



THE ADVISOR ADVOCATE

The Liberal Studies Curriculum

What are the main components of the LS Curriculum?

Learning Skills. Writing and using numbers are important foundations for education, and Liberal Studies requires work in each. Students must complete two composition courses: Composition I and Composition II as well as a college-level mathematics course.

Humanities. Three courses in the humanities with one course in each of the areas of literature, philosophy or religious studies, and history. These courses will help students develop important modes of thinking and skills like critical thinking, historical consciousness, and ethical perception. In these courses, students are introduced to some of the world's greatest thinkers and writers and to place their own time in historical perspective.

Fine Arts. The languages of art, architecture, music, drama, and dance are wonderful ways for us to express our feelings and perceptions. Study in the fine arts helps students think about beauty and how it is expressed, make their own aesthetic judgments, and enjoy the choices they make.

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Natural Science. We live in a world in which scientific and technological questions—about atomic energy, computers, genetics, the environment, or mineral resources—play increasingly important roles. Studying the natural sciences is crucial for students to be part of the critical discussions that affect their lives.

Social Science. We do not live in isolation; we interact with other people, and we belong to groups which interact with other groups. The social sciences provide ways of understanding human social institutions and processes. They grapple with issues like economic policy, foreign affairs, crime, family relationships, and the significance of gender, race, and class. Students are required to complete three social science courses, with no two chosen from the same discipline. Offerings are available in anthropology, criminology, economics, geography, political science, psychology, and sociology.

Dimensions of Wellness. Responsible adaptations in behavior can help promote and maintain good health, so it is important to know and begin to practice the components of a healthy lifestyle. There is a wide variety of courses from which to choose from many departments across campus. Completing one year of ROTC/Military Science is an alternate way of fulfilling this requirement.

"Learning is an ornament in prosperity, a refuge in adversity, and a provision in old age." Aristotle



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Global and Multicultural Awareness (GMA). Advances in travel and communications are changing our lives; it is no longer unusual for students to go halfway around the world to study or for our economic relationships to be calculated in global terms. Knowing only what is close at hand and familiar is no longer enough. To help students develop attitudes and understandings necessary to live in a world in which contact between cultures is increasingly important, at least one of the courses taken at IUPUI must deal with a non-western culture. There are several courses that fulfill other parts of the Liberal Studies curriculum that also fulfill the GMA requirement. In addition to the commonly used courses that also fulfill the Social Science requirement, there are also courses in the Natural Science, Liberal Studies and Social Science electives, as well as courses in a student's major that also fulfill this requirement.

Liberal Studies Electives. Not all students are the same, nor should they be. Students come to college with different backgrounds and individual interests. Liberal Studies gives students a chance to explore topics that fascinate them, but which they might not have another opportunity to study. Courses can be selected from an extensive list of offerings. Because the goal is intellectual breadth, students may not count any course labeled with their major prefix as one of their Liberal Studies Electives nor can they choose more than one course with the same prefix, except in the case of intermediate-level foreign language study where they may use a prefix twice.

Petitioning for Exception of an LS requirement

The published list of approved Liberal Studies courses expresses the university's best judgment about appropriate ways of meeting Liberal Studies goals. **Ordinarily there are no exceptions or substitutions.** Students working with advisors need to make sure they know and complete the requirements. Exceptions may be considered only in extreme or unusual circumstances and may be granted only if alternate coursework substantially fulfills the criteria for the Liberal Studies category. The form for requesting a petition can be found at <https://www.iupui.edu/liberal/forms/petition-for-exception-to-liberal-studies-requirement/>

The student completes the form with their name, address, banner ID #, major, and advisor name. They should also check off the Liberal Studies category for which the petition is being requested. The most important piece is the next section which is a justification as to why the alternate course was taken. Please make sure your student gives the reason why the course they are petitioning for was taken. They do not need to justify if the content is similar to that in a Liberal Studies course but rather why they took that course in the first place. Students need to be aware that just because a course has a higher number than the Liberal Studies course, it does not automatically mean that it fulfills a Liberal Studies requirement. Finally, the student needs to print the form, sign it, have their advisor sign it, have the chair of their department sign it, and bring it or send it by campus mail to the Liberal Studies Office which is located at **103 Stabley**.

For more information: CTE Office: 103 Stabley

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