Bachelor of Liberal Arts

Interdisciplinary Studies

Liberal Arts, B.L.A.

Bachelor of Liberal Arts

The Bachelor of Liberal Arts degree is designed for UAS students seeking a broad-based, multidisciplinary education. It is designed particularly for those students who have already completed a two-year Associates degree, transfer students from other universities, and non-traditional students who have previously completed university credits.

Students consult with faculty in their areas of interest to pursue interdisciplinary or individualized courses of study. This Liberal Arts degree can lead to graduate school or jobs in which critical thinking and communication skills are valued. BLA graduates who are inter-
ested in teaching may also apply to the one-year Master at Arts in Teaching programs at UAS.

BLA degrees must include:
1. 120 credits minimum.
2. 60 credits minimum in the Liberal Arts Major (18 credits Liberal Arts Core; 42 credits Liberal Arts Emphasis). Of this total, 45 credits minimum must be completed through UAS.
3. 42 credits minimum upper-division.
4. No more than 12 credits of independent study, practicum or internship in the Liberal Arts Major.
5. 3 credits minimum upper-division capstone course completed through UAS.

Admission Requirements

Students need to complete a formal application process at Admissions on the local campus (Juneau, Ketchikan, Sitka) or online at www.uaonline.alaska.edu

Minimum eligibility requirements for admission to the BLA degree program:
1. 24 university credits completed at the 100 level or above.
2. Completion of ENG 111 Methods of Written Communication or transfer course equivalency (C or better).
3. Completion of MATH 107 College Algebra, STATS 107 Survey of Statistics, or transfer course equivalency. (Note: Admission permitted with MATH 105 Intermediate Algebra or equivalency and concurrent enrollment in MATH 107 or STATS 107.)

Students are placed in “premajor” status and will be moved to major status pending advisor approval.

Degree Requirements

Courses in a degree program may be counted only once: that is, courses used as Major requirements cannot be used in other parts of the degree program. Courses used for GER credit cannot be used to fulfill Liberal Arts Major courses or must be replaced by substitute courses of equal credits.

MINIMUM CREDIT HOURS 120

| GER | 35 |
| Liberal Arts Major | 60 |
| Electives/Minor | 25 |

The Liberal Arts Major combines Core and Emphasis courses. Of the 60 total credits required for the Major, 45 must be completed through UAS. Courses completed for the Liberal Arts Major must receive a grade of C (2.0) or better.

I. Liberal Arts Core

| CORE REQUIREMENTS | 18 |
| HUM S200 Orientation to the Liberal Arts | 2 |
| HUM S210 Student Portfolio | 1 |
| Communications, Literature or Writing (upper-division elective)* | 3 |
| Philosophy (Introduction, Logic, or Ethics)** | 3 |
| Social Science, Math or Natural Science (elective) | 3-4 |
| Cultural Diversity Courses*** | 6-8 |

*COMM S3XX, COMM S4XX, ENGL S3XX, ENGL S4XX

** PHIL S101, PHIL S201, PHIL S206, PHIL S301

***Cultural Diversity courses include: world languages, world history, Alaska Native languages, or BLA faculty advisor-approved courses in anthropology, art, communication, literature, and the humanities or social sciences, including transfer or study abroad courses, with an evident focus in cultural diversity.

Upon admission into the BLA program, students are required to enroll in Orientation to the Liberal Arts and Student Portfolio courses. These courses are designed to assist students in planning their program of study with the approval of their BLA faculty advisor. The portfolio is used for purposes of continuing self-assessment during the student’s BLA program. Students must complete the Orientation and Portfolio courses within the first three semesters after matriculation; those who do not will be dropped from the BLA program and must officially reapply for admission.

II. Liberal Arts Emphasis

EMPHASIS REQUIREMENTS 42

General Requirements for all emphasis options:
1. During the semester the student is admitted the BLA, an Emphasis option (listed below) must be formally declared by the student and approved by the BLA coordinator or the student’s faculty advisor.
2. 24 minimum upper-division in credits required in the Emphasis program (18 minimum credits completed through UAS).
3. Includes a Capstone Course/Experience (minimum 3 credits). Typically this is HUM S499 Humanities Capstone, but it may also be fulfilled by a BLA faculty advisor approved Practicum (S494), Internship (S491), or Independent Study (S497).
Liberal Arts Emphasis Options

In each BLA degree program, students pursue one of the following Emphasis options: Designated Emphasis, Interdisciplinary Studies, or Independent Design. Courses used for GER credit cannot be used to fulfill Liberal Arts Emphasis courses or must be replaced by substitute disciplinary courses of equal credits.

I. DESIGNATED EMPHASIS

A designated emphasis provides a focused course of study in the Liberal Arts not available through other baccalaureate degree programs offered through UAS.

Communication

Primary Field Communication (COMM): 24 credits (minimum 15 credits upper-division).

Secondary Field of cross-disciplinary courses approved by the BLA Communication faculty advisor: 15 credits (minimum 6 credits upper-division).

