



tent of this requirement is to ensure that you receive a broad, well-rounded education, a distribution requirement states that you must take at least four hours of course work in at least two of these three areas.

Academic programs may determine which of the three areas are appropriate for their students. If your academic program does not specify, you should work with your adviser to decide how to distribute your required 12 hours. This should be done before completing 30 hours of upper-division work. Program requirements, equivalent course work, and equivalent learning from prior experience will be used in reaching this agreement. Liberal studies colloquia, public affairs colloquia, and applied study terms are discussed below.

Liberal Studies Colloquia (LSC) The liberal studies colloquia are multidisciplinary courses that engage important issues using points of view and value systems that extend beyond the usual cultural and disciplinary boundaries and contexts. Whenever possible, you will study and discuss primary works that have significance beyond a single discipline. As part of the course content, each LSC emphasizes the enhancement of writing skills. Each semester several colloquia are offered. None have

prerequisites. While the choice of an LSC is yours, you are encouraged to select LSCs with focuses outside your major program. Descriptions are published each semester in the course schedule.

Public Affairs Colloquia (PAC) Public affairs colloquia are designed to increase your awareness of contemporary public issues and to provide you with a wider understanding through a multidisciplinary approach to these issues. Each semester several different colloquia are offered. There are no prerequisites for any PAC. Like the LSC, the choice of a PAC is your prerogative; however, you are encouraged to select PACs with focuses outside your major program. Descriptions are published each semester in the course schedule.

Applied Study and Experiential Learning Term (AST) The applied study and experiential learning term (AST) stresses practical experience, professional development, and self-directed learning. The AST fulfills this role by providing an academically sponsored learning experience (internship) that gives you an opportunity to learn from the community. Many internships are paid; others are voluntary. You must be a degree-seeking UIS student to participate.

The campus and AST faculty recognize the diversity of backgrounds and academic and career needs of students. To support these needs, internships are available at local businesses, nonprofit organizations, health service organizations, state agencies and legislative offices, and educational institutions. Some programs (e.g., social work and clinical laboratory science) have their own experiential component integrated into the program's curriculum. Under special circumstances, you can design an AST at your place of employment. The variety of AST curricular options are described more fully in the AST section of this catalog.

If you plan to participate in the applied study term, you should consult with your academic adviser and the AST faculty after completing at least three core courses in your current declared major at UIS. Some programs have their own, additional prerequisites for AST. Check with your academic adviser. The AST faculty will assist you in securing an AST placement. Consultations should be scheduled the semester before the AST.

CREDIT FOR PRIOR LEARNING (CPL)

Credit for prior learning enables you (if you are qualified) to receive academic credit for college-level learn-

ing acquired outside the classroom. The CPL process is particularly valuable if you have an extensive background in a profession, in workshops or seminars, in community service and volunteer work, in relevant travel or hobbies, and/or in independent research. If you are interested in earning applied study term credit, you are encouraged to enroll in AST 401 Assessment of Experiential Learning, a course that includes an overview of current issues in lifelong learning. AST 401 also helps you prepare a detailed portfolio that describes the learning to be assessed for credit. A campuswide faculty committee monitors the entire CPL process.

Portfolios may be submitted for assessment any time after you are admitted to UIS. If you are interested in requesting credit for prior learning, contact the CPL office in BRK 425, (217) 206-6962 as early as possible. CPL also maintains a website at www.uis.edu/cpl/.

USE OF LOWER-DIVISION COURSES FOR DEGREE CREDIT

Community college transfer students may include an additional 12 semester hours of lower-division credit toward a bachelor's degree with the approval of their ad-

viser, a program representative, and the appropriate dean. A grade of C or better must have been earned.

GRADUATION CONTRACT

The commencement ceremony to award degrees is held at the end of the spring semester. However, you may file a graduation contract during any semester or summer term in which degree requirements will be completed. Submit the contract to the Office of Admissions and Records no later than the end of the fourth week of classes during a semester or the end of the third week of classes during a summer term.

The contract must be approved by your adviser and the program administrator. You may submit a graduation contract for early evaluation during your next-to-last term. Contract forms are available in the Office of Admissions and Records.

REQUIREMENTS FOR A DOUBLE MAJOR

You may earn a bachelor's degree in two major areas of study. All program requirements for each major area must be completed. Courses from one program may be used as electives in the other if previous program approval is obtained. All UIS requirements for the bachelor's degree must be met.

SECOND BACHELOR'S DEGREE

Persons who have already earned the baccalaureate degree and seek a second one from UIS must complete all hours toward the major that are required by the academic program. A minimum of 30 semester hours toward the second degree must be completed at the University of Illinois at Springfield. If the first bachelor's degree was earned at UIS, a second applied study term may be required by the academic program. If you earned the previous degree at another institution, you must meet UIS requirements in public affairs colloquia, liberal studies colloquia, and applied studies.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS ACADEMIC LOAD

If you are enrolled for 12 or more semester hours of course work during the fall or spring semesters or six semester hours of course work in the summer term, you are considered a full-time student. Those enrolled for fewer hours are considered part-time students.

Most courses at the University of Illinois at Springfield earn three or four semester hours of credit. The normal course load for a full-time undergraduate stu-