

COLLEGE OF LETTERS & SCIENCE

REQUIREMENTS

REQUIREMENTS

This page provides information about the requirements of these L&S degrees:

- Bachelor of Arts (BA)
- Bachelor of Science (BS)
- Journalism Bachelor of Arts (JBA)
- Journalism Bachelor of Science (JBS)

Consult the Guide Majors & Certificates (<http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/#majorscertificatestext>) section for degree requirements for the L&S degrees: Bachelor of Science in Applied Mathematics, Engineering, and Physics; Bachelor of Landscape Architecture; Bachelor of Music: Performance; Bachelor of Music: Education and Bachelor of Social Work.

Requirements for the BA, BS, JBA, and JBS degrees:

- University General Education (p. 1)
 - Language (p. 1)
 - Mathematics (p. 1)
 - Breadth: Exploration in the Liberal Arts and Sciences (p. 1)
- Major: Understanding a Field of Study (p. 2)
- Liberal Arts and Science Credits (p. 2)
- Mastery of Intermediate/Advanced Liberal Arts and Science Credit (p. 2)
- Senior Residence (p. 2)
- Quality of Work (p. 2)

UNIVERSITY GENERAL EDUCATION

Students in L&S must satisfy the University General Education requirements (<https://gened.wisc.edu/>). Most General Education courses are taught in L&S and provide foundations in communication, quantitative reasoning, ethnic studies, humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences.

Language

The College of Letters & Science teaches over fifty languages other than English. The study of a language other than English contributes in an important way to a broad education for today's students, who live in a world where the overwhelming majority of people do not speak or read English and where much of the knowledge that is disseminated may never appear in English. Knowledge of a language other than English is important for an appreciation of the culture of the people using that language, and it also helps students to understand the structure and complexities of their own language. Degrees in L&S require language study to ensure that all students have access to the knowledge, skills, and perspectives studying a language affords.

Students must complete the L&S Language requirement in one of the following ways:

- BA students complete either the fourth unit of a language or the third unit in combination with the second unit of a different language.
- BS students complete the third unit of a language.

A language unit is one semester of college language study, one year of language study in the same language in high school, or two years of language study in the same language in middle school. This requirement can only be met by units of study in languages other than English.

Students with a documented disability in second language acquisition and who believe they cannot meet the language requirement for their L&S degree may seek an accommodation. If approved, students granted a language substitution will be allowed to complete the language requirement with alternate course work. Information about the language substitution is available at L&S Undergraduate Academic Deans' Services (<https://saa.ls.wisc.edu/offices/academic-deans-services/>).

Mathematics

Mathematics and mathematical reasoning are foundational to learning in nearly all areas of inquiry and is thus a key component of a liberal arts and science education.

For BA students, the L&S mathematics requirement is satisfied by completing the University General Education Requirements for Quantitative Reasoning A and Quantitative Reasoning B.

BS students must complete two Intermediate or Advanced courses, each at least three credits, in either Mathematics, Computer Sciences, or Statistics. Of the two additional courses, only one may be from Computer Sciences and only one may be from Statistics.

Breadth: Exploration in the Liberal Arts and Sciences

Students who are liberally educated understand the connections between many scholarly approaches to world knowledge. The L&S Breadth requirements expose students to three general areas of knowledge: arts and humanities, social sciences, and the natural sciences. Combined, these broad areas challenge students to understand different ways (methods) of knowing and to connect various subjects of inquiry.

The three areas of Breadth are:

- Humanities, which primarily focuses on understanding humans as thinkers, citizens, and creators of art, literature, and culture. Courses that meet the Humanities Breadth requirement are designated as Humanities or Literature.
- Social Sciences which primarily focuses on understanding humans and their interactions in societies, institutions, and systems. Courses that meet the Social Science Breadth requirement are designated as Social Science.
- Natural Sciences, which primarily focuses on systematic study of the natural and physical world, and with the use of abstraction and logical reasoning. Courses that meet the Natural Science Breadth requirement are designated as Biological Science, Physical Science, or Natural Science.

Many courses carry more than one Breadth designation (e.g., "Humanities or Social Science"). These courses always approach their topics from these complementary "ways of knowing," but may only count toward one of the Breadth requirements and cannot be split between two areas.

