

LIBERAL STUDIES

Program Overview

This degree program enables students, through a variety of learning experiences, to consider life in the contemporary world. The curriculum provides for the development of writing, speaking, quantitative, and critical thinking skills and exposure to bodies of knowledge shared by educated persons. The program is offered through on-campus classes for adult Continuing Education students. Students have the opportunity to share common learning experiences and to develop personal plans of study for career advancement, personal growth, and graduate study.

Curriculum Overview

The Liberal Studies major provides a flexible curriculum, with on-campus or online coursework, for students whose goal is to further their personal interests and professional objectives. In addition to the **concentrations offered** (<http://catalog.rider.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/majors-minors-certificates/liberal-studies/concentrations/>), students may propose concentrations of individual design (which must be approved by the faculty committee on individual study and a CEP advisor).

Degrees Offered

- B.A. in Liberal Studies

Contact

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Program Website: Liberal Studies (<https://www.rider.edu/academics/colleges-schools/college-arts-sciences/humanities-social-sciences/undergraduate/liberal-studies/>)

Related Programs

- History (<http://catalog.rider.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/majors-minors-certificates/history/>)
- Political Science (<http://catalog.rider.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/majors-minors-certificates/political-science/>)
- Sociology (<http://catalog.rider.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/majors-minors-certificates/sociology/>)

Liberal Studies Program Requirements

(42 credits)

A candidate for graduation must complete a minimum of 120 credits. Of the required 120 credits, 36 must be in upper-level courses as determined by the respective department, including three credits from the liberal studies core and 18 from the concentration. A maximum of 30 credits from outside the arts and sciences may be presented for graduation.

Code	Title	Credits
Core Requirements		48

See Continuing Education Programs Core Requirements (<http://catalog.rider.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/cep-general-education/>)^{1,2}

Liberal Studies Core		6
LIB 200	Intro to Liberal Studies ³	
LIB 400	Seminar in Liberal Studies	
Liberal Studies Concentration		36
Select from Humanities, Social Science, Applied Social Science, Applied Social Science with Business Studies Emphasis, Applied Social Science with Health Administration Emphasis, Global Studies, Law and Justice, Natural Science (http://catalog.rider.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/majors-minors-certificates/liberal-studies/concentrations/)		
Free Electives		30
Total Credits		120

¹ The quantitative skills requirement can be met by successfully completing one course in college-level mathematics or statistics. For students who don't transfer such a course to Rider, popular offerings include MTH 102, MSD 104, MSD 105, MSD 205, POL 201, PSY 201, or other mathematics courses approved by an advisor.

² The information technology requirement may be fulfilled by completing CIS 185. Students who possess sufficient computer experience can gain credit for CIS 185 through assessment.

³ LIB 200 is waived for students who transfer 30 or more credits in liberal arts and sciences courses to Rider. Those students must complete an additional elective course.

LIB 200 Intro to Liberal Studies 3 Credits

Introduces students to the various perspectives and methods of the disciplines in liberal studies: natural and social sciences, humanities, and the arts. Students learn the multifaceted questions and answers offered by each discipline. They study the historical development of the university and the rise and transformation of liberal studies disciplines.

LIB 400 Seminar in Liberal Studies 3 Credits

A critical examination of the tradition of Western humanism and the way it has been transmitted through liberal arts education. Deals with a variable set of permanent problems in humanistic debate and learning e.g., specialization, the need for unifying theories of knowledge, the purpose of history, the place of intellectual life in mass society, the meaning of freedom, the modern problem of alienation, the responsibilities of the university, etc. Emphasis on why and how such problems have been addressed rather than any presumptive solutions.

LIB 490 Independent & Supervised Study 1-4 Credits

Independent and Supervised Study is available to CCS students for special study projects. Students must have completed a minimum of 45 credits applicable to a Rider degree and a minimum of 12 credit hours at Rider with a GPA of 2.5 or better. Each project may be taken for one-four credits and a maximum of six credits may be applied to the associate degree, 12 credits to the bachelor degree.