

Liberal Arts (Interdisciplinary) major: Sample Course Clusters

You have options. Some students opt for a “**free**” **approach** in which they select courses from the College of Liberal Arts semester by semester that simply strike them as fascinating and useful. This way, the plan of study naturally evolves as their interests do.

For a more focused and creative approach, some students with the *Liberal Arts (Interdisciplinary)* major will find a **cluster of courses** from various disciplines within the College of Liberal Arts that share a common theme, allowing them to study a topic of interest through the lenses of multiple disciplines.

Different from minors, course clusters are simply one way to focus and plan the major. Students are free to design their own personalized program of study. The clusters below are just some examples of the numerous possibilities within the major.

****Combining disciplines into clusters by topic of interest is *not* required. All students with the Liberal Arts (Interdisciplinary) major will receive a B.A. in Liberal Arts.**

SAMPLE Course Clusters

If you are interested in **LEADERSHIP STUDIES**, research and consider courses in the following disciplines:

- Communication Studies:** courses that focus on cultural, societal, and organizational communications; study argumentation and persuasion
- English:** courses focused on argumentation and persuasion; human conflict and conflict resolution through lens of literature and literary theory
- History:** study the creation, sustainability, and demise of civilizations; study great historical leaders
- Journalism/Technical Communication:** how media influences society; visual, virtual, and written communications for diverse purposes and audiences
- Political Science:** courses that focus on how different government organizations function successfully under different structures of leadership
- Psychology:** study the cognitive process and human behavior
- Sociology:** focus on major social movements, social change, and community development, and the role of leadership therein

Minors to consider: Criminal Justice, Diversity in Law, English, Environmental Affairs, Foreign Language, Global Environmental Sustainability, International Development Studies, Ethnic Studies, Media Studies, Peace& Reconciliation Studies, Philosophy, Political Science, Sociology, Women’s Studies

**Also consider participating in the [President’s Leadership Program](#) for further study (not affiliated with the College of Liberal Arts)*

If you are interested in **HUMAN RIGHTS and ADVOCACY**, research and consider courses from the following disciplines:

- Anthropology:** courses that focus on human societies and their cultural setting; variations in beliefs, social customs, and human differences
- Communication Studies:** focus on speaking and persuasion abilities; cultural, societal, and organizational communications
- Economics:** courses focused on how the distribution of resources affects communities and social and political change
- English:** courses focused on writing and rhetorical concepts; persuasion and argumentation
- Ethnic Studies:** focus on how racial and ethnic groups function within given societies
- Journalism & Technical Communication:** courses focused on the effects of media; cultural communications, communication ethics, and law
- Philosophy:** focus on the rational investigation of truths, ethics, and morals
- Political Science:** courses that focus on the politics behind race, ethnicity, foreign relations, and major social issues; courses that focus on law and public policy
- Psychology:** study the cognitive process and human behavior
- Sociology:** focus on major social issues, social change, and community development

Minors to consider: Criminal Justice, Diversity in Law, Foreign Language, Economics, Global Environmental Sustainability, International Development Studies, Ethnic Studies, Media Studies, Peace& Reconciliation Studies, Philosophy, Political Science, Sociology, Women’s Studies

If you are interested in **REVOLUTIONS & SOCIAL CHANGE**, research and consider courses in:

Anthropology: the creation, evolution, and sustainability of unique cultures and changing cultural practices
Communication Studies: courses that focus on persuasion abilities; the rhetoric of social movements; cultural, societal, and organizational communications
Economics: courses focused on how the distribution of resources affects communities and social and political change
English: courses in rhetoric, composition, and literature/literary theory; explore creative minds, creative processes, and their effects and influences on society
Ethnic Studies: focus on diverse racial and ethnic groups; race and ethnicity's role in social unrest and social change;
History: courses focused on major historical rebellions and visionaries; study the successes and failures of revolutionary movements and those who led them
Journalism/Tech Communication: the role of visual and written communication for diverse purposes and audiences
Political Science: how laws, policy, and governments themselves are created and adapt to major change
Sociology: courses focused on social movements, upheavals, and change

Minors to consider: Economics, English, History, Information Science & Technology, Peace & Reconciliation Studies, Philosophy, Political Science, Sociology, Women's Studies

