

B.A. in Liberal Arts

Rationale: The goal of the program is to provide a flexible but structured, educationally sound multidisciplinary degree program.

Educational Objectives: This degree program emphasizes the liberal education goals of developing

- strong, transferable intellectual and practical skills,
- the knowledge and perspective to deal with complexity, diversity, and change, and
- the ability to apply knowledge and skills in real-world settings.

Because this degree provides exposure to three disciplines or areas in greater depth than is provided by the distribution requirements, students will gain the ability to integrate and apply the terminology, methods, and perspectives of several disciplines to new and diverse settings and to complex problems, and to function as part of a multidisciplinary team.

For Whom: For any student with multidisciplinary interests. This program will help students prepare for graduate study in an interdisciplinary or multi-disciplinary area not incorporated in any existing programs at the University (e.g., Linguistics, American Studies, Urban Studies, Religious Studies), prepare for a career where multidisciplinary training could be appropriate or even advantageous (Law, Diplomacy, Public Service, Mediation, Environmental Advocacy, etc), or tailor their education to support and enhance their engagement in campus or community groups or on-going employment. In addition, this degree may be appropriate and desirable for students transferring in from a branch campus or elsewhere with an Associate of Arts or Science degree. Such a student will have met all the general education requirements and much of the college core requirements, but may not have zeroed in on a major and may wish to continue to explore several disciplines at a depth not previously available at the community college level.

Structure of Curriculum: The new BA in Liberal Arts degree is constructed by combining three minors or certificates, at least two of which must be chosen from those offered by A&S departments (not including Business French or Business Spanish). Although there is no requirement that the three components of this program be linked thematically, students would be expected to use the capstone to tie their studies to their academic goals.

- At least 15 credits of each minor/certificate must be applied only to that minor or certificate and may not be used to fulfill the requirements of another minor or certificate in the program. The same rules on double-counting of courses for college distribution requirements will apply to this program as to other majors in the college. GPA and residency requirements specified by the individual minors/certificates will apply (but in any case, the GPA in each certificate/minor must be at least 2.0).
- Each minor or certificate must include at least one course at the 300-level or above. In order to fulfill general education requirements, students pursuing this degree must include at least one "methodology" course in one of the minor/certificate areas they choose.
- The student must complete a capstone project/experience that has been approved by the A&S Interdisciplinary Council as part of the student's overall course of study. The capstone project/experience/course requirement may be met by completing it under the auspices of one of the A&S programs in the degree (with the cooperation and engagement of the other programs as appropriate), or this may be an interdisciplinary capstone (i.e., 15INTR505) if the corresponding program directors agree to cooperate and this makes academic sense.
- Students will be required to meet all relevant prerequisites (coursework, GPA minimum credit hours) prior to embarking upon a capstone.