Guide to Liberal Arts Areas

All students in the Inclusive Program must take 60 or more of their 133+ program credits in liberal arts areas. These include:

- liberal arts distribution requirements
- a 30 credit liberal arts concentration or major.

This guide is to help you choose a liberal arts concentration or major area.

What are liberal arts courses?
The NY State Education Department defines them as "courses of a general or theoretical nature that are designed to develop judgment and understanding about human beings' relationship to the social, cultural, and natural facets of their total environment...Theoretical understandings as opposed to practical application...Not definitely directed toward particular career...Not 'applied' aspects of a field."

What are liberal arts distribution requirements?
Distribution courses are required so that your liberal arts study is not all in one area. We want students who are prospective teachers to be broadly educated, to, as mentioned above, "develop judgment and understanding about human beings' relationship to the social, cultural, and natural facets of their total environment" Teaching requires a knowledge of the content to be taught, critical judgment in a number of areas, good writing skills, and so forth. The distribution requirements 42 credits (14 courses), that ALL students in the program must take are:

- Mathematics – 2 courses
- Natural science – 2 courses
- U.S. and other history – 2 courses
- Geography – 1 course
- Citizenship, Economics, and Government – 1 course
- Global Perspectives (not history) – 1 course
- Literature – 2 courses
- Other breadth in art or music history, philosophy, religion, math or science (required for those completing a concentration, but not required for those completing a major).
- Writing – 2 courses

Students who need to take a basic algebra course in order to qualify for the required math courses, and/or have not completed through level 3 or higher of a language other than English in high school, must take additional courses in these areas.
What is the liberal arts concentration or major requirement?
This is the part of the program that asks you to go deeper into one liberal arts area by completing at least 30 credits (usually 10 courses), with a specified number of these courses at the "upper division" (i.e., not beginning) level. As you will see, this liberal arts area may be one subject, or a group of related subjects.

What is the difference between a major and a concentration?
- The liberal arts majors available are formally approved groups of courses offered by the College of Arts and Sciences. These majors can be completed by any Syracuse University student, and the title of the major appears on the transcript as a second major.
- The liberal arts concentrations listed here are approved for students in the Inclusive Elementary and Special Education Program only. The rules are less stringent than for a major, and for interdisciplinary concentrations, the course choices are more varied. The title of the concentration does not appear on the transcript (although you can explain it on your resume). With careful planning, some students have been able to include an 18 credit minor in one liberal arts area within their 30-credit concentration. For example, students who want a minor in English and Textual Studies, Philosophy, Jewish Education, Spanish (extra courses may be required), etc. would choose the Human Thought and Expression concentration. Students who want a minor in Sociology, history, political science, etc. would choose a People, Places and Societies concentration.

What are some other things that should be considered in choosing a liberal arts area?
1. You already read that everyone must take courses in distribution areas. Some courses used to meet these distribution requirements may also be used toward (overlap with) the 30 credit liberal arts concentration or major requirement. However, you will have additional courses to take for your major or concentration. One question to ask yourself in choosing a liberal arts area is when you do have additional course choices, what would you enjoy studying.
2. Would you prefer the flexibility and varied choices of the interdisciplinary concentrations, or would you prefer the focused study provided by a major or the mathematics concentration.
3. Do you have a related goal in mind - e.g., wanting to become certified to teach a specific subject in high school?
4. Your choice of liberal arts area will impact on the total credits you will need to complete for your program. Details about approximate total degree credits required for each of the liberal arts area choices are given in the chart below. Where degree totals are greater than 133 credits, and no appropriate college credit was earned in high school (e.g., AP credit) some summer study may be needed.

(Credits needed are approximate totals credits and do NOT include EDU 101, possible needed algebra, or foreign language credits.)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Liberal Arts Area</th>
<th>Concentration or Major?</th>
<th>Credits needed</th>
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<tr>
<td>African American Studies</td>
<td>Major – 30 credits</td>
<td>133-136</td>
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<tr>
<td>English and Textual Studies</td>
<td>Major – 30 credits</td>
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<tr>
<td>History</td>
<td>Major – 30 credits</td>
<td>136-142</td>
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What about all the liberal arts areas that are not included as choices?
Some areas have been left off the list because faculty do not think they are the best choices for prospective teachers. For example, psychology is one area that is not allowed because it is less related to content taught in the elementary school, and some educational and developmental psychology is included in your education courses. Some other liberal arts majors may be appropriate, but are not listed here because it seemed unlikely that they could logistically “fit” without a large number of summer courses or an extra semester. However, If you have another liberal arts major in mind (that isn’t psychology), and want to know if it would be approved and what it would take to complete it, email Marie Sarno at mrsarno@syr.edu.

