LETTERS, ARTS, AND SCIENCES, A.A. (LIBERAL ARTS)

Begin Campus: University Park, World Campus
End Campus: University Park, World Campus

Program Description

The objectives of the Letters, Arts, and Sciences major are to broaden the student's understanding, interests, and skills; to help the student become a more responsible, productive member of the family and community; and to offer a degree program with sufficient electives to permit some specialization according to the student's interests or career plans. Letters, Arts, and Sciences is a complete two-year degree major. However, graduates who later seek admission to baccalaureate degree majors may apply baccalaureate credits toward the new degree.

In addition to a wide variety of baccalaureate majors offered at University Park campus, graduates of the Letters, Arts, and Sciences major may qualify for admission to the baccalaureate degree majors in Behavioral Sciences, Elementary Education, Humanities, or Public Policy offered at Penn State Harrisburg. Or they may qualify for any of the large number of baccalaureate degree majors offered by Penn State Erie, The Behrend College, in business, the liberal arts, and sciences.

Entrance to Major

Students must have a minimum 2.0 GPA to change to this Associate degree after admission to the University.

Degree Requirements

For the Associate in Arts degree in Letters, Arts, and Sciences, a minimum of 60 credits is required:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Education</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requirements for the Major</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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/associate-degree-general-education-program) section of the Bulletin and consult your academic adviser.

Foundations (grade of C or better is required.)

- Quantification (GQ): 3 credits
- Writing and Speaking (GWS): 3 credits

Knowledge Domains

- Arts (GA): 3 credits
- Humanities (GH): 3 credits
- Social and Behavioral Sciences (GS): 3 credits
- Natural Sciences (GN): 3 credits

Foundations or Knowledge Domains

- A General Education course selected from GWS, GQ, GN, GA, GH, or GS, and may include Integrative Studies (Inter-domain or Linked) courses: 3 credits

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.

6 of these 21 credits are included in the Requirements for the Major.

University Degree Requirements

Cultures Requirement

3 credits of United States (US) or International (IL) cultures coursework are required and may satisfy other requirements.

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 60 degree credits must be earned for a associates degree. The requirements for some programs may exceed 60 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

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.

Requirements for the Major

This includes 6 credits of General Education GWS courses.

The required credits of General Education and Requirements for the Major must be baccalaureate-level courses. For students intending to seek admission to a baccalaureate program upon graduation, it is recommended that most, if not all, of the courses be at the baccalaureate level. For those students who will seek a bachelor of arts degree upon graduation from Letters, Arts, and Sciences, it is strongly recommended that a foreign language be taken since admission to a bachelor of arts program in the College of the Liberal Arts requires one college-level course, or the equivalent, in a foreign language.

Courses that will satisfy the arts, humanities, social and behavioral sciences, natural sciences, and quantification requirements are defined on the Letters, Arts, and Sciences checksheet, which may be obtained from the College of the Liberal Arts associate dean for undergraduate
studies at the University Park campus or from any Letters, Arts, and Sciences representative at other locations. 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).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 15</td>
<td>Rhetoric and Composition</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAS 100</td>
<td>Effective Speech</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Prescribed Courses**

**Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 202A</td>
<td>Effective Writing: Writing in the Social Sciences</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 202B</td>
<td>Effective Writing: Writing in the Humanities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 202C</td>
<td>Effective Writing: Technical Writing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 202D</td>
<td>Effective Writing: Business Writing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Additional Courses**

**Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better**

Select one of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 202A</td>
<td>Effective Writing: Writing in the Social Sciences</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 202B</td>
<td>Effective Writing: Writing in the Humanities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 202C</td>
<td>Effective Writing: Technical Writing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 202D</td>
<td>Effective Writing: Business Writing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Supporting Courses and Related Areas**

**Supporting Courses and Related Areas: Require a grade of C or better**

Select 3 credits in any course designated as arts

Select 3 credits in any course designated as humanities

Select 3 credits in any course designated as social and behavioral sciences

Select 3 credits in any course designated as physical, biological, or earth sciences

Select 9 credits in any one of the following areas: arts, humanities, social and behavioral sciences, natural sciences and quantification, and foreign language skills

1 If foreign language courses are chosen, it is recommended that these courses be in one foreign language sequence.

**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 need 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)

**University Park**

Liberal Arts Academic Advising
814-865-2545
http://starfish.psu.edu

http://www.la.psu.edu/current-students/undergraduate-students/advising/advisers-by-major

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Suggested Academic Plan
University Park and World 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 30‡ | 3 | CAS 100, 100A, 100B, or 100C‡ | 3 |
General Education Quantification (GQ)‡ | 3 General Education Course | 3 |
General Education Course | 3 General Education Course | 3 |
Social and Behavioral Sciences for the Major* | 3 Area of Emphasis Course for the Major* | 3 |
Elective | 3 Elective | 3 |
| 15 | 15 |

Second Year
Fall | Credits | Spring | Credits |
--- | --- | --- | --- |
Arts Course for the Major* | 3 Area of Emphasis Course for the Major* | 3 |
Physical, Biological or Earth Sciences Course for the Major* | 3 Humanities Course for the Major* | 3 |
Area of Emphasis Course for the Major* | 3 ENGL 202 for the major* | 3 |
Elective: Writing Across the Curriculum Requirement | 3 General Education Course | 3 |
Elective | 3 Elective | 3 |
| 15 | 15 |

Total Credits 60

* 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).
Letters, Arts, and Sciences, A.A. (Liberal Arts)

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

Integrative Studies courses can be completed 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.

Advising Note:

All incoming freshmen must take a First-Year Seminar (FYS) during Fall or Spring of their first year. Academic advisers can provide a list of FYS being offered and help the student enroll. Most FYS in the College of the Liberal Arts are worth 3 cr. and count as a General Humanities (GH) or General Social Sciences (GS) course. For this reason, the FYS is not listed separately on this eight-semester plan; most students will be able to fulfill the FYS requirement while also fulfilling a GH or GS requirement.

Contact

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https://www.worldcampus.psu.edu/degrees-and-certificates/letters-arts-and-sciences-associates/overview