



WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

Bachelor of Liberal Arts and Sciences

College of Arts and Sciences

Customize your future. The Liberal Arts and Sciences degree is your gateway to lifelong learning.

Program of Study

The Bachelor of Liberal Arts and Sciences (LAS) degree at Western Illinois University offers focused programs tailored to students' academic needs and interests and provides a broad liberal education base. The program incorporates study in the traditional areas of liberal education—Humanities, Social Sciences, and Natural Sciences/Mathematics—to form a cohesive academic foundation. The degree program provides a cohesive base for employment opportunities and further professional and graduate education.

Structure

The LAS program is a 120 semester hour (SH) baccalaureate program with a 36 SH (minimum) major course of study. Students can complete the degree in several different ways. Students may elect to complete a Multidisciplinary Emphasis or a Paired Minor Emphasis (both are explained below). The major includes introductory and capstone courses. In addition, students in the LAS program will complete the College's general education requirements as well as a minor program of study in a discipline of the student's choosing. A number of elective courses round out the degree requirements.

Emphases in the LAS Degree

The Bachelor of LAS program offers two types of emphases:

1. *Multidisciplinary Emphases*

- **People in Context** explores human behavior and the interrelated forces (i.e., individual, biological, social, environmental, political, and cultural) that influence us.
- **The Environment** offers broad study of the environment from scientific, social, political, and humanistic vantage points.

2. *Paired Minor Emphasis*

Students can select two existing liberal arts and sciences minor programs that meet his or her academic or career needs. To ensure the integrity of the degree, some restrictions exist regarding which minors may be paired, but there are numerous possibilities.

Faculty

Through participation in the LAS program, students will have the opportunity to study with a highly qualified and diverse faculty who hold advanced degrees from prestigious institutions from throughout the United States and from around the world.

Scholarships

There are many scholarships for which LAS students are eligible. Visit the scholarships website at wiu.edu/Scholarship for additional information.

HIGHER VALUES IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Transfer Students

The LAS degree is designed to be “friendly” to transfer students. In most cases, students entering the LAS program with an Associate in Arts or Associate in Science degree should be able to complete the program within four semesters. Students pursuing an associate degree who plan to enroll in the LAS program should consult with their adviser to ensure smooth transition to Western.

Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity

Undergraduate research and creative activity programs in the College of Arts and Sciences have had a phenomenal effect on students’ learning experiences. In these programs, undergraduates work directly with faculty mentors in numerous areas throughout the College to conduct research and creative activity projects. Through these programs, students learn to seek answers in a logical and methodical way, and to communicate these answers to people who may not be specialists in a particular area. These skills will last students a lifetime. Competitive student undergraduate research and creative activity grants are available.



After College

The Bachelor of LAS degree is designed to prepare students for a productive life, equipping them with the transferable skills most valued by employers. Those skills include the ability to think critically, to communicate cogently and persuasively, to analyze situations and synthesize information, and to approach and understand things from a variety of perspectives. The LAS degree can prepare students for careers in journalism, social services, public relations, politics, customer service, advertising, recruitment, personnel, and more. Students who complete the LAS degree may also consider graduate studies in English, history, journalism, law, biology, psychology, sociology, communication, and other professional disciplines. Additionally, our Master of LAS degree provides the opportunity for further customized graduate education.

For more information, contact James A. Schmidt, PhD, Associate Dean, College of Arts and Sciences, Western Illinois University, Macomb, IL 61455. Inquiries via telephone, (309) 298-1828, or e-mail, JA-Schmidt@wiu.edu, are also welcome.

Higher Values in Higher Education

Located in Macomb (population 20,000), with a campus in the Quad Cities (Moline, IL), Western Illinois University offers a caring and supportive learning environment to more than 13,000 students in west-central Illinois. Western students have all the advantages of a large public university—strong faculty, state-of-the-art technology and facilities, and a wide range of academic and extracurricular opportunities—in an atmosphere free from distractions. Western Illinois University is a member of the NCAA and competes at the Division I level, sponsoring 20 intercollegiate sports in a broad-based athletics department. Western’s presence in the Quad Cities spans more than 40 years, and that campus offers undergraduate and graduate programs to more than 1,500 students. The core values that are at the heart of the University are academic excellence, educational opportunity, personal growth, and social responsibility.

Western’s GradTrac and Cost programs guarantee that students can achieve their degrees within four years while paying a fixed rate for tuition, room, and board.

Western Illinois University is an Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity employer with a strong commitment to diversity. In that spirit, we are particularly interested in receiving applications from a broad spectrum of people, including, but not limited to, minorities, women, and individuals with disabilities. WIU has a non-discrimination policy that includes sex, race, color, sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression, religion, age, marital status, national origin, disability, or veteran status.

Campus Visits

The Admissions Reception Center (Sherman Hall 115) is open most weekdays from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM when the University is in session. Group information sessions are available at 10:00 AM and 1:00 PM, and campus tours are conducted at 11:00 AM and 2:00 PM daily. Individual appointments with an admissions counselor, advisers/faculty, or a financial aid adviser may be arranged during the week. The Admissions Reception Center is open from 9:30 AM to 1:00 PM most Saturdays when the University is in session. A group information session is available at 10:00 AM, and a campus tour is conducted at 11:00 AM. An individual appointment with an admissions counselor may be arranged. You may schedule your visit or tour online at admissions.wiu.edu by selecting “Visit Campus.” You may also schedule a visit, tour, or individual appointment by calling toll free (877) PICKWIU [742-5948] or (309) 298-3157, or by e-mailing admissions@wiu.edu.

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