Liberal Studies
In the Division of Undergraduate Studies

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Faculty
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Offered by the Division
Major in liberal studies with the B.A. degree in applied arts and sciences.

The Major
The liberal studies major is designed for students who intend to teach at the elementary or middle school levels. The mathematics, science, and literacy foci allow students to pursue specific career goals, including special or bilingual education and middle school teaching. See below.

Individuals learn to think critically, analyze evidence thoughtfully, and write clearly and effectively. Graduates develop a rich understanding of the major subject areas—literature, linguistics, history, mathematics, science, and the visual and performing arts—including how and why practitioners create new knowledge. They learn to identify and understand the developmental stages of children and to observe, interview, and tutor children effectively in classroom settings.

The major includes a number of courses specifically designed for future elementary and middle school teachers including children’s literature, linguistics, mathematics, science, history, visual and performing arts, physical education of children, and child development. The content covered in the courses closely matches the content that teachers will ultimately have to teach in the schools as well as the content assessed by the California Subject Examination for Teachers—Multiple Subject (CSET-MS) examination.

The program includes a specially designed core of courses. During the second or third semesters, students take Education 200, Teaching as a Profession. In this course, students complete 30 hours of fieldwork during which they critically assess issues related to teaching in culturally and linguistically diverse school settings, learn about career paths, and evaluate their occupational fitness for the teaching profession. During the junior year, students take Liberal Studies 300, Introduction to Liberal Studies, and complete an additional 30 hours of fieldwork. Students focus both on the nature of the disciplines—goals, processes, and evaluation—as well as how the knowledge being learned will ultimately be used in the classroom. Throughout the first three years, students work on critical thinking, research, and writing skills. During the senior year, students complete Liberal Studies 400, Assessment in Liberal Studies. This course supports students as they complete the liberal studies writing, research, and reflection assessments; the CSET; and the application process for their credential program. They are strongly encouraged to save both syllabi and written work (examinations, projects, and other materials) from all their courses in preparation for the CSET and the senior-level assessment.

The demand for middle school mathematics and science teachers continues to be high as does the demand for bilingual and special education teachers. At the beginning of the junior year, each student chooses a focus. The mathematics, science, and literacy foci are designed to provide the 32 units and specific coursework required to earn a Middle School Subject Matter Authorization in mathematics, science, or English. When coupled with a multiple subject credential, these authorizations allow students to teach these subjects in middle school if they so desire. The literacy focus in addition allows students to use five or more units to a) earn the Basic Certificate in Teaching English as a Second or Foreign Language, b) begin preparation for the SDSU bilingual or special education credential programs, or c) further explore the performing arts or physical education. The focus provide an opportunity for students to build a depth of expertise in one or two subject areas, which complements the more general preparation they gain from the liberal studies courses described earlier. Students become engaged in their chosen field(s) and later pass on that enthusiasm to the children they teach.

Advising
Advising is extremely important because students must make numerous decisions that include choosing which focus/credential option to pursue, selecting appropriate courses, and preparing for the senior-level assessments. See the Web site for current information, advising procedures, and e-mail questions. Information about SDSU credential programs and financial aid opportunities is available at the College of Education, Office of Student Services, EBA-259, 619-594-6300 and in the Graduate Bulletin.

Retention Policy
The liberal studies program expects that all majors will make reasonable academic progress towards the degree. Liberal studies premajors who have completed major preparatory courses, earned 60 units, but have less than a 2.7 may be removed from the premajor and placed in undeclared.

Impacted Program
The liberal studies major is an impacted program. To be admitted to the liberal studies major, students must meet the following criteria:

- Complete all courses listed in Preparation for the Major sections for the liberal studies major;
- Complete with a C or higher: a certified Area A1 Oral Communication course; a certified Area A3 Intermediate Composition and Critical Thinking course; Exercise and Nutritional Sciences 241A and 241B; and Mathematics 210 and 211. These courses cannot be taken for credit/no credit (Cr/NC);
- Earn a passing score on the SDSU Liberal Studies Mathematics Proficiency Assessment;
- Complete a minimum of 60 transferable semester units;
- Have a cumulative GPA of 2.70 or higher;
- Declare the liberal studies major by following the procedures explained on the Web site.

To complete the major, students must fulfill the degree requirements for the major described in the catalog in effect at the time they are accepted into the premajor at SDSU (assuming continuous enrollment).
Major Academic Plans (MAPs)

Visit http://www.sdsu.edu/mymap for the recommended courses needed to fulfill your major requirements. The MAPs Web site was created to help students navigate the course requirements for their majors and to identify which General Education course will also fulfill a major preparation course requirement.

Liberal Studies Major

With the B.A. Degree in Applied Arts and Sciences
(Major Code: 49015) (SIMS Code: 886453)

All candidates for a degree in applied arts and sciences must complete the graduation requirements listed in the section of this catalog on “Graduation Requirements.”

Completion of the liberal studies major fulfills General Education requirements.

A minor is not required for this major.

