

LETTERS, ARTS, AND SCIENCES, B.A. (ABINGTON)

Begin Campus: Any Penn State Campus

End Campus: Abington

Program Description

Letters, Arts, and Sciences is a multi-disciplinary, theme-oriented, and student-designed major leading to a bachelor of arts degree. The major consists of 36 credits, divided into two sections. The core (12 credits) consists of 3 credits each in the following: research methods/projects; communication skills; theory/application; and critical analysis. The additional courses (24 credits) consist of courses directed toward the student's theme, 15 credits of which must be at the 400 level.

Early Admission Program for Professional Schools

If a student is accepted and enrolled as a degree candidate in a professional postgraduate degree program requiring three years or more to complete (such as medical school, dental school, law school, theological seminary, etc.) and if that student completes 94 undergraduate credits at Penn State including General Education, B.A. requirements, and the LAS 12-credit core requirements, that student may use up to 30 credits from the professional school to complete the B.A. in LAS.

It must be emphasized that only top students are accepted into professional school programs on such an early admission basis and that not every professional school has such a policy. Students must have enrolled in LAS prior to attending the professional school to request graduation in LAS.

What is Letters, Arts, and Sciences?

You can customize a Bachelor's Degree in Letters, Arts, and Sciences to fit your area of interest. The 120-credit online program allows you to focus on developing your skills in communication and analysis along with your leadership abilities. You will work closely with your adviser to design a program that creates intellectual depth in an area of study that is unique to your interests, but also aligns with the theoretical foundation of a liberal arts degree. The goal of the Bachelor's degree in Letters, Arts and Sciences is to provide a broad education that introduces methods of analysis used in the liberal arts disciplines. In addition, it can also prepare you to address the complex social, cultural, ethical, and organizational issues you may face in leadership positions.

You Might Like This Program If...

You have not earned an undergraduate degree, you wish to complete a degree or you wish to customize a degree to fit your career goals.

Entrance To Major

In order to be eligible for entrance to the major, the student must submit a proposal. In consultation with an LAS adviser, the student formulates a proposal designing a program that investigates a theme from the viewpoint of at least three different subject areas. Students may not duplicate existing majors from any academic area. An important standard for entrance to the Letters, Arts, and Sciences major is the student's ability to design a program with academic integrity worthy of a bachelor of arts degree.

Degree Requirements

For the Bachelor of Arts degree in Letters, Arts, and Sciences, a minimum of 120 credits is required:

Requirement	Credits
General Education	45
Electives	15
Bachelor of Arts Degree Requirements	24
Requirements for the Major	36

3 of the 24 credits for Bachelor of Arts Degree Requirements are included in the Requirements for the Major, General Education, or Electives and 0-12 credits are included in Electives if foreign language proficiency is demonstrated by examination.

Per Senate Policy 83-80.5, the college dean or campus chancellor and program faculty may require up to 24 credits of coursework in the major to be taken at the location or in the college or program where the degree is earned. For more information, check the Recommended Academic Plan for your intended program.

General Education

Connecting career and curiosity, the General Education curriculum provides the opportunity for students to acquire transferable skills necessary to be successful in the future and to thrive while living in interconnected contexts. General Education aids students in developing intellectual curiosity, a strengthened ability to think, and a deeper sense of aesthetic appreciation. These are requirements for all baccalaureate students and are often partially incorporated into the requirements of a program. For additional information, see the General Education Requirements (<http://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-education/baccalaureate-degree-general-education-program/>) section of the Bulletin and consult your academic adviser.

The keystone symbol appears next to the title of any course that is designated as a General Education course. Program requirements may also satisfy General Education requirements and vary for each program.

Foundations (grade of C or better is required.)

- **Quantification (GQ):** 6 credits
- **Writing and Speaking (GWS):** 9 credits

Knowledge Domains

- **Arts (GA):** 6 credits
- **Health and Wellness (GHW):** 3 credits
- **Humanities (GH):** 6 credits
- **Social and Behavioral Sciences (GS):** 6 credits
- **Natural Sciences (GN):** 9 credits

Integrative Studies (may also complete a Knowledge Domain requirement)

- **Inter-Domain or Approved Linked Courses:** 6 credits

University Degree Requirements

First Year Engagement

All students enrolled in a college or the Division of Undergraduate Studies at University Park, and the World Campus are required to take 1 to 3 credits of the First-Year Seminar, as specified by their college First-Year Engagement Plan.

Other Penn State colleges and campuses may require the First-Year Seminar; colleges and campuses that do not require a First-Year Seminar provide students with a first-year engagement experience.

