Liberal Studies–Quaternity programs expose students to various courses of study, including biological and physical sciences, social sciences, arts, and humanities. The program is interdisciplinary, with courses in general arts and general science offered through other departments or divisions of the college. A humanities program focuses on combined studies and research in the humanities subjects such as languages, literatures, art, music, philosophy, and religion.

Although many programs are structured by the institution, many are individually designed by the student under supervision of a faculty advisor. This program is available for students who desire or require a program which provides more flexibility than is available in other major programs. Students must complete a series of core courses and other courses which are thematic in nature, consist of a minimum number of upper level topics, and receive approval of the director of the Liberal Studies program.

Programs at Montana State University come alive with four interconnected concepts: arts, humanities, social science, and natural science. The Quaternity option offers students a flexible liberal arts education, allowing students to construct a curriculum that reflects their interests and career goals. In addition to the liberal studies seminars, university core, and integrative seminars, students select an additional four courses in each area of the Quaternity and a foreign language of their choice. Internship and undergraduate research opportunities offered through MSU help students think creatively about their future and gain a competitive advantage.

Characteristics associated with success include being interested in a wide variety of subjects and having the desire to learn progressively about them, being able to function effectively and succeed in a task on your own without a great deal of supervision and have exceptional oral and written communication skills.

You should:

- Be self-motivated and directed
- Be flexible and persistent
- Be able to interact with all kinds of people
- Be able to make informed decisions
- Feel intrigued by new ideas and ways of thinking
- Enjoy solving complex problems in new and creative ways
- Enjoy reading and writing
- Be skilled in the powers of persuasion
- Be poised and independent
- Enjoy interaction with people of different cultures and values,
- Be able to get along well with others
- Be creative, patient and tactful

Related occupations include:

- Legislator
- Journalist
- Mediator
- Government Administrator
- Banker
- Insurance Agent/Underwriter
- Public Affairs Officer
- Personnel Specialist
- Writer/Author
- Lobbyist
- Public Administrator
- Urban Planner
- Program Administrator
- Lender
- College/University Faculty
- Park Ranger
- Diplomat
- Foreign Service Officer
- Ecologist
- Project Manager
- Retail Manager
- Marketing Specialist
- Customer Service Representative
MSU graduates (Bachelor’s degree) were hired in the following selected fields:

- Administrative Assistant and Office Manager - Potter Clinton Development
- Assistant Construction Supervisor - Habitat for Humanity
- Assistant Manager - Southwest Industrial Cleaning Services
- Compliance Specialist - Guidant Financial Group
- Editor/Writer - Bozeman Daily Chronicle
- Financial Representative - American General Financial Services
- Certified Nurses Assistant - A Plus Health Care
- Paralegal - Cok, Wheat & Kinzler, PLLP
- Manager/Farmer - Northwest Farm Management
- Director of Development - MSU-Bozeman
- Loan Clerk - Stockman Bank
- Manager - Sportsman’s Warehouse, Auto Dealership, Abercrombie & Fitch
- Managing Editor - Backcountry Magazine
- Optometric Technician - Advanced Eyecare Associates
- Small Business Owner
- Spa Manager - Snake River Spa and Wellness Center
- Claims Representative - State Farm
- Wellness Program Administrator - Nordstrom
- Marketing Specialist - Klondike Advertising
- Emergency Room Admitter - Bozeman Deaconess Hospital
- Marketing Director - nextgreatplace.com
- Insurance Agent - BBH Insurance
- Substitute Teacher - Belgrade Public Schools
- Customer Service Representative - State of Montana, Hub International
- Assistant Manager - Specialty Sports Venture
- Bank Teller - First Interstate Bank
- Sales Representative - Macy’s
- Teacher Assistant/Teacher - 52nd Elementary School

Salary averages of survey respondents (# of respondents in parentheses):

- 2010: MT: Insufficient Data* Out of State: $36,330 (4)
- 2009: MT: $26,409 (9) Out of State: $43,952 (6)
- 2008: MT: $30,703 (7) Out of State: $53,440 (2)
- 2007: MT: $31,787(3) Out of State: $37,720 (4)

Graduates from this program entered programs of further education at these institutions:

- University of Minnesota Dental School

Please note: The Liberal Studies program began in 2004 and to date has graduated 7 classes. Therefore, information and data is admittedly limited.

*Insufficient Data: Each year the Career, Internship & Student Employment Services Office at Montana State University conducts a survey to determine placement rates and salary survey information from recent MSU graduates. Graduates were requested to participate in the survey to provide relevant information regarding the transition from college to career/graduate school. At times, there are few or no respondents or not all respondents answer all questions. Statistics, therefore, are not always based upon the response of the total sample group and are sometimes listed as “Insufficient Data”.

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2 Montana State University College of University College
3 Montana State University Career & Internship Services
Number of graduates/number of respondents: 2007: 11/8; 2008: 15/9; 2009: 21/12; 2010: 27/4