

UMSL Liberal Studies

The Program

The Bachelor of Liberal Studies is a degree program that enables students to combine structured academic emphases in ways more relevant to their interests than the standard academic major.

Students who participate in this program must declare their areas of study (two minors or a minor and certificate) at the time they declare that BLS is their intended degree. The plan of study should be approved at the beginning of the program by an advisor in the College of Arts and Sciences Dean's office.

The College of Arts and Sciences (CAS), Fine Arts and Communication (CoFAC) and Business Administration (BA) have joined together to make available Liberal Studies combinations involving the following units:

- Department of Anthropology (CAS)
- Department of Art & Art History (CoFAC)
- Minor in Art History or Studio Art
- Department of Biology (CAS)
- College of Business Administration (BA)
- Minor in Business Administration only
- Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry (CAS)
- Department of Communication (CoFAC)
- Department of Criminology (CAS) and Criminal Justice
- Department of Economics (CAS)
- Department of English (CAS)
- Department of Foreign Languages (CAS) and Literatures
- Department of Mathematics (CAS) and Computer Science
- Department of Music (CoFAC)
- Department of Philosophy (CAS)
- Department of Physics and Astronomy (CAS)
- Department of Political Science (CAS)
- Department of Psychology (CAS)
- Department of Sociology (CAS)
- Department of Theatre, Dance & Media Studies (CoFAC)
- Gender Studies (CAS)

General Education Requirements

To obtain a Bachelor of Liberal Studies (BLS), a student must successfully complete UMSL General Education Requirements (consult General Education section of course listings):

- Communication Skills 6 credit hours
- Humanities 9 credit hours
- Math/Science 12 credit hours
- Managing Information 3 credit hours
- Social and Behavioral Sciences 9 credit hours
- Valuing Skills 3 credit hours

(42 Total Credit Hours)

In addition, students must complete:

The State Requirement (3) and Cultural Diversity Requirement (3) if not met in General Education course selection.

The campus requirement of proficiency in English Composition:

- ENGL 1100, Freshman Composition
- ENGL 3100, Advanced Expository Writing

The campus requirement of proficiency in Mathematics (to be completed in the first 24 hours at the university).

Concentration

Liberal Studies Concentration (33-41 hours)

The requirement for designated (identified) BLS Minors in participating departments or other units (minimum of 15 hours in each) or a designated minor and a designated multi-disciplinary certificate (minimum of 15 hours in each, with no course being used more than once to complete the concentration) and a capstone course (minimum of 3 hours).

Degree Requirements

A minimum of 45 credit hours in Junior and senior level course work must be completed.

Required electives (28-42 credit hours).

A minimum of 120 credit hours must be completed.

Overall GPA of 2.0 with minimum Grade of C in all courses used in the BLS Combination Areas.

Residency requirement: in addition to campus residency, unless otherwise specified, 9 graded hours in each minor and certificate at 2000-level or above and one capstone course must be completed.