

For additional
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Liberal Studies Program
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CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY
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COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
LIBERAL STUDIES PROGRAM

**MAJOR IN
LIBERAL STUDIES**

Liberal Studies

Liberal Studies is a B.A. program housed in the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences. The major meets the diverse needs of both traditional and non-traditional students. Several traits distinguish the B.A. in Liberal Studies from majors in specialized disciplines:

- broad-based liberal education across the natural sciences, social sciences, and humanities
- academic (rather than technical or training) emphasis
- maximum flexibility in choosing courses across the University curriculum (including technical electives)
- breadth rather than specialized depth of intellectual experience
- appropriateness for students who wish to take an active role in shaping their studies

Students may concentrate in various areas, and they may organize their studies around a major theme such as critical thinking, cultural heritage, or science and technology. Students have used such a foundation to pursue graduate degrees in Philosophy, Education, Law, and Medicine.

Reasons Why to Choose Liberal Studies?

Students come to Liberal Studies for many reasons and graduate from the program with many different objectives:

- A few use the major simply to earn a college degree as quickly as possible.
- Some use the program in the broadest sense of liberal education—not to specialize but rather to explore a variety of intellectual disciplines, especially when they already have satisfactory careers or wish not to be restricted to a single discipline.
- Some majors select courses to satisfy prerequisites for future graduate or other professional study after the B.A. degree.
- Others range widely in their individualized selection of courses to discover personal interests and strengths.

By combining the B.A. in Liberal Studies with one or more minors in traditional disciplines, many students achieve depth of experience without sacrificing breadth. Others create their own academic concentrations or work for a formal certificate. And some graduates have used the program as a foundation for professional school (e.g., law, medicine, nursing, occupational therapy), graduate study (e.g., education, applied social sciences), and careers in business (e.g., financial consulting, technical writing) and entertainment (e.g., New York theater production).

Special Strengths and Sources of Pride

- Each Liberal Studies major creates a personalized curriculum and is advised by a senior faculty member. The objective is to match individual needs and career interests within a broad liberal education.
- Typically one-third or more of active Liberal Studies majors are on the Dean's List each quarter.
- The average GPA of Liberal Studies majors at graduation is over 3.00, and many have graduated with honors, high honors, and highest honors.
- Many Liberal Studies students graduate with at least one minor—and sometimes as many as three different minors—within the Liberal Studies major.
- Academic minors, concentrations, and specialized certificates give graduates useful entry-level skills to complement their broad education.
- The program has graduated dozens of adult learners who needed a course of study that was both flexible and rigorous.
- Some students who got off to a poor start in their academic lives have gotten back on track and created wonderful careers from their Liberal Studies experience.

Advising

Liberal Studies majors meet with an academic advisor or the Director of the program each term to discuss their progress.