What about study abroad?
Although study abroad is not required, our goal is to facilitate it! It is necessary for Spanish majors who want to complete a degree in 4 years without a greater amount of summer study, and optional in other areas within a 4-year time frame. Depending on the concentration or major chosen and the country chosen for study, some additional summer courses may be necessary. Also, the Inclusive Program restricts study abroad to certain semesters.

Summer study has been mentioned more than once. Must I stay at SU to take summer courses?
No. While taking courses at SU is certainly an option, we try to arrange your program plan so that if summer courses are necessary, you can take them at a college convenient to your home, or by distance learning. Some incoming freshmen have even chosen to take some the summer before the freshman year!
If you need more detailed information, email Marie Sarno, Program Specialist, Teaching and Leadership Programs, at mrsarno@syr.edu
Liberal Arts Areas for Inclusive Elementary and Special Education Students

**African American Studies Major**

The Department of African American Studies involves three broad geographic and intellectual areas of engagement that span African America, Africa, and the Caribbean. African American studies is interdisciplinary. The AAS major offers two tracks (Humanities and Social Sciences) for students with different educational needs. As a whole it provides a) knowledge of the broad field of African American Studies; b) specific knowledge of its diverse aspects; c) the reading, writing and research tools for exploring AAS and its boundaries; and d) ample opportunity for research and community involvement, as well as hands-on experience in related fields.

**Requirements for Major:**

- Before formal admission to the major, students must successfully complete **AAS 112 (3)** Introduction to African American Studies in the Social Sciences, and **AAS 232 (3)** African American Literature: Twentieth Century.
- The major requires an additional **24 credits**; at least 18 must be upper division. Six of the 24 credits must be AAS 332 or 333 (3) African American History, and AAS 525 (3) Research Methods in African American Studies. Six of the 24 credits must meet either Humanities or Social Science track requirements:
  - **Humanities Track:** One from AAS 305 (3) African Orature, AAS 331 (3) The African American Novel: Twentieth Century, or AAS 433 (3) The Harlem Renaissance: Literature and Ideology; and one from AAS 345/REL 245 (3) African American Religious History, or AAS 361 (3) Art of the Black World.
  - **Social Science Track:** Complete AAS 470 (3) Internship in African American Studies; and complete one from AAS/PSC 306 African American Politics, AAS/PSC 341 (3) African Politics, or AAS/SOC 353 (3) Sociology of the Black Experience.

Total Inclusive Program credits required with this major: **133-136**, plus any needed algebra or language courses.

**English and Textual Studies Major**

The English Department provides a program in textual and cultural studies, with special emphasis on literary history, criticism and theory. Courses deal with such problems as the nature and implications of reading and interpretation, the production of meaning in language and culture, and the nature of literary forms. Creative writing courses (with consent of instructor) and academic or professional writing courses are also available.

**Requirements for Major:**
- **Two lower division courses**: one chosen from a list of more than a dozen courses (3) along with ETS 242 (3) Reading and Interpretation.
- **8 upper division courses**, beginning with ETS 305 (3) Critical Analysis. Most upper division ETS courses are divided into three groups – historical, theoretical, and political – according to conceptual orientation. The remaining 7 courses must include 5 courses from these groups, including ETS 325 (3) History and Varieties of English, and two courses that cover predominantly material from before 1900. An advanced writing studio must also be completed. In addition, one of the 10 major courses must be from approved multicultural literature options.

Total Inclusive Program credits required if this area is chosen: **139-142**, plus any needed algebra or language credits.

**History Major**

History provides an essential means for understanding where we humans have come from and where we are going. History courses also help students consider the values and perspectives of the recorders of the past, for history is about humanity’s recollection of itself, not just about “facts.” History students explore not only the events of the past, but also how they were shaped by such factors as religion, economics, geography, and how these factors influence our own lives. History also provides rigorous training in research, writing, analytical and conceptual skills.

