



ADVISING WORKSHEET: LIBERAL STUDIES

GENERAL NOTES

- A minimum of 123 credits are required for graduation.
- Credits earned for COM 100 and MAT 100 do not count toward the 123 credits required for graduation; however, COM 100 students may petition for elective credit.
- Where appropriate, courses required for the major can be used to satisfy General Education requirements. However, the credits earned for these courses are applied to either Gen Ed requirements or the major, not both.
- Paths of Knowledge coursework may count towards major or minor requirements, but may not fulfill a second Mid-Level Liberal Arts Exploration requirement.
- Students are expected to follow the catalogue requirements for General Education, the major, and additional requirements.
- A minor or second major within the areas listed under Paths of Knowledge automatically fulfills that area of the Gen Ed requirements.

RATIONALE

The liberal studies major is a self-designed major available for students to develop a program of study that is not currently offered at the university. Whether the student is seeking an opportunity to broaden intellectual and cultural awareness, or whether the student is preparing for specific graduate pursuits, liberal studies will provide both a solid foundation and a program tailored to the student's individual goals.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the liberal studies major is to provide students the flexibility to explore a wide range of subjects while tailoring their studies to career or educational goals. This individualized program can be more meaningful and practical to the individual with specific professional or intellectual interests.

RESTRICTIONS

Students who have not yet earned 75 credits should discuss their planned course of study with the relevant department chairs. Students then submit a proposal, including a rationale for pursuing the liberal studies major and a program of studies with the courses that constitute this major. Once the proposal has been approved by the chairs of the two relevant academic departments* and by the Dean of Arts & Sciences, the Registrar will be informed of the student's intent to pursue a liberal studies major and will keep the signed and approved proposal on file.

**If the two areas of study are within the same department, then the department chair and a faculty member who teaches in one of the specific areas are asked to approve the proposal.*

INDIVIDUAL MAJOR EXPLORATION

The Faculty Advising Coordinators serve as additional resources for students exploring majors. Working with the Academic Success Center, these faculty members provide opportunities for major and minor exploration. In coordination with Career Development, students develop individual profiles, take interest assessments, observe classes in progress and participate in shadowing opportunities. In addition, students participate in Alumni Affair events specifically designed to assist in the exploration of majors and careers.

CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Located in BH 103, Career Development has an extensive library of career information for students exploring their interests. Students can browse the collection and/or make an appointment to meet the Director of Career Development.

General Education (54-56 credits)

First Year Curriculum: Enduring Questions	Credits Required	Course	Term	Grade	Credits Earned
SEARCH Seminar-Enduring Questions or Honor Search-Enduring Questions	3	SRH 101/ HNR 160			
COM 101: Composition & Research <i>(Must earn a C or higher)</i>	3	COM 101			
THE 105: Foundations of Theology	3	THE 105			
PHI 105: Introduction to Philosophy	3	PHI 105			

Mid-Level Liberal Arts Exploration	Credits Required	Course	Term	Grade	Credits Earned
EXPLORING THE NATURAL WORLD (6-8 credits)					
Lab Science (Biology, Chemistry, Physics)	3-4				
Math (Other than MAT 100)	3-4				
INDIVIDUALS & COMMUNITIES (6 credits)					
History or Political Science	3				
PSY 101, HIS, POS, SOC, SSC, or ECON	3				
CULTURE & LANGUAGE (9 credits)					
Communication <i>(Not COM 100 or 101)</i>	3				
World Language – 2 courses in sequence	3				
	3				
CREATIVE EXPRESSIONS (6 credits)					
Literature (ENG)	3				
Art, Music, or Theatre	3				
Ethical Leaders and Followers	Credits Required	Course	Term	Grade	Credits Earned
Theology or Philosophy (200-400 level)	3				
Theology or Philosophy (Ethics/Morality @ 200 level)	3				

