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.

In addition to a traditional Bachelor of Arts degree program, the Liberal Studies program at MSU also offers an online bachelor’s degree completion program. The online option is for students who have completed at least two years of college (earned at least 60 credits) and would like to earn a bachelor’s degree. The degree completion program is interdisciplinary with students completing credits in four main subject areas: arts, humanities, natural science, and social science.

For additional information, contact:
Liberal Studies Program
Montana State University
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www.montana.edu/liberalstudies/
liberalstudies@montana.edu

Megan Haywood-Sullivan volunteered in the West African nation of Mali.

Cara Thuringer won Boren, Truman, and Udall Scholarships.
Options within Major
- Environmental Studies
- Global and Multicultural
- Quaternity
- Online bachelor’s degree completion program (Quaternity)

Specialized Areas of Study/Minors
- Global Studies

What can I do with a degree in Liberal Studies?
- Alumni Relations Coordinator
- Archivist
- Blogger
- Communications Director
- Creative Writer
- Customer Service Representative
- Data Analyst
- Documentary Film Maker
- Editor
- Education Administrator
- 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
- Librarian
- Lobbyist
- Mediator
- Media Specialist
- Medicine
- Museum Manager
- Non-Profit Administrator
- Policy Analyst
- Politician
- Publicist
- Public Relations Representative
- Recreation Management
- Registrar/Admissions Director
- School Counselor
- Secondary School Teacher
- Social Services
- Speech Pathologist
- Speech Writer
- Sustainability Analyst / Advisor
- Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor

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

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. Students in this option will also achieve competence, at the elementary two level, in a foreign language. Internship and undergraduate research opportunities offered through MSU help students think creatively about their future and gain a competitive advantage. The online bachelor’s degree completion program results in a degree in the Quaternity option.

Liberal Studies alumna Nina Erickson owns and operates the Treasure State Hostel in Bozeman.

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Griffin Ruehl, a finalist for a Rhodes Scholarship, studied abroad in Thailand.

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