

Bachelor of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Department of Liberal Arts and Sciences



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

Program of Study

The Bachelor of Liberal Arts and Sciences (BLAS) baccalaureate degree is a 120-semester hour (SH) 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 (paired minor emphasis or Peace Corps emphasis; at least 18 SH must be at the 300 or 400 level. 33 Total SH)
- IV. Minor: minimum of 16-24 SH
- V. Open Electives: 0-8 SH

Emphases of Study

- **Paired Minor** – Students pursuing the paired minor emphasis choose two minors from the College of Arts and Sciences to combine into a strategically focused, interdisciplinary major (see the Undergraduate Catalog or LAS website for minor pairing options).
- **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.

Study Abroad and Internship Opportunities

With our flexible curriculum, students interested in study abroad or internship opportunities can work with their advisor and department chair to find and pursue international or professional experiences that prepare them for a variety of career paths or further academic study.

About the Department of Liberal Arts and Sciences

The Department of Liberal Arts and Sciences (LAS) allows students with diverse interests to work with their advisor to design a curriculum that provides them with strong training in the arts and sciences, applied experiences, and opportunities that prepare them to achieve their goals. Furthermore, LAS provides students with focused and student-centered advising support as well as opportunities for professionalization as they prepare to pursue a career or further study. From involvement in student organizations to internship and study abroad experiences, LAS is committed to helping students build connections between classroom and extracurricular experiences. In addition, eligible students in the LAS major can enroll in the Honors College, and have the opportunity to apply to our

integrated bachelor's and master's degree program, allowing students to complete both degrees in less time.

The Department of Liberal Arts and Sciences houses three undergraduate minor programs along with the Major in LAS; African American Studies, Religious Studies, and Women's Studies.

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 and clubs.



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 department chair open a variety of opportunities for employment, career advancement or further study. To see what our graduates are doing now, visit wiu.edu/las.

For More Information

For specific program questions, contact Betsy Perabo, coordinator, Department of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Morgan Hall 232, Western Illinois University, 1 University Circle, Macomb, IL 61455, (309) 298-2214, las-bacc@wiu.edu, wiu.edu/las. Check out [facebook.com/LASWIU](https://www.facebook.com/LASWIU). Follow us on Twitter @LASWIU.

Campus Visits

The Admissions Reception Center (Sherman Hall 115) is open most weekdays from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. when the University is in session. Group information sessions are available on Mondays and Fridays at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m., and individual appointments can be made on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Campus tours are conducted at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., Monday through Friday. Appointments with advisors, faculty or a financial aid advisor may be arranged separately during the week. The Admissions Reception Center is open from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. most Saturdays when the University is in session. A group information session is available at 10 a.m., and a campus tour is conducted at 11 a.m. Students may schedule a visit or tour online at wiu.edu/admissions by selecting "Visit Campus." Students 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.

So, as you go out into the world, don't let anyone make you feel stupid or indulgent in having pursued your passion and studied the liberal arts. You are heirs to one of the greatest traditions in human history, one that has uncovered the clockwork of the stars, created works of unimaginable beauty, and organized societies of amazing productivity. In continuing this tradition, you are strengthening the greatest experiment in social organization: democracy. And above all, you are feeding the most basic urge of the human spirit—to know. —Fareed Zakaria 2014 – Adapted from the commencement speech at Sarah Lawrence College

It is not so very important for a person to learn facts. For that he does not really need a college. He can learn them from books. The value of an education in a liberal arts college is not learning of many facts but the training of the mind to think something that cannot be learned from textbooks. —Albert Einstein

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

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Morgan Hall 232 • Western Illinois University
1 University Circle • Macomb, IL 61455-1390
Phone: (309) 298-2214 • E-mail: las-bacc@wiu.edu

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