If you are interested in **IDENTITY**, research and consider courses from the following:

Communication Studies: select courses in interpersonal communication; how individuals communicate for diverse audiences and purposes
English: study written communication, creativity, literature, and literary theory for insight into how and why human beings interact and make the choices they do.
Psychology: study the cognitive process and human behavior
Ethnic Studies: study the ways in which race and ethnicity intersect with one's self concept, social status, and behavior
Foreign Languages and Literature: study specific language and culture within context of how language and culture help form identity
Sociology: study personal identity within the context of social institutions and organization
Women's Studies: study the ways in which gender intersect with one's self concept, social status, and behavior

Minors to consider: Foreign Language, English, Ethnic Studies, Film Studies, History, Sociology, Women's Studies

If you are interested in **SELF-EXPRESSION**, research and consider courses in the following:

Art/Music/Theatre/Dance: self-expression within artistic contexts; though limited courses are available to non-majors, introductory courses explore some of the great artistic works and minds of human history
Communication Studies: courses in interpersonal communication; how individuals communicate for diverse audiences and purposes
English: courses in creative writing, rhetoric, composition, and literature/literary theory explore creative minds, creative processes, and their effects and influences; human behavior through context of literary theory
Foreign Languages and Literatures: study specific language and culture within context of how language and culture affect relationships and one's ability to express one's self
Journalism/Technical Communication: how media affects society; visual, virtual, and written communications for diverse purposes and audiences
Philosophy: focus on the rational investigation of human nature, truths, ethics, and morals
Psychology: study the cognitive process and human behavior

Minors to consider: Anthropology, Media Studies, English, Ethnic Studies, Film Studies, Foreign Language, Information Science & Technology

If you are interested in **VISIONARIES, GREAT MINDS, & FASCINATING PEOPLE**, research and consider courses from the following:

History: courses that focus on major accomplishments and events led by extraordinary leaders
Philosophy: study the great thinkers of history and the ideas that continue to drive scholars
English: literature courses that explore the works of the world's most brilliant authors, creative minds, creative processes, and their effects and influences on society
Ethnic Studies: focus on the advancement of ethnic groups in society and those who led them
Art/Music/Theatre: Though limited courses are available to non-majors, introductory courses explore some of the great artistic works and minds of human history
Psychology: study the cognitive process and human behavior
***All disciplines** will explore the great scholars and ideas of the field

Minors to consider: History, Philosophy, English, Ethnic Studies, Film Studies, Women's Studies

If you are interested in **CREATIVE STUDIES**, research and consider courses in:

- Anthropology:** the creation, evolution, and sustainability of cultures and cultural practices
 - Art/Music/Theatre/Dance:** though limited courses are available to non-majors, introductory courses explore some of the great artistic works and minds in human history
 - Communication Studies:** courses in film theory, virtual communication, and rhetoric as applied to diverse rhetorical situations
 - English:** courses in creative writing, rhetoric, composition, and literature/literary theory explore creative minds, creative processes, and their effects and influences
 - Ethnic Studies:** courses focused on cultural development and cultural influence in artwork
 - History:** study the creation, sustainability, and demise of civilizations
 - Journalism/Technical Communication:** visual, virtual, and written communications for diverse purposes and audiences
- Minors to consider:** English, Media Studies, Film Studies, Information Science & Technology

If you are interested in **HUMAN CONFLICT/CONFLICT RESOLUTION**, research courses in the following disciplines:

- Anthropology:** courses focused on societies and their cultural setting; variations in beliefs, customs, and human differences
 - Communication Studies:** courses that focus on cultural, societal, and organizational communications; study argumentation and persuasion
 - Economics:** courses that focus on how the distribution of resources affects communities and social and political change
 - English:** courses focused on argumentation and persuasion; human conflict through lens of literature and literary theory
 - Ethnic Studies:** focus on racial and ethnic groups functioning within given societies
 - History:** focus on major historical conflicts, such as times of war and major rebellions
 - Philosophy:** focus on the rational investigation of ethics
 - Political Science:** courses that focus on the politics behind race, ethnicity, foreign relations, and major social issues
 - Psychology:** study the cognitive process and human behavior
 - Sociology:** focus on major social issues and social change
- Minors to consider:** Anthropology, Diversity in Law, Foreign Language, Economics, Environmental Affairs, Global Environmental Sustainability, International Development Studies, Ethnic Studies, History, Peace & Reconciliation Studies, Philosophy, Sociology, Women's Studies

