

Education — 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 that will provide subject matter preparation for elementary 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, passing the appropriate sections of the California Basic Educational Skills Test (CBEST), and meeting other credential program requirements can proceed directly into the Multiple Subject Credential Program. Consult the Multiple Subject program adviser 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 a subject matter preparation program for elementary teachers. Candidates who meet a special set of criteria may apply to the credential program.

Faculty

The liberal studies degree program faculty 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 Liberal Studies Office in 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, etc.

As liberal studies candidates prepare for entrance into the teaching profession or other careers, they are provided 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.

Scholarship Requirement

Liberal studies majors who plan to obtain a Multiple Subject Credential (elementary teaching) or Education Specialist Credential (special education) 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.

Credential Programs

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 wish to use their electives to begin work on one of the following preliminary credential programs:

- Multiple Subject Credential with E.L. emphasis
- Multiple Subject Credential with BCLAD emphasis

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B.A. in Liberal Studies

- Multiple Subject Credential — emphasis in Early Childhood Education
- Special Education

Program Advisement

Liberal studies majors are expected to attend a group orientation describing the program before or during their first semester on campus. Dates for orientation sessions are posted outside ED 100 or can be obtained by calling (559) 278-0300. These orientations, which are scheduled regularly each term, enable students to understand major requirements and ensure effective planning of their coursework. Students seeking individual advisement (customarily following the 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 (Academic Advising Report) will be completed and you will be notified by mail. Attend a group orientation as soon as possible to ensure a smooth transition into the Liberal Studies Program.

Liberal Studies Program

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 92-98 units of general education

Education — Liberal Studies

and major courses but then have several ways in which they may complete their degree. For those pursuing a Multiple Subject or Educational Specialist Credential, most of the credential courses may be included in a carefully planned four-year program.

Attention: The Liberal Studies Degree Credential listed here is correct as of the time of publication of this catalog. As teacher education programs are subject to state and system legislative control, it is recommended that students interested in the credential consult the Education Student Services Center of the Kremen School of Education and Human Development for current program requirements.

Blended Program

The Blended Program blends three elements – the General Education Program, the courses required in the Liberal Studies major, and the courses required for teacher preparation – which can result in a B.A. in Liberal Studies and a preliminary Multiple Subject Teaching Credential or Educational Specialist Credential. Those intending to complete the Bachelor’s degree and not teach, should enroll only in the courses listed in the Major Requirements below. However, they will have units remaining for elective or double major work. Those intending to teach should enroll in both the Major Requirements and each of the courses listed under the credential requirements.

Units

Major Requirements 92-98

General Education Areas 53-55

- [A1] COMM 3, 7, or 8 (3)
- [A2] ENGL 1 (3)
- [A3] PHIL 28 (3)
- [B1] NSCI 1A (3)
- [B2] NSCI 1B (4)
- [B4] MATH 10A (3)
- [C1] ART 1, 20, 40, 50;
ARTH 10 and 11;
MUSIC 9, 74;
or DRAMA 22 (3)
- [C2] LING 11 (3)
- [C1 or C2] ENGL 20, 30,
41, 43; HUM 10, 11 (3-4)

- [D1] HIST 11 (3)
- [D2] PLSI 2 (3)
- [D3] GEOG 4 (3)
- [E] CFS 38 (3)
- [IB] NSCI 115 (3)
- [IC] ENGL 101, 102,
or 103 (4)
- [ID] SSCI 110 (3)
- [MI] SSCI 180 (3)

Other Major Requirements 30-31

- CSCI 5, 7, or IS 52, 52L (3)
- KINES 152 (3)
- HIST 20 (3)
- MATH 10B (3)
- CFS 133S, PSYCH 169,
SPED 120, or RLS 125 (3)
- ART 179, MUSIC 153,
DRAMA 136, 137, or
DANCE 160 (3)
- COMM 114 or
ENGL 104 (3-4)
- ECON 165 (3)
- MATH 100 (3)
- NSCI 116 (3)

Concentrations (select one) 9-12

Consult your adviser for a list of concentrations.

Electives and remaining

degree requirements 26-32

Electives may be used to satisfy Multiple Subject or Education Specialist Credential Program requirements as listed below.

Total 124

Advising Note

Liberal studies majors are urged to fulfill the upper-division writing skills requirement during the first semester of their junior year. See *Degree Requirements*.

Multiple Subject Credential

Professional Preparation

courses 37-39

- EHD 50 (or equivalent) (0-2)
- EHD 110; CI 130, 140;
LEE 146, 149; CI 121,
125, 150; and EHD
160 (34)
- E.L./BCLAD Preparation:
(optional) LEE 144 (3)

Basic Admission Requirements for the Liberal Studies Blended Program Multiple Subject Credential Coursework:

- Attained 45-60 cumulative units
- CBEST requirement (consult adviser)
- Appropriate grade point average (consult adviser)
- Two letters of recommendation
- Faculty interview
- Evidence of writing proficiency
- Spoken English proficiency
- Completion of campus-designated lower-division prerequisite coursework to include the following: EHD 50; NSCI 1A, 1B; MATH 10A; PHIL 28; LING 11; CFS 38.

Students who want to become elementary school teachers must obtain admission to the credential courses. EHD 50 (2 units) is a prerequisite for admission to the credential program, although students with appropriate experience may be allowed to waive it. Consult a liberal studies adviser.

See “Preliminary Multiple Subject Credential – Requirements for Admission to Student Teaching” on page 257 for admission criteria.

Admission Process

In order to apply to the credential program, Liberal Studies Blended Program majors must meet the basic admission requirements for the Multiple Subject Credential or Educational Specialist Credential Program. Students who do not meet these requirements, but want to continue pursuing a teaching credential, must consult a liberal studies adviser and work toward qualification through an Admission by Agreement Plan. Liberal Studies majors who plan to obtain a credential should attend an orientation by signing up in the Education Student Services Center in ED 100 during the semester prior to entering the credential program.