

Liberal Studies Major Plan of Study and Essay

The Liberal Studies program's specific mission is to facilitate the development and implementation of an interdisciplinary, thematically based major selected by the student. Classes must be selected from the College of Liberal Arts disciplines and include a Writing Intensive Course (WIC).

<https://beav.es/Ude>

Creating your Theme:

Do you have a career field in mind? Are there certain subject areas or ideas that you are drawn to? Start by writing those ideas down and then look for common themes across those concepts or career goals. If there is not a common theme, select the one that seems to interest you most.

Creating your Plan:

- Review the courses offered at OSU-Cascades through the College of Liberal Arts. Which ones stand out to you as fitting in well with your proposed theme?
<https://beav.es/Udn>
- You need at least two discipline areas from the college, and as many as you would like.
- List the classes you are interested in. Narrow that down to the appropriate credits and requirements.
- Select a WIC class related to your theme and goals.
- Complete the Plan of Study form (page 2)**

Plan of Study Guidelines:

- All classes from Liberal Arts Disciplines
- 45-52 credits
- At least 27 upper division credits
- At least 1 Writing Intensive Course (WIC)
- Minimum of 2.3 GPA in the Liberal Studies courses
- No S/U grading allowed in plan of study
- No 100-200 level language courses
- Max of 6 credits of special projects or internships
- Maximum of 20 previously completed credits can be applied to new LS major.
- Liberal Studies Major must go through the approval process.

Approval:

Deadline for submission is 3 terms before graduation or before 20 intended plan of study credits completed. See your academic advisor for help creating and reviewing your plan of study and essay.

Students are required to submit a 3-page expository essay

Your essay should be:

- Theme title clear on essay
- Double-spaced, with 1" margins all around
- In a standard 10 or 12-point font
- Free of grammar and spelling errors (have someone proof-read it)
- Representative of your writing skills and indicative of the academic maturity needed for self-directed, goal-oriented learning.

Your essay should include:

- What your interests are
- Why they interest you
- Which disciplines in CLA fall within your interests
- How CLA disciplines connect to your theme
- What you hope to do with this major in the future

Consider your learning outcomes:

- Possess Competency and Knowledge in Multiple Fields; demonstrate interdisciplinary connections between two or more liberal arts areas
- Demonstrate Critical Thinking; problem-solve using evidence-based reasoning to make informed decisions
- Reflect on Pluralism and Cultural Legacies; understand and appreciate human cultural, historical and social experiences, and be able to relate them to individual experiences
- Engage in active Collaboration with advisors, faculty, and fellow students; develop the ability to value multiple and differing perspectives
- Employ Written Communication; articulate to a variety of different groups the value of students' individual liberal studies plan, their education, and what they have learned
- Preparation for Global Citizenship; be self-aware, socially responsible, and cultivate a sense of life-long learning