BA students must complete these Breadth requirements:

- 12 credits in Humanities, to include at least 6 credits in Literature.
- 12 credits in Social Sciences.
- 12 credits in Natural Sciences, to include at least one 3+ credit course in Biological Science and one 3+ credit course in Physical Science.

BS students must complete these Breadth requirements:

- 12 credits in Humanities, to include at least 6 credits in Literature.
- 12 credits in Social Sciences.
- 12 credits in Natural Sciences, to include at least 6 credits in Biological Science and 6 credits in Physical Science.

MAJOR: UNDERSTANDING A FIELD OF STUDY

L&S offers over 60 majors and special degree programs (p.). Completing a major allows students to deeply investigate at least one subject or issue. Work in the major requires a progression of skills, knowledge, and values, where advanced learning opportunities in upper-level coursework grow from and expand upon earlier experiences. In advanced coursework, senior capstone, or independent research projects, students are asked to synthesize what they have learned and apply it in new situations. By the conclusion of their studies, students are educated to understand themselves and their society, to develop their intellectual powers outside of a university setting, and to make productive contributions to the world around them.

Students must complete at least one L&S major to earn their degree. Students are required to declare a major before reaching senior standing (86 earned credits). The process to declare a major is outlined in the How to Get In (p.) section of each major. All L&S majors require students to meet quality of work and residency requirements:

- 2.000 GPA in all courses in the major and subject of the major.
- 2.000 GPA on at least 15 upper-level credits in the major, in residence.
- 15 credits in the major or major subject, on campus.

Upper-level credits are defined in each major's Requirements page in Guide.

A course is considered in residence if the student enrolls for credit through UW-Madison. This includes any courses completed:

- at UW-Madison, in any instructional mode (in-person, online, or hybrid).
- through a UW-Madison administered program, either domestically or internationally (i.e., Study Abroad through International Academic Programs).

Courses are considered on campus if they are both in residence and taught by a UW-Madison instructor in-person, online, or in a hybrid mode of instruction. Courses taken through a UW-Madison study abroad program are not on campus.

LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCE CREDITS

Of the 120 credits required for the bachelor's degree (<http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/>), L&S liberal arts students must earn at least 108 credits in courses designated as Liberal Arts and Science courses. These courses promote the core educational values of the liberal arts and sciences:

- skilled written and verbal communication, excelling in formulating and expressing a point of view; reflecting and questioning current

knowledge through reading; research and consideration of the views of others.

- the ability to draw flexibly upon and apply the modes of thought of the major areas of knowledge.
- knowledge of our basic cultural heritage as a multifaceted and often contested history.

MASTERY OF INTERMEDIATE/ADVANCED LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCE CREDIT

Students are expected to challenge themselves in rigorous courses and achieve deeper knowledge of subject matter as they progress in their degree. To meet this expectation, students must:

- complete at least 60 credits in Liberal Arts and Science courses with either the Intermediate or Advanced level designation.
- earn a minimum 2.000 GPA on all Intermediate and Advanced courses.

SENIOR RESIDENCE

All students must complete at least 30 credits in residence as seniors (after 86 earned degree credits). This ensures students have a substantive and meaningful UW-Madison experience in classes taught by UW-Madison faculty. These credits do not have to be contiguous for the requirement to be met.

QUALITY OF WORK

A student's overall quality of work and their quality of work in their chosen major(s) are important measures of a student's mastery of knowledge. The L&S quality of work requirements are all computed on courses taken in residence, and set a minimum 2.000 GPA in four specific areas:

1. University GPA, computed using all courses taken for a grade at UW-Madison.
2. Intermediate/Advanced, computed using courses designated Liberal Arts and Science (LAS) with Intermediate or Advanced level. Courses taken on a refresher basis do not compute toward this requirement.
3. Major, computed in each major using all courses that meet the requirements of that major and all courses in the subject listing of each major (if applicable). Courses taken on a refresher basis do not compute toward this requirement.
4. Upper-Level in Major, computed in each major using courses designated as upper-level for that major. Courses taken on a refresher basis do not compute toward this requirement.

Repeating a course that may not be repeated for credit is allowed. This is called taking a course on a "refresher basis" and no credit is awarded. The University GPA (1) includes grades earned in courses taken on a refresher basis. The L&S GPA requirements (2, 3, 4) do not include the grades earned in courses taken on a refresher basis.