First-year baccalaureate students entering Penn State should consult their academic adviser for these requirements.

Cultures Requirement

6 credits are required and may satisfy other requirements

- United States Cultures: 3 credits
- International Cultures: 3 credits

Writing Across the Curriculum

3 credits required from the college of graduation and likely prescribed as part of major requirements.

Total Minimum Credits

A minimum of 120 degree credits must be earned for a baccalaureate degree. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 credits. Students should consult with their college or department adviser for information on specific credit requirements.

Quality of Work

Candidates must complete the degree requirements for their major and earn at least a 2.00 grade-point average for all courses completed within their degree program.

Limitations on Source and Time for Credit Acquisition

The college dean or campus chancellor and program faculty may require up to 24 credits of course work in the major to be taken at the location or in the college or program where the degree is earned. Credit used toward degree programs may need to be earned from a particular source or within time constraints (see Senate Policy 83-80 (<http://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/#83-80>)). For more information, check the Suggested Academic Plan for your intended program.

B.A. Degree Requirements

Foreign Language (0-12 credits): Student must attain 12th credit level of proficiency in one foreign language. See the Placement Policy for Penn State Foreign Language Courses (<http://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/academic-information/advising-planning-degree-program/course-placements/placement-policy-world-language-courses/>).

B.A. Fields (9 credits): Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences, Arts, Foreign Languages, Natural Sciences, Quantification (may not be taken in the area of the student's primary major; foreign language credits in this category must be in a second foreign language or beyond the 12th credit level of proficiency in the first language)

Other Cultures (0-3 credits): Select 3 credits from approved list. Students may count courses in this category in order to meet other major, minor, elective, or General Education requirements, except for the General Education US/IL requirement.

Requirements for the Major

Courses must be selected in consultation with an adviser.

A grade of C or better is required for all courses in the major. To graduate, a student enrolled in the major must earn at least a C grade in each course designated by the major as a C-required course, as specified

by Senate Policy 82-44 (<http://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/#82-44>).

Code	Title	Credits
Additional Courses		
<i>Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
Select 24 credits from University-wide offerings to include:		24
12 credits at the 400 level representing at least three different subject areas		
3 credit 400-level capstone course		
A minimum 9 credits from the humanities and social sciences		
Supporting Courses and Related Areas		
<i>Supporting Courses and Related Areas: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
Select 3 credits in research methods/projects from courses that involve research methodology or that focus on a research project		3
Select 3 credits in communication skills from courses that focus on expression including those in verbal, symbolic, and written skills		3
Select 3 credits in theory/application from courses that focus on theory, principle, central concepts, or fundamental issues		3
Select 3 credits in critical analysis from courses that focus on evaluation, synthesis, and analysis		3

Program Learning Objectives

Students should develop the ability:

1. to analyze data and draw appropriate conclusions.
2. to conduct appropriate academic research.
3. to express ideas effectively and efficiently orally and in writing.
4. to understand theories and to apply them to specific academic and real-world situations.
5. to recognize and understand interdisciplinary influences.
6. to be sensitive to diverse backgrounds, talents, interests, and aspirations of different kinds of people.

Academic Advising

The objectives of the university's academic advising program are to help advisees identify and achieve their academic goals, to promote their intellectual discovery, and to encourage students to take advantage of both in-and out-of class educational opportunities in order that they become self-directed learners and decision makers.

Both advisers and advisees share responsibility for making the advising relationship succeed. By encouraging their advisees to become engaged in their education, to meet their educational goals, and to develop the habit of learning, advisers assume a significant educational role. The advisee's unit of enrollment will provide each advisee with a primary academic adviser, the information needed to plan the chosen program of study, and referrals to other specialized resources.

READ SENATE POLICY 32-00: ADVISING POLICY (<http://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/32-00-advising-policy/>)

Abington

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University Park**Liberal Arts Academic Advising**

814-865-2545

Use the Liberal Arts Majors and Minors web page (<https://www.la.psu.edu/current-students/undergraduate-students/education/majors-and-minors/>) to see the contact information for the specific adviser(s) of this program

World Campus**Undergraduate Academic Advising**

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Suggested Academic Plan

The suggested academic plan(s) listed on this page are the plan(s) that are in effect during the 2020-21 academic year. To access previous years' suggested academic plans, please visit the archive (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/archive/>) to view the appropriate Undergraduate Bulletin edition (*Note: the archive only contain suggested academic plans beginning with the 2018-19 edition of the Undergraduate Bulletin*).

