Programs in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences provide opportunities for development of both the intellectual and technical skills necessary for professional competence. In-class experiences are supplemented with laboratory classes, field experiences, student/faculty collaborative research, and internships. Additionally, students focus on formal and informal writing processes, and application of computer technologies. These experiences provide learning situations that emphasize the combination of theory and hands-on practice.

Liberal Arts and Sciences faculty encourage students to reflect on the value of individual and organizational integrity, to develop personal and professional respect for others, to foster international/intercultural sensitivity, and to promote personal and social responsibility.

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences provides the core of the university’s general studies courses. Individually, and as a part of a team, students learn to:

- Communicate ideas effectively
- Develop critical, analytical, and quantitative skills
- Use the scientific process in daily living
- Compare, contrast, and evaluate ideas
- Develop historical frameworks in which to evaluate current and possible future events

These components of a liberal arts education allow students to become capable, well-rounded human beings, knowledgeable citizens, and productive members of society. Liberal Arts and Sciences graduates are valued by graduate and professional schools, by employers in business and nonprofit organizations, and in other careers where flexibility, creativity, and problem-solving are required.

### Liberal Arts and Sciences Areas of Focus

A student graduating with a major in any of the disciplines within the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (except Medical Laboratory Science) is required to take one course designated as **LAS Writing** and a second course designated as **LAS Computer Literacy**. In addition, students with majors in the following departments are required to take one course designated **LAS Ethics**, and another course designated **LAS International/Intercultural**.

- Communication & Journalism
- Economics, Political Science and Sociology
- English & Modern Languages
- History and Geography
- Philosophy and Religion
- Psychology

For students with majors in other LAS departments, it is only recommended that they take an **LAS Ethics** and an **LAS International/Intercultural** course. If a course is designated in more than one area, the student must choose which one of the four area requirements it will satisfy.

1. **LAS Writing**. A course in which faculty assign students both formal and informal writing in order to increase student learning, improve student writing, and initiate students into discipline-specific forms of written communication.

2. **LAS Computer Literacy**. A course designed to teach discipline-specific computer software and hardware. A partial list of skills which may be taught include: data collection and analysis, word processing, desktop publishing, ethical or human issues of computing, discipline-specific applications of computer technology.

3. **LAS Ethics**. A course in which issues of ethical concern to professionals in their major field of study are addressed. These courses will give significant attention to professional codes of ethics, case studies identifying ethical dilemmas, or issues of contemporary (or historical) social concern.

4. **LAS International/Intercultural**. A course which presents a significant recognition, awareness, and understanding of cultural or international diversity.

These courses are designated in the course descriptions listed with each academic department. Preferably, students will take these courses within their major; however, students may choose to fulfill this requirement with courses outside their major.

### Liberal Arts & Sciences (LAS) Area of Focus Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department and Major</th>
<th>LAS Writing</th>
<th>LAS Computer Literacy</th>
<th>LAS Ethics</th>
<th>LAS International Intercultural</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>BIO 105</td>
<td>BIO 225</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>CHE 495</td>
<td>CHE 321</td>
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<td>Communications</td>
<td>COM 215</td>
<td>COM 305</td>
<td>COM 210</td>
<td>COM 338</td>
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<tr>
<td>&amp; Journalism</td>
<td>COM 305</td>
<td>COM 320</td>
<td>COM 215</td>
<td>COM 338</td>
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<td>COM 342</td>
<td>JOU 227</td>
<td>COM 311</td>
<td>COM 342</td>
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<td>COM 345</td>
<td>JOU 302</td>
<td>COM 415</td>
<td>COM 345</td>
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<td>COM 381</td>
<td>JOU 403</td>
<td>COM 465</td>
<td>COM 488</td>
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<td>COM 382</td>
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<td>JOU 403</td>
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<td>Computer Science,</td>
<td>CSC 400</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>CSC 406</td>
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<tr>
<td>&amp; Physics</td>
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<td>MAT 416</td>
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<td>CSC 184</td>
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<td>MAT 217</td>
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<td>MAT 317</td>
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<td>MAT 317</td>
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</table>
Preprofessional Studies

Preprofessional is a category for students who intend to enter a professional school after graduating with their bachelor’s degrees or to transfer to another university for the completion of their studies. Students choosing preprofessional studies should select a transfer institution early and should work closely with their academic advisor. “Preprofessional” study areas such as pre-law, pre-dentistry, pre-physical therapy, pre-pharmacy, and pre-veterinary medicine are not majors. They are officially recognized areas of academic interest. Identifying your preprofessional interest will enable your academic advisor to provide you with a wide range of support to realize your goals.

Preprofessional studies in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the advising departments include:

- Dentistry (Biology Department or Chemistry Department)
- Engineering (Computer Science, Math and Physics Department)
- Journalism (Communication & Journalism Department)
- Law (History and Geography Department or Economics, Political Science, and Sociology Department)
- Medicine (Biology Department or Chemistry Department)
- Med-Tech (Chemistry Department)
- Optometry (Biology Department or Chemistry Department)
- Pharmacy (Chemistry Department)
- Physical Therapy (Biology Department or Chemistry Department)
- Vet-Medicine (Biology Department or Chemistry Department)

Additional preprofessional programs can be found in the College of Professional Studies section.

Departments

- Biology (http://catalog.missouriwestern.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts-sciences/biology)
- Chemistry (http://catalog.missouriwestern.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts-sciences/chemistry)
- Communication and Journalism (http://catalog.missouriwestern.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts-sciences/communication-journalism)
- Computer Science, Mathematics and Physics (http://catalog.missouriwestern.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts-sciences/computer-science-mathematics-physics)
- Economics, Political Science and Sociology (http://catalog.missouriwestern.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts-sciences/economics-political-science-sociology)
- English and Modern Languages (http://catalog.missouriwestern.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts-sciences/english-modern-languages)
- History and Geography (http://catalog.missouriwestern.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts-sciences/history-geography)
- Philosophy and Religion (http://catalog.missouriwestern.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts-sciences/philosophy-religion)
- Psychology (http://catalog.missouriwestern.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts-sciences/psychology)