LIBERAL STUDIES AT MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

The Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies program at Montana State University offers a rigorous and multidisciplinary education that allows students flexibility in designing their own curriculum across a variety of disciplines. Students challenge and expand their thinking, learn how to connect their growing knowledge to the outside world, and gain the skills necessary to succeed—in college, the workplace and in life.

INDIVIDUALIZED AND INTERDISCIPLINARY CURRICULUM

The Liberal Studies program is intended to assist students in learning more about the world through a variety of theoretical, experiential and methodological approaches. Liberal Studies students explore new areas of knowledge and new ways of thinking by designing their own individualized curriculum that helps prepare them to contribute critically and substantively in their lives and careers. These skills, while important to personal and intellectual growth and enrichment, are also increasingly in demand among employers who seek creative and inquisitive minds, an appreciation for and an ability to apply different methodologies to problem solving, an understanding of the increasingly interdisciplinary nature of knowledge, strong communication skills, and familiarity with the world’s diversity of thought and culture.

Some of the most exciting and innovative advances in human knowledge are occurring at the intersections of traditional academic disciplines. The kind of intellectual skills provided by rigorous, cross-disciplinary study are increasingly being recognized as the appropriate foundation for success in careers and post-baccalaureate programs, ranging from business and management to medicine. Because of the flexible nature of the program, Liberal Studies graduates are ideally positioned to develop the skills and knowledge areas that are increasingly in demand in the workplace.

The Program...

Cultivates intellectual and ethical judgment. Prepares students for lives of civic engagement, social responsibility and leadership. Integrates learning from different disciplines. Develops skills to succeed in an increasingly global and diverse society. Helps students deal effectively with complexity and ambiguity. Encourages independent thinking and curiosity. Provides internship opportunities.

Key Student Outcomes

- Analytical writing
- Problem analysis and understanding
- Creative development
- Reading and reflection
- Critical and analytical thinking
- Team work and collaboration
- Intellectual judgement
- Undergraduate research

For additional information, contact:
Liberal Studies Program
Montana State University
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Options within Major
- Environmental Studies
- Global and Multicultural
- Quaternity

What can I do with a degree in Liberal Studies?
- Alumni Relations Coordinator
- Archivist
- Blogger
- Child Life Specialist
- Communications Director
- Creative Writer
- Curriculum Specialist
- Customer Service Representative
- Data Analyst
- Documentary Film Maker
- Editor
- Education Administrator
- Education Researcher
- English as a Second Language Teacher
- Entrepreneur
- Environmental Activist
- Environmental Policy
- Financial services
- Grant Writer
- Guidance Counselor
- Historic Site Administrator
- Human Resources Officer
- Journalist
- Law
- Legislative Assistant
- Librarian
- Lobbyist
- Mediator
- Media Specialist
- Medicine
- Museum Manager
- Non-Profit Administrator
- Occupational Therapist
- Policy Analyst
- Politician
- Publicist
- Public Relations Representative
- Recreation Management
- Registrar/Admissions Director
- School Counselor
- Secondary School Teacher
- Social Services
- Speech Pathologist
- Speech Writer
- Student Services Advisor
- Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor

A degree in Liberal Studies also prepares students for graduate work in a variety of disciplines.

LIBERAL STUDIES
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OPTIONS WITHIN THE MAJOR

The Liberal Studies degree values a broad, integrated and interdisciplinary approach to higher education. Interdisciplinary studies foster connections among disciplines and draw upon multiple areas of knowledge. Students choose one of three program options: Environmental Studies, Global and Multicultural or Quaternity.

Environmental Studies

The Environmental Studies option provides students with an understanding of environmental issues, drawing on scientific and public policy perspectives. The courses involve application of a wide range of natural and social sciences to problems of natural resource and environmental management. The required curriculum is structured to allow students to take advantage of the unique diversity of departments at MSU, to accommodate varying interests and career aspirations, and to ensure professional competence. In addition to the Liberal Studies seminars, university core and integrative seminars, students select 21 credits each from approved lists of science and public policy courses.

Global and Multicultural

The Global and Multicultural option offers students a broad perspective on international and American cultural, ethnic and gender issues spanning a wide range of disciplines. Students are encouraged to participate in a study abroad or National Student Exchange Program in a region appropriate to their field of area studies. In addition to the Liberal Studies seminars, university core and integrative seminars, students select 27 credits from an approved list of global/multicultural courses and 12 credit hours in a specific area of study (Asia, Europe, Latin America, Native American Studies or Women’s Studies). Students in this option will also achieve competence, at an intermediate level, in a foreign language appropriate to their field of area studies.

Quaternity

Quaternity studies come alive with four interconnected areas of study: 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 eight credit hours of a foreign language. Internship and undergraduate research opportunities offered through MSU help students think creatively about their future and gain a competitive advantage.