International Experience Requirement. In recognition of the increasing globalization in all sectors of world society, the Liberal Studies International Experience has been established. Students participate in designated, preapproved study abroad experiences in a different country. Options include a variety of short term and semester formats designed to meet the needs of different students, including those with family and work responsibilities. The purpose of the experience is to increase student awareness of cross-cultural and global issues – issues that are critical to their development as future teachers and citizens in a complex, rapidly changing world. All liberal studies majors are required to participate in an international experience approved by the adviser.

Preparation for the Major. (56-56.5 units)

Language and Literature

LANG-1. Complete with a grade of C or higher [cannot be taken for credit/no credit (Cr/NC)]: Three units selected from Africana Studies 140, Chicana and Chicano Studies 111A, Communication 103.1

LANG-2. Three units selected from Africana Studies 120, American Indian Studies 120, Chicana and Chicano Studies 111B; English 100; Linguistics 100; Rhetoric and Writing Studies 100, 101.2

LANG-3. Complete with a grade of C or higher [cannot be taken for credit/no credit (Cr/NC)]: Three units selected from Africana Studies 200, Chicana and Chicano Studies 200, English 200, Linguistics 200, Philosophy 110, Rhetoric and Writing Studies 200.3

LANG-4. Three units selected from Comparative Literature 270A, 270B; English 220.

1 Upper division transfer students fulfill this area with any certified oral communication (A1) transfer course.
2 Upper division transfer students fulfill this area with any certified written communication (A2) transfer course.
3 Upper division transfer students fulfill this area with any certified critical thinking (A3) transfer course.

History and Social Science

HIST-1. Geography 106.


HIST-4. History 100.

Mathematics

MATH-1. Complete with a grade of C or higher [cannot be taken for credit/no credit (Cr/NC)]: Mathematics 210.

MATH-2. Mathematics Education 212 (1-1.5 units). (Recommended: Taken concurrently with Mathematics 210.)

MATH-3. Complete with a grade of C or higher [cannot be taken for credit/no credit (Cr/NC)]: Mathematics 211.

Science

SCI-1. Three units (or four units including laboratory) selected from Geological Sciences 104 and 101 (laboratory).

SCI-2. Three units (or four units including laboratory) selected from Biology 100 and 100L (laboratory).

SCI-3. Laboratory from either category SCI-1 or SCI-2.

Visual and Performing Arts

VPA-1. Three units selected from Art 157 or Theatre 120.

VPA-2. Three units selected from Dance 102 or Music 102.

1 Upper division transfer students may substitute a transfer course equivalent to SDSU course Child and Family Development 270 in lieu of Child and Family Development 170 or Teacher Education 170.

Education

ED-1. Education 200.

General Education Humanities

HUM-1. One course selected as follows:

1) If the equivalent of the second college-level semester or higher of one foreign language has not been satisfied by high school coursework, by examination, or by petition, select three or more units from Arabic 102; Chinese 102; Classics 202G, 202L; Filipino 102; French 100B; German 100B; Hebrew 102; Italian 100B; Japanese 112; Korean 102; Latin American Studies 111, 121; Persian 102; Portuguese 201; Russian 100B; Spanish 102; Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences 102; Vietnamese 102.

2) If the equivalent of the second college-level semester of one foreign language has been satisfied by one of the methods described above, select three or more units from Philosophy 101, Religious Studies 101 or 103, or a more advanced level foreign language course in the same language (as the one above).4

1 Passed third-year level of a high school foreign language.
2 See “Graduation Requirements: General Education II. Foundations: Foreign Language” in the General Catalog. Discuss with an adviser.

Physical Science Elective: (3 units)

SCI-4. Three units selected from Chemistry 308 or Natural Science 100.

Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement. Students must have fulfilled the Writing Placement Assessment with a score of 8 or above or with a C or better in Rhetoric and Writing Studies 280 or 281 before taking English 306W and earn a grade of C (2.0) or higher. See “Graduation Requirements” section for a complete listing of requirements.

Upper Division Major including required focus: (40-49 units)

Language and Literature

LANG-5. Linguistics 420.

LANG-6. English 306A. (English 306A and 306W must be taken concurrently.)

LANG-7. English 306W. (Passing with a C or higher satisfies the graduation writing assessment requirement.)

History and Social Science

HIST-5. History 413.

Mathematics

MATH-4. Mathematics 311 (2 units)5 (Imperial Valley Campus only: Mathematics 312 (3 units)).

1 Students must pass the Liberal Studies Mathematics Proficiency Assessment prior to enrolling in Mathematics 311 or 312.

Science

SCI-5. Natural Science 412 (physics).

Nature of the Disciplines and Assessment

LS-1. Liberal Studies 300 (3 units).

LS-2. Liberal Studies 498 (1 unit). Passing the senior assessment Liberal Studies 498 is a graduation requirement for the major.