Paths of Knowledge – Choose 1 Path		PoK may count towards minor or Related Requirements, but not Mid-Level Arts Exploration requirements.			
<p>____PATH 1: Interdisciplinary Study (IS) Three courses, at least two from Liberal Arts disciplines, not the major, at the 200-400 level from the interdisciplinary minors of Women & Gender Studies, Digital Media, Community & Environmental Sustainability, Community Engagement, Cultural Studies, Leadership Studies or Pre-Law.</p>	<p>____PATH 2: Multi-disciplinary Study (MS) Three courses, at least two from Liberal Arts disciplines, not the major, at the 200-400 level employing multiple disciplinary perspectives to explore the Enduring Questions in one of the following themes: Cultural & Global Studies, Imagination & Creativity, Peace & Conflict, Poverty & Wealth or Sustainability, Science & Technology.</p>	<p>____PATH 3: In-depth Disciplinary Study (DS) Three courses at the 200-400 level in one Liberal Arts discipline other than one's major, guided by common ideas and methods of inquiry. Students choose from Art, Biology, Chemistry, Communication, Computer Science, Economics, English, History, Mathematics, Music, Philosophy, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology, Theology, Theatre or World Languages. This path may be used to give students a firm foundation in a discipline supporting their chosen major, or to pursue an interest in one of the Liberal Arts disciplines.</p>			
Course (See Catalog for lists of approved courses for each area.)		Area or Discipline	Term	Grade	Credits Earned

FIRST YEAR PLAN

Semester 1	Credits	Semester 2	Credits
SRH 101: Search Sem-Enduring Questions or HNR 160: Honor Search-Enduring Questions	3	THE 105: Foundations of Theology WORLD LANGUAGE II	3 3
PHI 105: Intro to Philosophy	3	Gen Ed SEARCH (100 – 200 LEVEL)	3
COM 101: Composition and Research	3	Gen Ed SEARCH (100 – 200 LEVEL)	3
WORLD LANGUAGE I	3	Gen Ed SEARCH (100 – 200 LEVEL)	3
Gen Ed SEARCH (100 – 200 LEVEL)	3		
TOTAL	15	TOTAL	15

1. Students should declare their intention to pursue the liberal studies major and submit a rationale for their program of studies and the courses that will constitute it before they earn 75 credits.
2. This proposal must be approved by the **two** department chairs* who have agreed to sponsor the major. An advisor will be appointed from one of the departments.
3. A minimum of 15 credits must be taken in each of the two departments or programs. A minimum of 18 credits must be taken at the 300/400 level.
4. Students must complete a one credit capstone course, COL 400, supervised by their advisor.
5. All major requirements are in addition to those required by the university core. Paths of Knowledge may not be fulfilled by courses from either of the two selected disciplines.

**If the two areas of study are within the same department, then the department chair and a faculty member who teaches in one of the specific areas are asked to approve the proposal.*

ADDITIONAL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS	RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS	GRADUATION CREDITS EARNED	
<input type="checkbox"/> SRH 101/HNR 160: SEARCH SEMINAR/ENDURING QUESTIONS <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS <input type="checkbox"/> OVERALL GPA = 2.0 or higher <input type="checkbox"/> GPA IN MAJOR = 2.0 or higher GPA Requirements vary by major. <input type="checkbox"/> SENIOR CAPSTONE <input type="checkbox"/> WRITING ENHANCED COURSE	<input type="checkbox"/> Minimum of 123 non-remedial credits earned <input type="checkbox"/> 45 of last 60 credits <input type="checkbox"/> Minimum of 12 Alvernia credits in the major <input type="checkbox"/> Minimum of 9 Alvernia credits in the minor (if applicable)	Liberal Arts Core credits earned	
		Major and Related Area credits earned	
		Elective and/or Minor credits earned	
		SUBTOTAL	
		SUBTRACT CREDITS EARNED FOR MAT 100, and if applicable COM 100	
		TOTAL GRADUATION CREDITS	

Academic Policy on Eligibility for Participation of May Commencement Ceremony

The academic policy, which the Registrar follows, is: A student who has 6 or less credits remaining to complete the degree may participate in the May Commencement Ceremony.

Application Deadlines: August Graduation - December 1; December Graduation - March 1; May Graduation - October 1.
Any questions, please call the Registrar's Office.