Program Description

The Liberal Studies program provides students the opportunity to explore educational goals in a way that may not be possible through traditional academic programs. The program integrates eight areas of learning with a variety of instructional methods to form a well-rounded and individual learning experience which assists students in deepening their understandings of the values, meaning, concerns, choices, and commitments that are basic to the quality of life.

Learners may also incorporate a thematic focus within their degree plan, for example, cultural studies. Students are not limited to a specific list of themes and can incorporate ideas based upon their personal goals. Liberal studies learners have a good chance for success if they are self-directed, able to plan ahead and meet deadlines, able to work independently, and if they have a clear understanding of what they are trying to accomplish in an academic setting. In addition, liberal studies learners should be prepared to take junior-level courses when they enter the program. The program can be completed entirely online, although students are encouraged to take campus-based courses if they wish. Online students should be comfortable using networked information technologies, navigating the Internet, using e-mail, and learning from a distance.

Admission Requirements

To be admitted to the online Liberal Studies program, students must have completed at least 30 hours of transferable credit and a cumulative GPA of at least 2.0.

Before we can make an admission decision, you must complete the application process

- Undergraduate Transfer Application
- Application Fee
- Official transcripts from all higher education institutions

Prerequisite(s):
The online program does not support lower-level coursework. For this reason, an applicant must be prepared to enter at the junior level. Those who have not yet completed lower-level coursework are encouraged to do so at another college or university of their choice, then transfer into our program.

UIS does offer an online General Education math course, however, we do not offer developmental math in an online format so, if you require these courses, you will need to work with your local community college to complete them.

The program will consider all of the information provided by the applicant, but pay particular attention to the applicant’s written statement and background in general education courses. Applicants must have completed Composition I and II to be admitted to the online program.

If you have not completed the Illinois General Education curriculum, we would be happy to review your transcripts to help you determine exactly where you stand so that you might make an informed decision to apply for admission. Please contact our Program Coordinator.
Liberal Studies graduates must earn a minimum of 120 semester hours of credit and must complete all general education requirements. Students typically enter their first Liberal Studies course once they have earned 60 hours of credit. It is in this first course that they develop a plan for their major. LIS Degree Plans must include:

- 7 hours of Liberal Studies core courses.
  LIS 301 - Self Directed Learning (4 hours)
  LIS 451 - Senior Seminar (3 hours)

- 10 hours of ECCE requirements.
The Engaged Citizenship Common Experience (ECCE) includes 200-, 300-, and 400-level courses. All undergraduates at UIS will be required to take the following ECCE course work: 1 hour of Speaker Series and two of the following three ECCE categories for at least 9 credit hours: US Communities, Global Awareness, and Engagement Experience. Some degree programs may require students to take particular ECCE courses. Students should consult with advisors in the major for further guidance.

ECCE Speakers Series—For one semester, students will be required to participate in a series of campus-sponsored lectures by speakers who exemplify engaged citizenship. Credit will be awarded upon completion of all course requirements.

Students must complete a minimum of 3 hours in two of the following three categories: U.S. Communities, Global Awareness, Engagement Experience.

- 37 hours focused elective coursework

Students must choose 37 hours of elective courses that focus on the Boyer Categories. In order to plan a balanced degree program, student must choose electives that address the following seven Boyer categories, at least one upper-division in each of the seven areas listed is required:

- Identity, the search for meaning
- Work, the value of vocation
- Nature, ecology of the planet
- Institutions, the social web
- Language, the crucial connection
- Heritage, the living past
- Art, the esthetic dimension

Specific Boyer area courses will be determined during the student’s enrollment in LIS 301 with the development of their personalized degree plan. The LIS program must approve all changes to this plan.

Official degree requirements are available in the UIS catalog at www.uis.edu/uiscatalog.

Program URL: http://www.uis.edu/liberalstudies/