If you are interested in **URBAN STUDIES**, research and consider courses from the following:

- Communication Studies:** courses that focus on cultural, societal, and organizational communications
 - Economics:** courses that focus on how the distribution of resources affects diverse communities and social and political change
 - Ethnic Studies:** focus on diverse racial and ethnic groups functioning within given societies and communities
 - History:** study the creation, sustainability, and demise of civilizations; study great historical leaders
 - Journalism & Technical Communication:** courses focused on cultural communications
 - Political Science:** courses that focus on state, local, and urban politics; public policy and major social issues; law-focused courses
 - Sociology:** focus on major social issues, social change, and community development
- Minors to consider:** Criminal Justice, Diversity in Law, Foreign Language, Economics, Ethnic Studies, Media Studies, Peace & Reconciliation Studies, Philosophy, Political Science, Sociology

If you are fascinated by **CULTURE**, you might research and select classes from the following disciplines:

- Anthropology:** select courses that focus on specific cultures that interest you as well as the general development of culture worldwide
 - Communication Studies:** select courses that focus specifically on cultural communication
 - English:** select literature courses that analyze literature through specific cultural lenses, such as "Gender in Literature," or "Asian-American Literature"
 - Ethnic Studies:** any Ethnic Studies course will provide an exploration of ethnicity and culture
 - Foreign Language:** study a foreign language to develop an understanding of a specific language, their literature, and culture
 - History:** select courses focused on a specific culture of interest, such as "African-American History," "Ancient Greece," or "The Old South"
 - Journalism & Technical Communication:** Select courses focused on how the media affects and interacts with culture
 - Sociology:** select courses specifically geared toward the study of how diversity and culture function within various social institutions
- Minors to Consider:** Anthropology, English, Foreign Language, Ethnic Studies, History, Sociology, Women's Studies

If you are fascinated by **HUMAN RELATIONS & COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION**, you might research and select classes from the following disciplines:

Anthropology: courses that focus on human societies and their cultural setting; variations in beliefs, social customs, and human differences

Communication Studies: courses that focus on speaking and persuasion abilities; cultural, societal, and organizational communications

Economics: courses that focus on how the distribution of resources affects diverse communities and social and political institutions

English: courses focused on writing and rhetorical concepts; persuasion and argumentation

Ethnic Studies: focus on how racial and ethnic groups function within given societies; how race and ethnicity affect justice

History: courses focused on different eras of conflict between cultures; nation-building

Journalism & Technical Communication: courses focused on the effects of media; cultural communications, communication ethics, and law

Political Science: courses that focus on law and public policy; the politics behind foreign relations, major social issues, how government organizations succeed and fail

Sociology: courses specifically geared toward community development, community organization, and social structures; the study of how diversity and culture function within various social institutions

Minors to Consider: Criminal Justice, Diversity in Law, Foreign Language, Economics, English, Global Environmental Sustainability, Ethnic Studies, Media Studies, Peace & Reconciliation Studies, Political Science, Sociology, Women's Studies

If you are interested in **PRE-LAW**, research and consider courses from the following:

Anthropology: courses that focus on human societies and their cultural setting; variations in beliefs, social customs, and human differences

Communication Studies: courses that focus on speaking and persuasion abilities; cultural, societal, and organizational communications

Economics: courses that focus on how the distribution of resources affects diverse communities and social and political change

English: courses focused on writing and rhetorical concepts; persuasion and argumentation; literary theory

Ethnic Studies: focus on how racial and ethnic groups function within given societies; how race and ethnicity affect justice

Journalism & Technical Communication: courses focused on the effects of media; cultural communications, communication ethics, and law

Philosophy: focus on the rational investigation of truths, ethics, and morals; perfect argumentation and analytical abilities

Political Science: courses that focus on law and public policy; the politics behind race, ethnicity, foreign relations, and major social issues

Psychology: study the cognitive process and human behavior

Sociology: focus on criminal justice, major social issues, and social change

Minors to consider: Criminal Justice, Diversity in Law, Foreign Language, Economics, English, Global Environmental Sustainability, International Development Studies, Ethnic Studies, Media Studies, Peace & Reconciliation Studies, Philosophy, Political Science, Sociology, Women's Studies