Abington Campus

The course series listed below provides **only one** of the many possible ways to move through this curriculum. The University may make changes in policies, procedures, educational offerings, and requirements at any time. This plan should be used in conjunction with your degree audit (accessible in LionPATH as either an **Academic Requirements** or **What If** report). Please consult with a Penn State academic adviser on a regular basis to develop and refine an academic plan that is appropriate for you.

First Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
ENGL 15 or 30H	3 CAS 100A or 100B	3
General Education Course	3 General Education Course	3
General Education Course	3 General Education Course	3
World Language level 1	4 World Language level 2	4
General Education (GHW)	1.5 General Education (GHW)	1.5
	14.5	14.5

Second Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
General Education Course	3 General Education Course	3
General Education Course	3 ENGL 202A, 202B, or 202D ²	3
General Education Course	3 General Education Course	3
World Language level 3	4 Theory/Application Skills ^{*3}	3
Additional Course ^{*1}	3 Additional Course ^{*1}	3
	16	15

Third Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
General Education Course	3 General Education Course	3
Communication Skills ^{*3}	3 Critical Analysis Skills ^{*3}	3
Additional Course ^{*1}	3 400 Level Course ^{*4}	3
400 Level Course ^{*4}	3 Bachelor of Arts Requirement	3
Bachelor of Arts Requirement	3 Elective (US)	3
	15	15

Fourth Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
Bachelor of Arts Requirement	3 400 Level Course ^{*4}	3
Research Methods/Projects ^{*2}	3 400 Level Capstone Course ^{*4}	3
400 Level Course ^{*4}	3 Elective (OC)	3
Elective (IL)	3 Elective	3
Elective (W)	3 Elective	3
	15	15

Total Credits 120

- * Course requires a grade of C or better for the major
- ‡ Course requires a grade of C or better for General Education
- # Course is an Entrance to Major requirement
- † Course satisfies General Education and degree requirement

University Requirements and General Education Notes:

US and IL are abbreviations used to designate courses that satisfy University Requirements (United States and International Cultures).

W, M, X, and Y are the suffixes at the end of a course number used to designate courses that satisfy University Writing Across the Curriculum requirement.

GWS, GQ, GHW, GN, GA, GH, and GS are abbreviations used to identify General Education program courses. General Education includes Foundations (GWS and GQ) and Knowledge Domains (GHW, GN, GA, GH, GS, and Integrative Studies). Foundations courses (GWS and GQ) require a grade of 'C' or better.

Integrative Studies courses are required for the General Education program. N is the suffix at the end of a course number used to designate an Inter-Domain course and Z is the suffix at the end of a course number used to designate a Linked course.

Bachelor of Arts Requirements:

Bachelor of Arts students must take 9 credits in Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) Fields (Humanities; Social and Behavioral Sciences; Arts; World Languages [2nd language or beyond the 12th credit level of proficiency in the 1st]; Natural Sciences; Quantification). The B.A. Fields courses may not be taken in the area of the student's primary major. See your adviser and the Degree Requirements section (<http://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/academic-information/>) of this Bulletin.

Bachelor of Arts students must take 3 credits in Other Cultures.

See your adviser and the full list of courses approved as Other Cultures courses (<http://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-education/course-lists/ba-other-cultures/>).

- 1 The LASAB major comprises 36 credits, at least 9 credits must be in Humanities and Social Sciences disciplines.
- 2 ENGL 202A, B, or D is recommended for LASAB majors.
- 3 The LASAB major comprises 36 credits, 12 of these credits are in four "core" areas, 3 credits each in Research Methods/Projects, Communication Skills, Critical Analysis Skills, and Theory/Application skills.
- 4 At least 15 credits must be at the 400 level. One of those courses is a capstone course agreed on by the student and his or her adviser. A capstone course is a culminating academic experience bringing together themes outlined in the LAS proposal. It may be an independent study course, an internship, a Study Abroad course, or a regularly scheduled course that offers a culminating academic experience for major the student has designed. Three different academic disciplines must be represented in the 12 credits of 400 level coursework outside of the capstone course.

Program Notes

Under their adviser's supervision, students interested in the LASAB major must write a proposal outlining the courses they plan to take in the major, demonstrating how those courses work together to achieve their educational goals and/or prepare them for their intended career. The proposal must be approved by the Head of Division of Arts and Humanities. Failure to have an approved proposal on file with the Registrar by the deadline set for the student by the Division of Arts and Humanities incurs a registration hold on the student's account.

Career Paths

- Government agencies
- For-profit organizations
- Non-profit organizations
- Education
- Health care
- Business
- Human resources

Contact**Abington**

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<http://abington.psu.edu/letters-arts-sciences> (<http://abington.psu.edu/letters-arts-sciences/>)

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