

Liberal Studies Program

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Objectives

The study of the humanities, social sciences, and sciences has long been recognized as the finest preparation for the challenges presented in a world requiring critical reflection, creativity, open-mindedness, and the courage of personal conviction. Liberal Studies is the multidisciplinary study of the arts and sciences. The Liberal Studies Program is designed for students with initiative and curiosity who want to use their skills and knowledge to make a contribution to society through the wide array of opportunities open to persons who are thoughtful, articulate, and liberally educated. Professions in the fields of government, law, education, business, communications, and a wide range of cultural endeavors consistently require persons with both breadth of vision and breadth of knowledge.

The focus of each student's program is determined by the person's ultimate aspirations. Through foundational courses featuring significant projects, and with the guidance of the program director, the student examines the options available in the various disciplines that can be combined into a rich and coherent degree program. The program's interdisciplinary character contributes to the development of both perspective and judgment essential to success in all human endeavors.

The Liberal Studies program is also recommended for students who plan to teach at the elementary level. Specific courses are recommended by the College of Education, and students planning to become teachers should inform the College of Education as soon as possible. See the statement on Education Advising above in this Bulletin under general information on the College of Arts and Sciences.

Degree Offered

Bachelor of Arts

Major Offered

Liberal Studies

Bachelor of Arts

Major in Liberal Studies

In order to earn the bachelor of arts degree with a major in liberal studies, students must complete a minimum of 180 credits with a cumulative and major/program grade point average of 2.00, including the following:

I. Core Curriculum Requirements

ENGL 110	College Writing: Inquiry and Argument	5
PHIL 110	Introduction to Philosophy and Critical Thinking	5
HIST 120	Origins of Western Civilization	5
ENGL 120	Introduction to Literature	5
MATH 107 or 110, or above.....		5
Lab Science	5
Fine Arts (one approved 5 credit course; see course descriptions).....		5
PHIL 220	Philosophy of the Human Person.....	5
Social Science I	5
Social Science II (different discipline from Social Science I).....		5
Theology and Religious Studies Phase II (200-299)		5

Ethics (upper division).....	5
Theology and Religious Studies Phase III (300-399)	5
Interdisciplinary	3 to 5
Senior Synthesis satisfied by LBST 490	

II. College of Arts and Sciences Requirements

Modern Language 115, 125, 135, or equivalent	15
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NOTE: All students with a major in the College of Arts and Sciences must demonstrate competency through the level of 135 in a language other than English. This competency is ordinarily achieved by successful completion of the three-course sequence: 115, 125, and 135. Because these courses are a college requirement, no courses in the sequence may be taken on a pass/fail, correspondence, or audit basis. Placement into other than the beginning course of the sequence is achieved by acceptable performance on the Modern Language Competency Examination. See the Modern Languages Department for details on the examinations. Courses used to satisfy the College of Arts and Sciences modern language requirement may not be used to fulfill liberal studies major requirements.

Choose one of the following two courses:

HIST 121	Studies in Modern Civilization	5
HIST 231	Survey of the United States	

III. Major Requirements

60 credits in liberal studies, including:

LBST 201	Introduction to Liberal Studies	5
LBST 300	Leadership for Community Engagement	5
LBST 301	Methods of Interdisciplinary Inquiry	5
LBST 302	Special Topics: Interdisciplinary Project.....	5
LBST 490	Senior Synthesis / Project or approved course	5

Humanities (300–400-level)	15
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English, fine arts, language, history, liberal studies, philosophy, and religious studies, including five credits in composition/writing

Social Sciences (300–400-level)	10
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Anthropology, Asian studies, communications, criminal justice, economics, nonprofit leadership, political science, psychology, public affairs, sociology, social work, women studies, and a limited number of addiction studies courses

Natural Science Elective	5
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Math, Statistics, Computer Graphics, or Computer Science Elective	5
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NOTE: 1. 40 credits must be taken at 300–400-level; 25 of these must be taken at Seattle University. 2. Courses used to satisfy major or college requirements may not simultaneously fulfill core requirements. 3. No more than 15 credits from this major will be counted towards any minor.

