

## LIBERAL STUDIES

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The Liberal Studies major provides students a flexible, customized alternative to existing programs of study while fostering academic excellence in interdisciplinary learning. Liberal Studies majors may earn either the bachelor of arts or the bachelor of science degree.

As an individualized program, the Liberal Studies major prepares students for life after college through a broad-based liberal arts education and the fulfillment of these overarching learning outcomes: interdisciplinary learning, career development, entrepreneurship and self-advocacy, and engaged citizenship.

The Liberal Studies major serves incoming first-year students who have a clear sense of their academic goals and want to craft their own major of study, transfer students who want to maximize the use of previously earned credits by designing their own major, students who have not selected a major of study or who decide not to complete their initial intended major, and adult students who may already be working in their desired field but seek a degree completion program.

### Admission Requirements

Students interested in the Liberal Studies major must meet the standard admissions criteria for Worcester State University. Incoming first-year and transfer students must meet with the director of Liberal Studies once they are admitted to the university to discuss a program of study. These students will be required to enroll in LS-190. During this course, they will submit a written plan of study to the director with a rationale for the selection of the areas of study. Once approved, this plan of study becomes the student's degree audit.

Current Worcester State students who want to change from undeclared status or from other majors must also meet with the director of Liberal Studies before changing majors. Those who want to pursue a Liberal Studies major will be required to enroll in LS-190. During this course, they will submit a written plan of study to the director with a rationale for the selection of the areas of study.

This development of a program of study and review process allows for important conversations about a student's academic and professional goals, the best use of transfer credits, and the selection of the two primary areas of study.

### Standards for Minimum Academic Performance in the Liberal Studies major

Liberal Studies majors must meet the requirements for graduation as specified in the Undergraduate Catalog. These include the completion of a minimum of 120 credits with a 2.0 cumulative grade point average and a minimum 2.0 grade point average in the two areas of study.

### Minors Available at Worcester State University

- Addictions Counseling Minor
- Art Minor
- Asian Studies Minor
- Business Administration Minor
- Chemistry Minor
- Communication Education Minor
- Communication Minor
- Communication Sciences and Disorders Minor
- Composition and Music Technology Minor
- Computer Science Minor
- Criminal Justice Minor
- Economics Minor
- English Minor
- Ethnic Studies Minor
- Financial Mathematics Minor
- French Minor
- Geography Minor
- History Minor
- Intergenerational Studies and Community Service Minor
- Mathematics Minor
- Middle East Studies Minor
- Middle School Mathematics Minor
- Music Minor
- Philosophy Minor
- Physics Minor
- Political Science Minor
- Pre-Law Minor
- Psychobiology Minor
- Psychology Minor
- Public Health Minor
- Sociology Minor
- Spanish Minor for Health Professionals
- Theatre Minor
- Urban Studies Minor
- Writing Minor
- Liberal Studies Major

#### LS-190 St: Introduction to Liberal Studies

A special topics course that introduces students to interdisciplinary scholarship and learning as well as student-initiated/directed learning. Every year. 3-4 Credits

**LS-290 St: Intermediate Liberal Studies**

This course focuses on a particular area of study that requires students to show mastery of the topic and a critical understanding of interdisciplinary learning and research methods.

3-4 Credits

**LS-390 St: Advanced Liberal Studies**

This course is organized around a particular subject area or research methodology problem. Students engage in joint or individual scholarship related to the course topic.

3-4 Credits

**LS-401 Liberal Studies Honors Thesis**

The honors thesis represents an advanced research project culminating in a written liberal arts thesis that extends a student's Liberal Studies course of study.

3 Credits

**LS-402 Liberal Studies Honors Research**

The honors scientific or social scientific research project includes a written paper reporting on the project's results and extends to an advanced level a student's Liberal Studies course of study.

3 Credits

**LS-403 Liberal Studies Creative Honors Project/ Portfolio**

The honors creative work/portfolio extends to an advanced level a student's Liberal Studies course of study in the areas of the visual arts, theater, music, dance, literature, filmmaking, or another area of creative expression.

3 Credits

**LS-408 Directed Study: Liberal Studies**

Fall and Spring. 1-3 Credits

**LS-480 Liberal Studies Internship**

**Prerequisites:** LS-190 Student must be a declared Liberal Studies major. This is an internship in Liberal Studies. It is appropriate for an internship experience that is part of a student's Liberal Studies course of study but that does not fit in an existing discipline with an internship course at WSU.

Other or on demand. 1-6 Credits

**LS-490 Capstone/Senior Research in Liberal Studies**

**LASC Categories:** CAP

**Prerequisites:** LS-190 and at least 30 credits toward the Liberal Studies major.

This course provides an opportunity for students to compile evidence and reflect on the courses and independent work comprising their Liberal Studies major. Students will be expected to develop a cohesive narrative of their course of study.

3 Credits