

LIBERAL STUDIES

bachelor of arts

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES

There are few majors that come closer to embodying the true aims of a liberal education than this one. As a Liberal Studies student, you will design your own degree, integrating courses and instructional methods that match your interests and goals, and foster the shared values and knowledge that bind us together as a society. Our graduates are well versed in literature, history, philosophy, math, and science, and have mastered the basic and transferable skills of inquiry, analysis, and communication. They view their education as preparation for diverse and changing careers, and meaningful lives lived well.

ADVANTAGE UIS

- **Bring it to the table.** In this program, you may be able to transfer up to 60 hours of lower division credit from a community college, and/or up to 30 hours of upper division credit from an accredited college or university. You may also earn academic credit through the Credit for Prior Learning assessment process. We value experience.
- **Strategy Team.** You start this program by taking an introductory course during which you prepare your individualized degree plan. We ask you to think about your long-range goals – professional and personal. We work together to develop a plan and a timetable.

Online option. Earn the degree entirely online from the comfort of your home. The courses are as rigorous as our campus-based courses and are taught by the same professors. You'll participate in dynamic and diverse learning communities online instead of in a classroom. Our e-tuition program allows students from all over the world to pay the same per-credit hour costs as students living in Illinois.

Common ground. A liberal education prepares students to be at home in any society and master any subject with facility. Many of our students are eager to expand their worlds by studying abroad or engaging with the community through the Applied Study Term (AST), UIS' undergraduate internship program.



What can I do with this degree?

Our well-rounded graduates are in high demand in business and management, health and human services, science and technology, and many other fields. They work as high school teachers, web developers, social workers, managers and researchers. Many go on to graduate studies in law, medicine, political science, English, psychology and environmental science. The sky is the limit with this degree.

Recent employers include:

University of Illinois
U.S. Bank
University of Illinois College of Medicine
Illinois State Board of Education
Girl Scouts of America
Northwestern University Police
Springfield Division of Waste & Recycling

Design your degree. Liberal Studies majors earn 37 of their total 60 credit hours by taking electives. This means you can choose among a wide variety of courses to build a broad knowledge base, or you can choose a thematic focus that meets your interests or professional goals. Some of our students have selected international studies, women's studies, African-American studies, science and technology, or health and human services.

Wise Words

Libby Bitschenauer
Legal Aid
Office of the State Appellate Defender

"Before studying at UIS, I thought that there were right and wrong answers for everything. My classes have opened my mind to a world quite different. There are many shades of gray between the black and white. I feel my attitudes have changed. I hope I am more open-minded, understanding, and forgiving of the differences in people."

The liberal studies program structure emphasizes the integration of key learning categories with a variety of instructional methods to form a well-rounded and individualized academic experience. Through customized learning activities, the liberal studies program assists students to deepen their understandings of the values, meaning, concerns, choices, and commitments that are basic to the quality of life.

Faculty Eric Hadley-Ives, Karen Kirkendall, Bill Kline, Mary Addison-Lamb, Rosina Neginsky, Annette VanDyke

Associated faculty Peter Boltuc*

*Faculty members from all UIS colleges participate in the liberal studies program as mentors and resource persons.

Program Description

Liberal studies (LIS) learners design individualized degree plans consistent with the principles of a liberal education. There are many coursework alternatives that may be part of this plan - self-assessment, independent study, multidisciplinary courses/studies, and credit for prior learning assessment. Although degree plans must be broad enough to meet the interdisciplinary goals of the program, students may choose a thematic focus for their programs.

Learners have a good chance for success in the liberal studies program if they are self-directed, able to plan ahead and meet deadlines, disciplined enough to organize individualized programs of study, and able to work independently setting and meeting goals.

Students can complete the curriculum in the classroom, entirely online via the Internet, or in combination. All learning formats offer individualized instruction, advising, and support.

Entrance Requirements

To apply for admission to the liberal studies program, students must have earned a minimum of 30 credit hours at the lower-division level, have a grade-point average of 2.00 or higher (on a 4.00 scale) from an accredited college or university, and have completed three semester hours of English composition (as the minimum requirement for general admission to UIS).

Students who have earned associate of arts or science degrees have met all these requirements. In addition, students may transfer up to 60 semester hours of lower-division credit from a community college, take courses from other regionally accredited colleges/universities, and qualify to earn credit through the credit for prior learning assessment process.

Liberal Studies Online

Students wishing to participate in the Liberal Studies Online program must successfully complete the online program application process. Online students must have some experience using a personal computer and navigating the Internet. For students who encounter problems accessing the courseware, materials, or other course components, UIS' Office of Technology Enhanced Learning provides ongoing technical support.

Program Requirements

Required	6 Hrs.
LIS 301 Self-Directed Learning	4 Hrs.
LIS 451 Senior Seminar	2 Hrs.
LIS electives	4 Hrs.
LIS 342 Conducting Liberal Studies Research	2 Hrs.
*LIS 380 Exploration of Learning Resources	2-8 Hrs.
*LIS 499 Independent Study: Tutorial	2-8 Hrs.
*LIS 471 Honors Thesis	2 Hrs.
LIS 360/460 Special Topics in Liberal Studies	4 Hrs.
* There are no classroom meetings for these courses.	
Students sign independent study contracts with faculty sponsors.	
ECCE Requirements	13 Hrs.
Campus Electives	37 Hrs.

In order to plan a balanced degree program (at least two courses in each area are recommended), students choose electives that address the following broad subject categories:

- Identity**, the search for meaning
- Work**, the value of vocation
- Nature**, ecology of the planet
- Institutions**, the social web
- Language**, the crucial connection

Heritage, the living past

Art, the esthetic dimension

Tools, those skills and abilities critical to completing a customized learning program, as well as navigating life, career, etc.

Total 60 Hrs.

Engaged Citizenship Common Experience (ECCE) Requirement

All undergraduate students are required to take a minimum of 13 hours in the following categories which reflect UIS' heritage, mission, vision, and values:

U.S. Communities	3 Hrs.
Global Awareness	3 Hrs.
Engagement Experience	3 Hrs.
ECCE Elective	3 Hrs.
Speakers Series	1 Hr.
Total	13 Hrs.

Visit our website for more information on

- Communication Skills requirements
- Grading Policy

To view course descriptions

uis.edu/uiscatalog

CONTACT INFORMATION

Liberal Studies

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E-mail: lis@uis.edu

Website

uis.edu/liberalstudies

Office of Admissions

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admissions@uis.edu

uis.edu/admissions

IMPORTANT!—Information effective fall 2009. Subject to change without notice. The information is not to be considered final, nor does it constitute a contract between the student and UIS. See uis.edu/uiscatalog for current program requirements.