Liberal Studies Courses

- LBST 191-193 Special Topics** 2 to 5
- LBST 201 Introduction to Liberal Studies** 5
- Introduces students to liberal studies, both as an academic discipline and as an increasingly significant development in scholarship. Students will explore the historical, social, and philosophical foundations of liberal and interdisciplinary studies. Topics include leadership, freedom, education, personal identity and responsibility, diversity, and the classic sense of liberal studies as crucial to intellectual development and good citizenship. Since a portion of the liberal studies major is self-directed, with requirements drawn from the broad curriculum of the university as a whole, this course will help students construct a cohesive plan for their interdisciplinary liberal studies degree. It also introduces the portfolio, a project that will define the student through the major and into professional development. The portfolio project is a tool for articulating a developing perspective within the interdisciplinary scholarship of the liberal studies major. Students majoring in liberal studies must take this course within the first two quarters after declaring the major. Prerequisites: Students should be declared liberal studies majors and have met with their advisor.
- LBST 296 Directed Study** 1 to 5
- LBST 300 Leadership for Community Engagement** 5
- This course is designed to help students connect their service interests with their leadership gifts in order to pursue ethical and effective social change throughout their lives. Through a variety of experiential activities, readings, class lectures, guest presentations and discussions, students will explore critical questions and practices in preparation for a lifetime of engaged leadership in their communities.
- LBST 301 Methods of Interdisciplinary Inquiry** 5
- Focuses on the methods of inquiry in different academic disciplines. Students will explore the assumptions and implications about the nature of knowledge in these disciplines, and how their diverse methods of inquiry are complementary. This course places emphasis on understanding the foundations of evidence and knowledge through examination of selected methods of academic inquiry, and reflection on the unique contribution of interdisciplinary thought and scholarship. The student will produce an original interdisciplinary project with a description and analysis of the methodology used in the project. Prerequisite: LBST 201.
- LBST 302 Special Topics: Interdisciplinary Project** 5
- This course builds on skills and knowledge attained in LBST 301. Students integrate competing and complementary theories on a perennially compelling topic within the arts and sciences. The chosen topic varies from term to term. This course features a significant scholarly paper project in which students research, develop and defend their own interdisciplinary position on this critical issue. Students will be encouraged to apply their insights to other contemporary issues such as leadership, social justice, and diversity. Though the topic varies, students may not repeat the course for additional credit. Prerequisite: LBST 301.
- LBST 321 Constructs for Teaching and Learning** 5
- This course begins the exploration of teaching and learning. Students will gain knowledge of the history and philosophy of education, the purpose of schools, and how people learn in order to shape their own philosophy and purpose of education. Diversity of today's school populations and its implications will be a focus. Field experience of at least two hours per week through the Children's Literacy Project is a requirement.

LBST 322	Competencies for Teachers and Learners	5
This course is a continuation of Constructs of Teaching and Learning. Students will deepen their understanding of the teaching profession by investigating such topics as: educational reform, standards and curriculum, conditions for learning, effective teaching strategies, and self-reflection. They will gain knowledge of effective teaching strategies that enhance learning. Field experience of at least two hours per week through the Children's Literacy Project is a requirement.		
LBST 323	World Geography for Teachers	5
This course studies the dynamics of human populations in their cultural integrity and the distribution of populations and resources around the world. Designed primarily for students who hope to become teachers, this course lays special emphasis on ways to learn and to teach geography as a means to promote multicultural understanding in the classroom.		
LBST 391-393	Special Topics.....	2 to 5
LBST 396	Directed Study	1 to 5
LBST 480-483	Interdisciplinary Core Course	3 to 5
Title and content vary.		
LBST 490	Senior Synthesis/Project	5
Through directed readings the student will reflect on the nexus of his or her previous scholarly work, the Seattle University mission, and their personal convictions. The heart of this course is the senior project. Each student is expected to complete a significant, original, thoughtful senior project reflective of the goals of the mission and the student's status as a graduating senior. Prerequisites: Senior standing.		
LBST 491-493	Special Topics.....	1 to 5
LBST 495	Internship.....	1 to 5
Graded CR/F.		
LBST 496	Independent Study	1 to 5