Capstone (3 credits): Practicum (COMM S494) or Internship (COMM S491).

Language Arts

Language Arts Fields: English (ENGL), Communication (COMM), Theatre (THR).

Primary Field: 24 credits (minimum 15 credits upper-division).

Secondary Field: 15 credits (minimum 6 credits upper-division).

Capstone (3 credits): Practicum (S494) or Internship (S491).

2. INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

Interdisciplinary Studies provides academic depth to a general course of Liberal Arts study by combining cross-disciplinary primary and secondary fields. Primary and secondary fields must be from different disciplines. The Interdisciplinary Studies program must be approved by the student’s BLA faculty advisor.

Primary Field: 24 credits (minimum 15 credits upper-division).

Secondary Field: 15 credits (minimum 6 credits upper-division).

Capstone (3 credits): HUM S499 or BLA faculty advisor approved capstone option.

Primary Field

The primary field consists of BLA faculty advisor approved course electives (24 credits, minimum of 15 credits upper division) under one of the following categories. In some instances, minimal course requirements are designated.

Anthropology

ANTH S202 Cultural Anthropology
ANTH S205 Biological Anthropology

Art

Two-semester History of World Art survey (ART S261/S262)

Communication

English

History

Two-semester History survey

Select both

HIST S131 History of the U.S. I 3
HIST S132 History of the U.S. II 3

or both

HIST S105 World History I 3
HIST S106 World History II 3

or both

HIST S227 Early Modern Europe 1400-1815 3
HIST S228 Modern Europe 1815-2000 3

HIST S492 Seminar in History

Humanities

Any two of the following Humanities disciplines: Art, Communications, English, History, Alaska Native Languages (including Tlingit, Haida), Modern Languages (including French, Spanish, Russian), Philosophy, Theatre, or BLA faculty advisor approved Humanities discipline.

Discipline 1: 12 credits (min. 9 credits upper-division).

Discipline 2: 12 credits (min. 6 credits upper-division).

Psychology

PSY S101 Introduction to Psychology
Research Methods and Statistics: STAT S107 or higher, SSCI S300 Social Science Research Methods, or BLA faculty advisor approved course.

Social Science

Any two of the following Social Science disciplines: Anthropology, Economics, Government (Political Science), History, Psychology, Sociology, or BLA faculty advisor approved Social Science discipline.
Discipline 1: 12 credits (min. 9 credits upper-division).

Discipline 2: 12 credits (min. 6 credits upper-division).

Theatre

Secondary Field
The secondary field, which must be from a different discipline than the primary field, consists of 15 credits (minimum 6 credits upper-division).

Humanities, Math, and Natural Science
The Interdisciplinary Studies secondary fields in Humanities, Math, and Natural Sciences are the same as approved Minors (see catalog pp. 112-118), with stated requirements fulfilled to 15 credits: Art, Biology, Creative Writing, English, Environmental Science, French, Human Communication, Legal Studies, Mathematics, Northwest Coast Art, Philosophy, Professional Communication, Spanish, Theatre, Tlingit Language.

Social Science
The Interdisciplinary Studies secondary fields have the same 15 credit requirements as the B.A. in Social Science Secondary Concentration Fields (see catalog pp. 107-108): Anthropology, Economics, Government, History, Psychology, Sociology.

Interdisciplinary Studies Capstone
Typically this is HUM S499 Humanities Capstone, but may also be fulfilled by a BLA faculty advisor approved Practicum (S494), Internship (S491), or Independent Study (S497).

3. INDEPENDENT DESIGN
This option is designed for highly motivated students who are interested in completing a BLA program that does not fall under any Designated Emphasis or Interdisciplinary Studies option.

Independently designed BLA programs are available only to students who have a tenure-track faculty member who agrees to supervise their degree program. The student and supervisor will work together to design a degree proposal that provides a coherent body of knowledge at the baccalaureate level. The Independent Design must be approved by the supervising faculty member, the supervising faculty member’s department chair, and the Dean of Arts and Sciences.

As the program is independently designed, there are no formal limitations on the structure of each student’s program beyond the required Liberal Arts Core. However, the Independent Design has rigorous emphasis requirements:

1. 45 total credits for the BLA Liberal Arts Major must be completed while enrolled at UAS.
2. 24 Emphasis credits minimum must be upper division.
3. 30 Emphasis credits minimum must be completed after the Independent Design program is approved by the Dean of Arts and Sciences.

Any changes to a program in progress must be approved by the supervising faculty member, the supervising faculty member’s department chair, and the Dean of Arts and Sciences.

Liberal Arts Electives/Minor

ELECTIVES/MINOR REQUIREMENTS

Courses from AA degrees, transfer credits from accredited universities or colleges, or other University of Alaska credits at the 100 level or higher may be counted for elective credit. A Minor field must differ from disciplinary coursework completed for the Liberal Arts Emphasis. Any overlap in specific courses between GER, the Liberal Arts Major, and a Minor requires course substitutions.