its uses in research are introduced in this course, together with various statistical software and applications used in data analysis presented in the earlier parts of this course. Such is geared towards equipping the students with tools necessary for the defense, presentation, and publication requirements of their research outputs. As a culmination, a form of research is designed as an avenue for the research output presentation and dissemination.

ALS 206: PHILOSOPHY AND PRINCIPLES OF ALTERNATIVE LEARNING SYSTEM
This course covers various philosophical foundations of the Alternative Learning System (ALS), including its historical and legal bases. The context of this course is based on local and international perspectives to enable students to appreciate the rationale of ALS in Philippine education. This also deals with understanding not only the principles that surround and explain the art and science of teaching the curriculum content and clients of ALS but also the rationale for the practice of these principles.

ALS 211: UNDERSTANDING THE NATURE OF ALTERNATIVE LEARNING SYSTEM LEARNERS
This focuses on understanding the current generation of ALS learners—their nature, socio-demographic profile, interests and aspirations, etc.—and correlating the same to their enrollment in the ALS program. This course will also include research activities about the nature of the ALS learners with the intention of identifying characteristics that will help and factors that will predict a successful ALS learner. Such data will be used by ALS practitioners for instructional management.

ALS 221: ALTERNATIVE LEARNING SYSTEM CURRICULUM (LIFE SKILLS APPROACH) AND DESIGNING ITS LEARNING ENVIRONMENT
The course is centered on the exploration of the ALS curriculum content, which is summarized to be the Life Skill Approach, and designing an appropriate environment for the learning of said curriculum content. Specifically, the life skill approach includes the core life skills as essential tools for understanding one's strengths and weaknesses, discerning opportunities and threats, and improving relationships with others. The core life skills techniques and strategies are understood in the context of the six (6) learning strands of the ALS curriculum.

ALS 231: INSTRUCTIONAL MODALITIES AND ASSESSMENT OF LEARNING IN ALTERNATIVE LEARNING SYSTEM
This course includes the different instructional modalities and formats for learning the alternative learning system, such as blended, onsite, online, mobile teaching, etc. It also includes a discussion of the probable and appropriate approaches and methods of assessing the ALS learners' learning outcomes, thereby establishing a result-oriented data set not only for promotion but also for academic advising.

ALS 241: CURRENT TRENDS, ISSUES, AND CONCERNS IN ALTERNATIVE LEARNING SYSTEM
The course equips students with informal education (InfEd) in ALS as "in-time learning," that is, "learning a skill at a time most needed" (right now). Further, the students are immersed in ALS current trends (such as the latest guidelines regarding ALS, like DO 13 s. 2019 and DO 47 s. 2021), practices, and innovations in the conduct and implementation of ALS. Issues, concerns, and challenges besetting ALS will also be included as topics where interventions are proposed for their resolutions.

ALS 251: INNOVATIVE PROJECTS IN ALTERNATIVE LEARNING SYSTEM
This course helps students develop a perspective on managing innovation. The course equips the students with the capability to lead and design their ALS organization in effectively implementing innovation initiatives and strategically achieving its intent. The course includes a set of frameworks, tools, and concepts that can help them address several important challenges in managing innovation. Other topics include leadership of new product development teams, planning and evaluation of innovation initiatives, and management of innovation across organizational boundaries, as happens with alliances or virtual firms.

ALS 261: INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS DEVELOPMENT FOR ALTERNATIVE LEARNING SYSTEM
This course focuses on the production, utilization, management, and assessment of instructional materials to suit varied teaching and learning situations, specifically in the context of ALS.

ALS 271: EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING IN TEACHING AND MANAGEMENT OF ALTERNATIVE LEARNING SYSTEM
This course provides students with experience-based activities where students will have the actual application and experience in community organizing, recruitment, enrollment, organizing, and conducting literacy and livelihood skills training classes with an andragogy approach to adult teaching, designed to improve the quality of life among clientele. Its application has been linked to service learning to help learners to acquire specific knowledge and skills as well as to develop ethical sense and responsibility in society.

ALS 281: REDESIGNING ALTERNATIVE LEARNING SYSTEMLEARNING EXPERIENCES
This course intends for the students to redefine learning experiences not only as mainstream classroom experiences but also as the recognition of the ALS program. This is done through leading the students to take ownership of ALS through PBL (project-based learning) and DT (design thinking) experiences as innovative anchors in preparing ALS learners in a globally competitive new century.

ALS 291: DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP AND DISTANCE EDUCATION
This course is designed for students to learn how they can help create a safe and positive experience online. Also, students will be enabled to produce 21st-century digital citizens who are confident in using ICT and digital tools in a responsible and ethical manner.

ALS 216: RISK REDUCTION AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT IN ALTERNATIVE LEARNING SYSTEM SETTING
This course is intended to prepare the ALS practitioner in strategically reducing probable effects of anticipated disasters and skillfully managing the effects of their occurrence. This course includes understanding of strategies necessary to minimize organizational, personnel, and financial safety risks in the event of an unforeseen emergency. This includes approaches designed to help improve disaster outcomes by assessing, identifying, and reducing the different risk factors involved.

ALS 217: CULTURE, GENDER, AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE ALTERNATIVE LEARNING SYSTEM SETTING
This course provides students with an understanding of the different cultural and gender orientations of the ALS learners and how these either affect or boost their dynamics in the learning environment. Specifically, this course teaches the students how to implement a culture- and gender-sensitive ALS program.

ALS 218: ADMINISTRATION AND SUPERVISION OF THE ALTERNATIVE LEARNING SYSTEM
This course is geared to lead the students to transformational leaders in ALS. The course teachers the students to become innovators, persuasive players, and champions of strategic decision-making following protocols. The course also equips the students with knowledge and skills in conducting SWOT analysis as a basis for strategic and operational planning necessary to leverage key prospects for strategic opportunities.

ALS 300-A: THESIS A
Independent research study in consultation with the advisory committee is a must. This course requires the student to write his/her thesis proposal and be able to defend it.

ALS 300-B: THESIS B
Independent research study in consultation with the advisory committee is a must. This course requires the student to write, defend, and bind his/her final manuscript.

ALS 301-A: MASTER'S PROJECT A
This course intends to enhance and fine-tune his/her project management capabilities by planning a project related to his/her degree program for implementation and evaluation in the succeeding semester. This course enables them to put into practice the management theories and concepts that they learned from their respective degree programs. Under the guidance of their advisers, they prepare a development project proposal/outline based on an overview of all the courses in their degree program. Specifically, they are to identify possible project ideas based on a needs determination process applied to a chosen host organization/community. They must prioritize the project ideas using a set of criteria and choose one with the best comparative advantage.

ALS 301-B: MASTER'S PROJECT B
With the guidance of the students' advisers, this course facilitates the implementation, documentation, and reporting of the results of the approved development project proposal/outline. The implementation starts with organizing the resources to be used, including linkages with the project stakeholders identified in the proposal as partners, coimplementers, and beneficiaries. Implementation is monitored and evaluated with appropriate documentation tools and strategies (all narratives supplemented with video and/or photo documentation). The result of the implementation is presented in a knowledge-sharing session initiated by the OU (or in a virtual presentation, as deemed proper). This serves as his/her oral presentation before his/her advisory panel.