

LIBERAL STUDIES

The liberal studies degree is designed to provide a broad education and to help you develop the skills that will lead to success in a variety of careers. Today's employers are seeking graduates with strong written and verbal communication skills who can solve problems, are flexible, and can work as a member of a team. The liberal studies program exposes you to ideas; culture, critical, and quantitative thinking; and the vast well of historic and scientific knowledge that leads to the development of those skills.

The traditional liberal arts education offered at most universities is designed within the structure of a specific field such as literature, history, or psychology. Such programs provide a concentration in the specific discipline but also allow for a broad base of study in the humanities, arts, and sciences.

The liberal studies program at West Chester University not only meets the objectives of a liberal arts education but also provides the flexibility of offering more career-oriented opportunities to those of you who have identified a specific career goal but no particular major. As a liberal studies student, you must complete a minor program of study, supplemented by advanced courses related to your career interests.

Sometimes it is possible to assemble a suitable mix of breadth, minor, and elective courses to meet your needs under one of the two tracks offered by the liberal studies program. Examples of career-oriented curricula that have been pursued by students in the liberal studies program include health services management, pre-architecture, pre-law, pre-medical, pre-physical therapy, technical illustration, art therapy, scientific/technical journalism, sports information, and women's counseling.

Career Opportunities

Because of the flexibility and number of options available in the two degrees/tracks for liberal studies, you will have few limitations in the range of career possibilities. When planning your program in liberal studies, however, you should keep in mind that some careers require specific types of licenses or certificates approved by governmental or private accrediting agencies. For example, careers in teaching, engineering, nursing, and public health all require curricula specifically designed to meet the requirements of their respective licensing bureaus. Those interested in any careers involving such certifications should major in a department specializing in that area.

Undergraduate Degrees

Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies – Arts and Sciences Track (AS). This degree is for those who want a broad-based liberal arts education with a wide range of classes in the arts, sciences, humanities, behavioral and social sciences, languages, writing, and mathematics. You can use this degree to custom design your own curriculum for a career field that major departments at West Chester University do not offer.

Bachelor of Science in Liberal Studies – Science and Mathematics Track (SM). This degree program typically prepares you for careers that combine the sciences with other fields, such as the humanities or the social and behavioral sciences.

Thesis Option

With permission of the director, a limited number of liberal studies students may opt to do a thesis (LST 490, three to six semester hours). This thesis is a research or creative project that the director supervises and grades, in conjunction with two content advisers representing separate disciplines. The topic and the advisers must be determined prior to the thesis semester.

Liberal Studies (L.S.) Requirements Beyond General Education

Degree Track	Semester Hours	
	B.A.	B.S.
L.S. Breadth (100–400 level)		
Science	6	32
Behavioral and Social Sciences	6	6
Humanities	6	6
The Arts	6	3
L.S. Electives (300–400 level)	30	20
Free Electives (100–200 level)	6	5
Language	12	–

Special Entrance Requirements

A limited number of highly qualified first-year students are admitted into this competitive program each year. Transfer students are usually required to have earned at least 32 but no

UNDERGRADUATE FACT SHEET

more than 80 semester hours. Transfer applicants with a minimum 3.0 grade point average are preferred. The director will interview all candidates for admission to determine that each student's objectives conform to the program's, and to be sure that a curricular plan can be designed to meet the student's needs within the policy guidelines approved for the program.

For More Information

Dr. Alice J. Speh, Director

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West Chester, PA 19383

610-436-1096

Web page: www.wcupa.edu/_academics/sch_cas/lsp/default.asp

Undergraduate Catalog: www.wcupa.edu/_information/official.documents/undergrad.catalog/

About West Chester University

A comprehensive, public institution, West Chester University offers high-quality undergraduate and graduate degree programs in more than 100 subject areas, as well as certification programs. As the second largest member of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education, West Chester offers a full and rewarding educational experience as well as reasonable tuition.

With a rich heritage dating back to the 19th century, West Chester University was founded in 1871 as West Chester Normal School for the purpose of training teachers for the Commonwealth's newly established public schools. In 1960,

West Chester State Teachers College expanded its programs to include liberal arts and graduate degrees and, as a result, dropped "Teachers" from its name. In 1983, West Chester State College became one of the 14 institutions in the State System of Higher Education. Along with its university status, the school acquired a new system of governance and the opportunity to expand its degree programs.

Today, more than 15,000 graduate and undergraduate students, along with 1,500 faculty and staff, study and work on the 406-acre campus. Situated in the Borough of West Chester, the campus is a picturesque mix of Gothic, Victorian, and modern architecture with pleasant, tree-shaded walks.

Strategically located at the center of the mid-Atlantic corridor between New York City and Washington, D.C., West Chester is just 35 miles west of Philadelphia and 17 miles north of Wilmington.

Information on Admission

Office of Admissions

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