

Linking Majors to Careers

LIBERAL ARTS

For CPS undergraduate students only

Liberal Arts as a major offers Regis University CPS Undergraduate students specific and general options. Specifically, Liberal Arts is an undergraduate major that meets the Colorado Department of Education requirements for earning teacher licensure. More generally, Liberal Arts allows students to gain knowledge, understanding and skills in academic areas that comprise the humanities and social sciences. A student gains a broad perspective on the larger social and cultural issues of our times through the study of philosophy, communication, ethics, research and social sciences such as history, sociology, and intercultural issues. With this perspective also come skills in problem analysis, creative problem solving, public speaking, research, information organization and dissemination and writing.

Increasing pressure for colleges and universities to vocationalize their majors has created questions about the viability of the Liberal Arts major. There are no job titles call “liberal arts” as there are job titles for accounting for account majors. However, studies do show that liberal arts majors tend to do well over time because of this broad perspective and the skills such a major brings, especially in their ability to learn, adapt, and communicate clearly and effectively. The addition of computer software facility and quantitative skills make Liberal Arts majors suited to the rapidly changing market and work place.

The responsibility for each student who majors in Liberal Arts is to think about what they want in the working world, assess what their areas of focus will be, determine how they want to make a difference in the world, and integrate past experience with academic knowledge and understanding of what the world of work needs. The Liberal Arts major forms an **ideal** canvas upon which a student can integrate past, present and future.

A Regis University career counselor can assist the Liberal Arts student in clarifying direction, integrating past experience/knowledge with the degree, delineating transferable skills, and setting goals.

SKILLS: The person who majors in **Liberal Arts** at Regis University has the opportunity to gain and enhance a number of essential **skills** such as:

- Interpersonal communication
- Clear and imaginative thinking
- Organizing
- Editing
- Data analysis
- Public speaking
- Developing ideas/projects
- Managing programs
- Conceptualizing
- Problem solving
- Understanding complex social, cultural and political issues
- Writing
- Follow through
- Coordinating
- Data gathering
- Research
- Informing
- Coordinating projects
- Teaching
- Designing
- Information management

Liberal Arts

SUGGESTIONS FOR SUCCESSFUL ENTRY INTO THE WORK FORCE USING A LIBERAL ARTS DEGREE:

1. Determine and describe connections between past experience and employment with areas of study.
2. Complete an internship for credit as part of the electives.
3. Focus Senior Capstone in an area that is career/job related.
4. Network with alumni who share common interests.
5. Join a professional organization in area(s) of interest.
6. Volunteer for organizations that do the work or solve the problems that fit with values, interests, skills.
7. Choose an area of emphasis or a minor that captures a specific focus area, such as English.
8. Gain basic skills in computer software programs for word processing, database creation and spreadsheets.
9. Take coursework in quantitative skills or demonstrate them in a resume.
10. Focus on transferable skills.

RELATED JOBS: A degree in Liberal Arts prepares students for a work place that demands flexibility, adaptability, excellent interpersonal and intracultural communication skills, research and writing skills, and critical thinking. The following are examples of careers for people with Liberal Arts degrees.

Advertising account executive	Librarian*
Marketing representative	Management consultant*
Bank manager	Small business manager
Underwriter	Claims examiner
Insurance sales	Hotel/hospitality manager
Grant writer	Interpreter/translator
Paralegal*	Recreation administrator
Editor	Publisher/editor/writer
Probation officer	Teacher*
Volunteer Manager	Director, non-profit
Communications specialist	Public relations
Program manager/developer	Community developer
Government or public service	Community liaison
Manager cultural/arts organization	Lobbyist
Consultant	Corporate trainer
Lawyer*	

* May require graduate/professional degree or additional training.

USEFUL WEBSITES:

- Sonoma State University, "What Can I do with a Degree in Liberal Studies?"
www.sonoma.edu/sas/crc/majors
- Jobweb, "Selling Your Liberal Arts Major"
www.jobweb.com
- Purdue University, "Marketing Your Liberal Arts Degree"
<http://purdue.placementmanual.com>
- Graduate school information
www.petersons.com
- Professional organizations
www.ipl.org/ref/AON/