The Bachelor of Liberal Arts and Sciences (BLAS) program is a 120 semester hour (sh) baccalaureate program with a 39 sh (minimum) major course of study. In addition to an introductory course and a senior capstone course, BLAS students select one of four emphases of study in the major. Students also complete the College of Arts and Sciences’ (CAS) General Education requirements as well as a minor program of study in a discipline of the student’s choosing. Open electives round out the degree requirements (see below):

I. University General Education and CAS BLAS Requirements: 57 sh
II. Core Courses: 6 sh
   LAS 195 Introduction to Liberal Arts and Sciences (3 sh)
   LAS 495 Liberal Arts and Sciences Senior Capstone (3 sh)
III. Emphases of Study (select Multidisciplinary Studies emphasis, Environmental Studies emphasis, Peace Corps emphasis, or Paired Minor emphasis; at least 18 sh must be at the 300 or 400 level): at least 33 sh
IV. Minor: minimum of 16-24 sh
V. Open Electives: 0-8 sh

Emphases of Study

- **Multidisciplinary Studies** – Students pursuing the Multidisciplinary Studies emphasis choose courses in consultation with their advisor from across at least three different fields in the Arts and Sciences.
- **Environmental Studies** – Students pursuing the Environmental Studies emphasis follow a multidisciplinary curriculum that focuses on environmental courses and training to address today’s environmental concerns.
- **Peace Corps** – Students pursuing the Peace Corps emphasis follow a multidisciplinary curriculum that integrates courses approved for the WIU Peace Corps Prep program with a focus on community development and international service. Completion of the emphasis alone does not constitute completion of the WIU Peace Corps Prep program. For more information on PC Prep, visit wiu.edu/peace_corps/pc_prep or contact pcprep@wiu.edu.
- **Paired Minor** – Students pursuing the Paired Minor emphasis choose two minors from the Arts and Sciences to combine into a strategically focused, interdisciplinary major (see the Undergraduate Catalog or LAS website for minor pairing options).

Study Abroad and Internship Opportunities

With our flexible curriculum, students interested in study abroad or internship opportunities can work with their advisor and program director to find and pursue international or professional experiences that prepare them for a variety of career paths or further academic study.
Honors in Liberal Arts and Sciences
To be eligible for the Centennial Honors College, entering freshmen must have an ACT composite score of at least 28 OR have a 26 or 27 composite ACT and be in the top 15% of their graduating class OR have an ACT composite score of at least 24 and be in the top 10% of their high school graduating class. A comparable SAT score is acceptable. Transfer and current WIU students who wish to join the Honors College (including the Quad Cities Honors Program) must have a 3.4 grade point average on a 4.0 scale based on 12 or more semester hours. Honors credit is given for honors coursework completed at other accredited institutions. To find out more, visit wiu.edu/Honors.

General honors seminars in the humanities, sciences, and social sciences provide students with the opportunity to explore key academic issues with distinguished faculty members. In the BLAS major, honors students take courses for honors credit and, as seniors, complete research and prepare an honors thesis or project under the direction of a CAS faculty member. Successful completion of the departmental honors requirements is noted on the official transcript, and program graduates receive special recognition at Commencement.

Student Activities
BLAS students participate in many activities across campus: annual departmental conferences; WIU Undergraduate Research Day; departmental, College, and University speaker events; professionalization workshops; and many student organizations, clubs, and so on. In Macomb, both undergraduate and graduate students are active in the LAS Graduate Student Organization (LASGO).

After College
The Liberal Arts and Sciences multidisciplinary bachelor’s degree emphasizes comparative critical thinking, communication, and the application of a broad range of methodologies and applied skills. Among other things, the degree prepares graduates to adapt to different social and professional contexts, and to be creative problem solvers. Students who plan their coursework and choose their minors in consultation with their advisor and the LAS director open a variety of opportunities for employment, career advancement, or further study. To see what our graduates are doing now, check out our website!

For More Information
For specific program questions, contact Dr. Amy Mossman, Director, Liberal Arts and Sciences Program, Tillman Hall 301B, Western Illinois University, 1 University Circle, Macomb, IL 61455, (309) 298-3025, las-bacc@wiu.edu, wiu.edu/las. Check out www.facebook.com/LASWIU. Follow us on Twitter @LASWIU.

In a period of rapid, unpredictable change, a combination of traditional liberal-arts education, collaborative research, workplace experiences, and a “can-do” attitude is the safest bet for future employment, as well as the foundation for good citizenship and a life that’s engaged with culture and thought. –“A Liberal Arts Foundation,” New York Times, 2013

A liberal arts education will become more important as the global economy increasingly depends on workers who have the following attributes: problem-solving skills; creativity; competence in mathematics, speaking, writing, and listening; intercultural competency; technology skills; and collaboration skills. –“The Value of a Liberal Arts Education,” Academic Exchange Quarterly, 2012

A degree in liberal arts rarely restricts a student to just one career path. Whereas some majors—engineering or computer science, for example—provide specialized training in a specific field, liberal arts degrees tend to provide a much broader educational background and skills applicable to almost any job. –“Why Employers Like Liberal Arts Grads,” CareerBuilder.com, 2007

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