



Liberal Studies

The Program

The aim of a liberal studies education program is to develop in students an appreciation and understanding of the arts, the sciences, the humanities, and the various cultures that compose the area serviced by California State University, Fresno. A study of the liberal arts teaches ways of thinking, exploring, understanding, and seeing the world from the perspective of others.

The primary mission of the Liberal Studies Program is to provide a strong knowledge-based education in the liberal arts. This education will provide subject matter preparation for elementary and special education teaching or foundation preparation for other professions such as law, medicine, journalism, and various fields of public service.

Students completing the requirements with the appropriate grade point average can proceed directly into the Multiple Subject or Education Specialist Credential Program after passing the California Basic Educational Skills Test (CBEST) and meeting other credential program admission requirements. Consult the program advisers in ED 100.

The blended program option blends subject matter preparation and teacher preparation by offering coursework in both areas concurrently, and in a connected manner. This major has been designed to fully comply with the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing standards for elementary

teachers. Candidates who meet a special set of criteria may apply to the credential program.

Faculty

The liberal studies degree program faculty members represent a broad cross-section of academic disciplines. At present many different departments offer courses that can be applied toward this major. The initial point of contact is the Education Student Services Center, ED 100.

Career Opportunities

Liberal studies majors preparing for careers in elementary teaching should expect to find a favorable job market. Recent statistical reports for the Central Valley provide evidence that the area population is continuing to grow along with the number of school-aged children. This pattern of growth, along with anticipated attrition from the teaching profession, provides ample support of a continuing need for well-prepared, credentialed elementary teachers.

Liberal studies majors not planning careers in teaching will find that a number of area employers are seeking prospective employees with a broader vision of the world, not normally provided by a narrow specialization. Opportunities are available in people-oriented jobs such as public relations, personnel, medicine, and more.

As liberal studies candidates prepare for entrance into the teaching profession or other careers, they are provided with expert assistance from the campus Career Services Office. Assistance in preparing placement files, preparing for job

interviews, and searching for suitable employment is readily available for each candidate.

Credential Programs

Liberal studies majors who plan to obtain a Multiple Subject Credential (elementary teaching) or an Education Specialist (special education) Credential must earn a high GPA as a condition for admission to a teacher education program. For additional information regarding admission to the credential programs, contact the Education Student Services Center in ED 100.

Liberal studies students who wish to complete a credential program that will lead to authorization to teach in an elementary school must follow a specific course of study. Students may pursue one of the following preliminary credential programs:

- Multiple Subject Credential with EL emphasis
- Multiple Subject Credential with BCLAD emphasis
- Multiple Subject Credential - emphasis in Early Childhood Education
- Education Specialist

California State University, Fresno

Liberal Studies Program

559.278.0300

B.A. in Liberal Studies



Liberal Studies

Program Advisement

Liberal studies students are fortunate to have a centralized advising center with four academic advisers. The Education Student Services Center in ED 100 is open year-round for individual advisement.

Liberal studies majors are expected to attend a group orientation describing the program prior to their first semester on campus. Dates for orientation sessions can be obtained by calling 559.278.4885. These orientations, which are scheduled regularly each term, enable students to understand major requirements; the orientations ensure effective planning of coursework. Students seeking individual advisement after group orientation can call the Education Student Services Center.

In addition, all students should purchase the Liberal Studies Handbook, available in the Kennel Bookstore.

Freshmen. Follow the catalog description for General Education and select from appropriate categories.

Transfer Students. Select upper-division courses from the liberal studies major requirements. An official university evaluation of your prior work (DARS) will be completed and you will be notified by mail.

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Liberal Studies offers a flexible program for students who want to obtain broad knowledge through studying a variety of subjects and for those interested in becoming elementary school teachers. All liberal studies students complete the same program of 99-103 units of General Education and major courses. They then have several ways in which they may complete their degree. For those pursuing a credential, most of the credential courses may be included in the degree; all could be included in a carefully planned four-year program.

The Liberal Studies Program can blend General Education, additional major courses, and most of the credential coursework into the degree. Completion of the credential also requires completion of EHD 170 - Student Teaching.

Bachelor of Arts Degree Requirements

Liberal Studies Major	Units
General Education and Major Requirements	99-103
Electives and remaining degree requirements	21-25
Students should satisfy the Upper-Division Writing Requirement either by passing the exam or successfully completing a W course	
Total	124

Non-Credential Students. Elective units may be used for a dual major.

Credential Students. It is recommended that elective units be used to begin the professional preparation (credential program) requirements.

In order to apply to the credential program, Liberal Studies Blended Program majors must meet the basic admission requirements for the credential program. Students who do not meet these requirements, but who want to continue pursuing a teaching credential, must consult an adviser in order to work toward qualification.

For additional information, write

California State University, Fresno Liberal Studies Program

5005 North Maple
M/S ED701
Fresno, California
93740-8025

Visit or call

Liberal Studies Program Adviser California State University, Fresno

Education Building,
Room 100
559.278.0300