**Also refer to the [Pre-Law advising page](#) in the Political Science Department website.*

College of Liberal Arts Disciplines

<p><u>ANTHROPOLOGY (ANTH):</u> Describe and explain the processes of the human condition as well as the structure of the social, environmental, political, and economic conditions within which humans operate.</p>	<p><u>ETHNIC STUDIES (ETST):</u> Seeks to understand the unique and interlocking experiences of racial/ethnic groups and to analyze how race intersects with other forces, such as gender, sexuality, and class, in the U. S. and in international contexts.</p>	<p><u>MUSIC (MU):</u> Offers courses in music history, music performance, music education, composition, and music therapy. Limited courses open to non-majors</p>
<p><u>ART:</u> Offers degrees in Drawing, Fibers, Graphic Design, Metalsmithing, Painting, Photography, Pottery, Printmaking, Sculpture, Art Education, Art History, BA Studio. Limited courses open to non-majors; non-art majors can take some introductory art history that explores the development of visual art.</p>	<p><u>FOREIGN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES (L***):</u> Concentrations in French, German, and Spanish (see FLL website for others); emphasize oral and written proficiency; develop knowledge of culture and literature; promote the critical and analytical skills requisite to an understanding of their relationships.</p>	<p><u>PHILOSOPHY (PHIL):</u> The study of basic moral, legal, aesthetic, religious, and metaphysical ideas by which we can understand and develop principles of conduct; seek to establish standards of evidence; provide rational methods of resolving conflicts.</p>
<p><u>COMMUNICATION STUDIES (SPCM):</u> Encompasses many facets of verbal, nonverbal, visual, electronic, and computer-mediated communication; how communication functions within different cultures and communities.</p>	<p><u>HISTORY (HIST):</u> Students use documents, images, artifacts, and other materials to understand and interpret the past, as well as the relationship between the past and the present.</p>	<p><u>POLITICAL SCIENCE (POLS):</u> The study of how societies are governed and to what ends. Political scientists study government and politics within the United States, other nations, and among nations.</p>
<p><u>DANCE (D):</u> Non-dance majors can take introductory "Understanding Dance;" the major requires strong technical foundation, experiential coursework in choreography and improvisation, teacher training, technical production and design, dance history, and kinesiology.</p>	<p><u>INTERNATIONAL STUDIES (INST):</u> This major is designed to help students understand the nature of diverse cultural groups outside North America. Four option areas: Asian Studies, European Studies, Latin American Studies, and Middle East & North African Studies.</p>	<p><u>SOCIOLOGY (SOC):</u> The academic discipline of social organization and social problem solving; offers three concentrations: General Sociology, Criminology/Criminal Justice, and Environmental Sociology.</p>
<p><u>ECONOMICS (ECON):</u> The study of how people and societies use and have used scarce resources to produce the things they want; analyze and predict likely effects of economic behavior and government policy; formulate efficient and equitable solutions to pressing economic problems.</p>	<p><u>JOURNALISM & TECHNICAL COMMUNICATION (JTC):</u> Emphasizes role of mass media in society; courses in news writing, broadcast and electronic reporting, public relations, technical/ specialized journalism, computer-mediated communication, and more.</p>	<p><u>THEATRE (TH):</u> Embraces the interdisciplinary and collaborative nature of theatre. Performance, Theatrical Design and Production, or Playwriting and Dramaturgy. Limited courses open to non-majors.</p>
<p><u>ENGLISH (E):</u> Explore the multiple and dynamic ways that the English language is used to meet the demands of life in the twenty-first century; classes divided into Literature, Creative Writing, English Education, Language, and Writing.</p>	<p><u>LIBERAL ARTS-Interdisciplinary- (LB):</u> This is the "general" Liberal Arts major; an in-depth exploration of culture, society, and the human condition combining the Humanities, the Arts, Languages & Literature, and Social Sciences ; draws from all disciplines within the College of Liberal Arts.</p>	<p><u>WOMEN'S STUDIES (WS):</u> Housed in Dept. of Ethnic Studies; prepares individuals for the needs and opportunities of an increasingly interconnected world; builds awareness of the range of human experience, potential, and accomplishment.</p>