

Liberal Studies

Contact Information

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Office Location: UHB 3038

- Liberal Studies (p. 1)
- Liberty Studies Minor
- Social Responsibility and Leadership Development Minor

The Bachelor of Arts in Liberal and Interdisciplinary Studies is an excellent option for students 1) who want to pursue a degree designed to fit their unique interests and aptitudes in more than one discipline or field, and/or 2) whose goal is to complete a high-quality college degree that values previously earned credits.

LIS majors curate their own degree with faculty guidance, integrating courses and instructional methods that match their interests and goals. Study in LIS empowers students to explore questions that deeply engage them through the methods and approaches of multiple academic fields. With that base, LIS graduates make informed decisions about their personal and professional future. LIS alumni attest to their preparation for diverse careers and meaningful lives.

LIS offers an opportunity for students to hone the essential skills that employers value, including:

- **Critical Thinking:** The foundation for problem-solving and decision-making.
- **Written and Oral Communication:** Essential for clearly conveying your ideas and collaborating with others.
- **Judgment and Evaluation:** Necessary for weighing options and making informed decisions.
- **Teamwork and Collaboration:** Working effectively and harmoniously with others.
- **Independence and Initiative:** Taking charge and being proactive.
- **Equity, Inclusion, and Social Justice:** Understanding and promoting fairness and equal opportunities.
- **Self-Awareness and Self-Development:** Continuous personal and professional growth.
- **Project Management:** Organizing, planning, executing, and closing projects successfully.
- **Applied Learning Across Multiple Areas of Inquiry:** Integrating knowledge and skills from diverse fields.

The Bachelor's Degree

The B.A. in Liberal Studies is an excellent option for students who have an interest in more than one discipline and who want to earn a bachelor's degree designed to fit their unique interest and aptitudes.

Grading Policy

Students must earn a grade of C or better in all courses that apply toward the degree. Grades of C- or lower will not be accepted toward the Liberal Studies major. For further information, see the General Requirements.

Advising

All students meet with an academic advisor who specializes in LIS to assist them in registering for courses in alignment with graduation requirements. Students must meet with their advisor each semester before enrolling in courses. A faculty mentor will work with students to develop their plan of study and to discuss career options.

Program Learning Outcomes

Learning outcomes are important components for all academic programs at the University of Illinois Springfield and are required by the Higher Learning Commission. Questions related to the learning outcomes for this program should be addressed to the applicable department/school.

Requirements

For the major, students choose courses at the 300- and 400-level that fit their LIS plan of study. With the guidance of an advisor and/or faculty member, the student may use ECCE and/or transferred upper-division courses toward degree requirements.

Core Requirements

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| LIS 303 | Introduction to Liberal Studies | 3 |
| LIS 451 | Senior Seminar | 3 |

Elective Requirements

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| Approved Upper-Division Electives ¹ | 30 |
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| Total Hours | 36 |
|--------------------|-----------|

¹ The upper-division electives must come from at least two different disciplines for the interdisciplinary study track from the following prefixes: AAS, ACC, ART, ASP, BIO, BUS, CAP, CCJ, CHE, COM, CSC, DAT, ECO, ENG, ENS, ESC, EXR, HCI, HIS, IPL, LES, MAT, MGT, MIS, MKT, MLS, MPH, PAD, PHL, PSC, PSY, SOA, SPM, SWK, TEP, THE, WGS.

Transfer Policy

Students may transfer up to 72 hours of lower-division credit and up to 30 hours of upper-division credit, but the combination of all transfer credit may not exceed 90 hours. The program accepts upper-division credit taken at other accredited universities to be applied toward the degree, as well as alternate credit, including competency test, dual enrollment, military documentation, and life/work experience through IPL 305 Prior Learning.

Minors

- Liberty Studies Minor
- Social Responsibility and Leadership Development Minor

Online

The online Liberal Studies degree allows students to complete their degree in dynamic, diverse, and interactive online learning

communities. Online courses are taught by the same professional as in-person. The online degree follows the same curriculum as the on-campus degree.

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