Focus (28-38 units)

All students shall complete a focus in mathematics, science, or literacy. A minor or second major may not be substituted for a focus. The pattern of courses in preparation for the major, the minor, and the focus is designed to provide the 32 units and course content currently required by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing to earn a Middle School Subject matter Authorization in the indicated subject (see Introduction).
Option 5 – Physical Education [Not available at the Imperial Valley Campus]: Exercise and Nutritional Sciences 335 or 337 (2 units); Exercise and Nutritional Sciences 347A (2 units) and 347B (1 unit) (concurrent registration).

Option 6 – Integrated:

No new students are being admitted to this program until further notice.

Open only to students who qualify for admission to the SDSU Integrated Credential Program.

History 411 (3 units); Depth consisting of three units selected from Africana Studies 385, 471; American Indian Studies 440; Art 557, 560, 577; Chicana and Chicano Studies 310, 350B; English 523, 524; History 410, 412, 445; Linguistics 410; Mathematics 303; Music 351; Natural Science 315; Theatre 460B; and credential courses consisting of nine units selected from Teacher Education 910A, 910B, 910C, 923, 930.

1 Linguistics 253 or Rhetoric and Writing Studies 253 will be waived for students who demonstrate satisfactory competency.

2 Students must pass the Liberal Studies Mathematics Proficiency Assessment prior to enrolling in Mathematics 313.

SCIENCE FOCUS [Not available at the Imperial Valley Campus] (Minimum 38 units not included in preparation for the major or the major.)

Prerequisites: SCI-1, SCI-2, SCI-3 in preparation for the major.

Breadth Courses: History 411; Linguistics 253 or Rhetoric and Writing Studies 253; three units selected from Art 387, Dance 302, Music 343, Theatre 310.

Mathematics and Science Courses: Geological Sciences 303, 412; Mathematics 141; Teacher Education 211; three units selected from Biology 315, 319, 324, 327; nine or more units selected from Chemistry 100, 200, 201; three or more units selected from Physics 107, Physics 180A.

1 Linguistics 253 or Rhetoric and Writing Studies 253 will be waived for students who demonstrate satisfactory competency.

2 Students must pass the Liberal Studies Mathematics Proficiency Assessment prior to enrolling in Mathematics 313.

3 Prerequisite: Geological Sciences 303.

LITERACY FOCUS (Minimum 28 units not included in preparation for the major or the major.)

Prerequisites: LANG-1, LANG-2, LANG-3, LANG-4 in preparation for the major.

Breadth Courses: Linguistics 253 or Rhetoric and Writing Studies 253; Mathematics 315 (2 units) [Imperial Valley Campus only: Mathematics 313 (3 units)]; three units selected from Art 387, Dance 302, Music 343.

Linguistics, Theatre, and Literature Courses: Linguistics 430, 452; Theatre 315; three units selected from Africana Studies 365A, 365B, American Indian Studies 430, Chicana and Chicano Studies 335, Comparative Literature 470, Women’s Studies 352; three units selected from English 502, 503.

Literacy Focus Options: Minimum of five upper division units designed (a) to qualify for the Basic Certificate in Teaching English as a Second or Foreign Language; (b) to prepare for a specific professional goal, such as a bilingual or special education credential; or (c) to provide a second area of expertise, such as performing arts or physical education. Choose one of the following options:

Option 1 – Linguistics (TESL/TEFL Certificate): Linguistics 550 (3 units); Linguistics 555 or 556 (3 units).

Option 2 – Preparation for Bilingual Credential: Policy Studies in Language and Cross-Cultural Education 415 (3 units); Spanish 301 or 381 (3 units). Restricted to native or heritage speakers of Spanish or students with advanced placement credit in Spanish 202 and 212 or 405A and 405B.

Option 3 – Preparation for Special Education Credential: Special Education 500 (3 units); Special Education 501 (3 units) and 502 (1 unit) (concurrent registration).

Option 4 – Performing Arts [Not available at the Imperial Valley Campus]: Theatre 510 (3 units); three units selected from Africana Studies 385, Chicana and Chicano Studies 310, Music 351.

Courses (LIB S)

Refer to Courses and Curricula and University Policies sections of this catalog for explanation of the course numbering system, unit or credit hour, prerequisites, and related information.

LOWER DIVISION COURSE

LIB S 296. Experimental Topics (1-4)

Selected topics. May be repeated with new content. See Class Schedule for specific content. Limit of nine units of any combination of 296, 496, 596 courses applicable to a bachelor’s degree.

UPPER DIVISION COURSES (Intended for Undergraduates)

LIB S 300. Introduction to Liberal Studies (3)

Prerequisites: Education 200 and preparation for the major completed or to be completed concurrently.

Introduction to ideas, structures, and values within and among the various disciplines in this interdisciplinary major. Exploration of issues of diversity in contemporary society through directed field experience and required readings. Individual qualitative evaluation process required by major included.

LIB S 498. Assessment in Liberal Studies (0.5-1) Cr/NC

Prerequisites: Liberal Studies 300 and successful completion of one upper division semester of the liberal studies major. Not open to premajors.

Senior assessment including reflections upon educational experiences in each subject area and role as future educator. Students will explore differences between subject areas and reflect upon learning and teaching.