



What is the Liberal Arts Major?

The Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts (LAR) offers students the opportunity to gain a broad-based understanding of human activities, institutions, and societies and to develop their ability to think and write critically in the classical tradition of the liberal arts. The program prepares students for a wide variety of careers in human services, the professions, teaching, and the corporate world. It is especially recommended for those intending to become elementary school teachers. Given its broad academic scope, it provides the foundation for long-term career development and change. Students select one concentration in the Humanities and one concentration in the Social Sciences, as defined below.

The interdisciplinary nature of the Liberal Arts major makes it especially important that students work closely with their faculty advisor in selecting concentration areas and courses and in constructing a coherent academic program. In addition to the two concentrations to satisfy the LAR major, students should consider pursuing a minor in a department or topical area such as Women's Studies, Labor Studies, African/African American Studies, Religious Studies, Judaic Studies, Indic Studies, or Gerontology.

Students are encouraged to declare the Liberal Arts major as soon as possible in their academic career and meet with the Director of Liberal Arts to discuss their course path and to be assigned an LAR faculty advisor. The LAR faculty advisor will assist with selecting courses and helping students progress toward degree completion.

Liberal Arts Major Requirements

1. A total of 120 credits is required for the BA.
2. A minimum GPA of 2.0 in all courses is required.
3. A minimum GPA of 2.0 in all courses used to satisfy the Liberal Arts Major requirements is required.
4. The Liberal Arts Major requirements are as follows:

- LAR 201: Introduction to Studies Across the Disciplines (3 credits)
- Concentration in Humanities (15 credits)
(Choose one: Art History; English; Foreign Literature & Languages; History; Philosophy; Portuguese Studies)
- Concentration in Social Sciences (15 credits)
(Choose one: Anthropology/Sociology/Crime & Justice Studies; Economics; Political Science; Policy Studies; Women's Studies)
- LAR 401: Capstone Seminar in Multidisciplinary Studies (3 credits)

Total Credits for Major: 36 with 24 credits at the upper level.

Please note the University-wide requirement of a minimum of 30 credits in courses at the 300- or 400-level including courses in the LAR major and others

if necessary. In addition, many concentration courses have pre-requisite courses. It is the student's responsibility to complete these courses.

Liberal Arts majors also must complete the distribution requirements for the College of Arts & Sciences, as well as the university general education requirements. *As part of the general education requirement, all LAR majors are required to complete ENL 260: Intermediate Composition.*

Concentrations are explained, in brief, below. We strongly recommend taking courses in the listed sequence. For full details regarding concentrations, as well as College of Arts & Sciences distribution and general education requirements, see the Liberal Arts Major webpage:

<http://www.umassd.edu/cas/liberalarts>

LAR Program Contact Information

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LAR Humanities Concentrations:

Art History (ARH)

- ARH 200: Visual Culture (a writing course)
- Three 300-level electives
- One 400-level seminar

English (ENL)

Concentration in Writing, Communications & Rhetoric

- ENL 257: Introduction to Rhetorical Studies
- One 300-level genre course
- Three 300- or 400-level writing courses

Concentration in Literature & Criticism

- ENL 258: Introduction to Literary Studies
- Two 300/400-level historical courses (1 course must be pre-1800, and 1 course must be post-1800 from approved department list.)
- Two 300-level genre courses

History (HST)

- HST 201: Critical Skills for History Majors
- One elective history course at any level
- Three courses at the 300 level or above

Foreign Literature and Languages (FLL)

The LAR Concentration in Foreign Literature and Languages (French or Spanish) includes a total of 15 credits at the 300/400 level in courses in French or Spanish. All of the credits must be in the same language and be distributed as follows:

- Two courses in Composition/Conversation: 301 and 302
- One culture course (from the following list):
French: 312
Spanish: 312 or 314
- One Introductory literature course (from the following list):
French: 331 or 332
Spanish: 331, 332, 333, or 334
- One additional 300- or 400-level culture or literature course in French or Spanish

Philosophy (PHL)

- One course in the history of Philosophy from the following: a) PHL 221: History of Western Philosophy: Ancient, or b) PHL 222: History of Western Philosophy: Modern, or c) PHL 371: History of Cont. Analytic and Continental Philosophy, or d) any other course under the Philosophy Major "History of Philosophy" distribution list.
- One 200-level elective
- Three 300- or 400-level electives

Portuguese (POR)

Concentration in Literary & Cultural Studies

- One of the following: POR 214, 215, 216, 217, 270
- POR 301: Portuguese Comp. & Conversation I
- POR 302: Portuguese Comp. & Conversation II
- POR 310: Intro. to Literary & Cultural Analysis
- One of the following: POR 331, 332, 333, 334, 335

Concentration in Language and Linguistics

- POR 301: Portuguese Comp. & Conversation I
- POR 302: Portuguese Comp. & Conversation II
- Any two of the following: POR 303, 305, 306
- POR 321: Intro. to Portuguese Linguistics

LAR Social Science Concentrations:

Anthropology/Sociology/Crime and Justice Studies (ANT/SOC/CJS)

- One course: SOC 101 or ANT 111
- SOC/ANT/CJS course of any level (including 100 or 200 level)
- Three 300-level SOC, ANT, or CJS courses

Economics (ECO)

- ECO 231: Principles of Microeconomics
- ECO 232: Principles of Macroeconomics
- ECO 301: Intermediate Microeconomics
or ECO 311: Intermediate Macroeconomics
- Two ECO 300- or 400-level elective courses

Political Science (PSC)

- Two pre-requisite 100-level courses chosen from: PSC 101 (American), 151 (Comparative), 161 (Intl Relations), or 171 (Intro. to Theory)
- Three 300-level or higher courses from at least two of the following 4 subfield areas: American/Policy, Comparative, IR, Theory. The Political Science Department website will provide an up-to-date list of courses that fit under each subfield area.

Policy Studies (PST)

- One 200-level policy studies course (including cross-listed ECO courses by ECO faculty)
- PST 301: Theories of Policy Formation
- PST 350: Public Policy Problems
- PST 390: Policy Studies Internship
- One 400-level policy studies course (which can include any courses at this level cross-listed with ECO or SOC)

Women's Studies (WMS)

- WMS 201: Introduction to Feminist Theory
- One upper-level feminist theory course: WMS 305: Cont. Feminist Theory and Practice, WMS 306: Third Wave Feminism, WMS 307: Ecofeminism, or WMS 309: Global Feminism
- Three 300-level WMS electives, one from a non-Western perspective from an approved list