**Requirements for Major:**

- A lower division **two-course sequence** in either American; European; Ancient/Medieval/Renaissance History; or World/Non-Western history
- **Eight additional courses** with at least 21 upper division credits, including HST 401 Senior Seminar. One course (3 credits) must be taken from each of the three distribution areas: American, European, Non-Western. Also, students must choose a concentration in one of these three areas, by taking at least 5 courses (15 credits) in a single area.
- **Up to 2 courses** (6 credits) of lower-division survey, and 1 HST 401 course, may be counted toward this goal.

Total Inclusive Program credits required if this area is chosen: **136-142**, plus any needed algebra or language credits.

**Human Thought and Expression Concentration**

This concentration allows students to study from **several humanities areas**. “Humanities” is sometimes defined by its disciplines, although not everyone agrees on what should be included. Our list is given in the next section. The humanities are about humans: their nature, values, and thoughts, and their cultural expressions and achievements.

**Requirements for Concentration:**

Of the 10 required courses,
• **6 will come from** the program’s distribution areas of history (2), literature (2), fine arts, philosophy or religion (1), and global perspectives (1).
• **4 additional courses** will be taken to complete the 10-course concentration, chosen from humanities areas such as art and music histories, English and textual studies, history, linguistics, literature in a foreign language or in translation, philosophy, religion, as well as from some appropriate courses in anthropology, African American studies; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender studies; various ethnics studies areas, and women’s and gender studies.
• Six of the 10 concentration courses must be upper division (300 level or above).

Some students consider completing a minor in one of the humanities disciplines as part of their concentration. If you are considering trying to complete an option**al** minor in one of the areas as part of your concentration, please email Marie Sarno at mrsarno@syr.edu, to discuss if it is possible, and how it might impact on your first term course selections. This is also the liberal arts area to choose if you are interested in the Jewish Education minor. You may read about minors in the SU on line course catalog.

Total Inclusive Program credits typically required if this area is chosen: **133** plus any needed algebra or language credits.

**Mathematics Concentration**

**Requirements for Concentration:**

• MAT 117-118 Foundational Mathematics via Problem Solving
• MAT 295, 296, 397 Calculus I, II, and III
• MAT 331 First Course in Linear Algebra
• MAT 375 Introduction to Abstract Mathematics
• **Six credits** of 400-500 level mathematics. If both of these courses are from one of the same group of courses, students completing this concentration also complete requirements so that the official minor in mathematics may be declared. The groups are Algebra, Analysis, Applied Mathematics, Differential Equations, Geometry, or Probability and Statistics. This concentration typically requires that the student be ready for calculus in his or her first semester of college study.

Total Inclusive Program credits required if this area is chosen, and MAT 295 is the first course taken: **142**, plus a language course, if level 3 was not completed in high school.

**Natural Sciences Concentration**

**Requirements for Concentration:**

10 courses totaling 30 or more credits.

• **4 courses** will be MAT 117-118 and SCI 104-105, required of all Inclusive Program students.
• Students will also choose a science option to meet the geography distribution requirement: GEO 155 The Natural Environment.
• **The remaining 5 courses** will be chosen from lists of Biology, Chemistry, Earth Science, and Physics courses, so that the student ends up with 3 courses from one of the areas including one upper division course, and one additional course from each of two other areas. These lists include courses taken by majors in the science, but also include non-majors courses such as Introduction to Neuroscience, Forensic Chemistry, Chemistry in the Modern World, or Biological Anthropology.

Total Inclusive Program credits required if this area is chosen: **133-136**, plus any needed algebra or language credits.

**People, Places and Societies Concentration**

This concentration allows students to study from several **social science areas**. “Social Science” is sometimes defined by its disciplines, although not everyone agrees on what should be included. Our list is given in the next section.

The social sciences study human groups and social institutions, and other social dimensions of the world, often using specific research methods to do so.

**Requirements for Concentration:**

- Of the **10 required courses**, 5 will come from the program’s distribution areas of history (2), geography (1), citizenship, economics and government (1), global perspectives (1). In addition, it is often possible to have a sixth course overlap with one of the other distribution categories, depending on offerings.
- 4-5 additional courses will be taken to complete the 10-course concentration, chosen from social science areas such as anthropology, economics, geography (cultural), history, international relations, public affairs, political science, and sociology, as well as from some appropriate courses in African American studies; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender studies; and women’s and gender studies, and various ethnic studies areas. Six of the 10 concentration courses must be upper division (300 level or above).

Some students consider completing a minor in one of the social science disciplines as part of their concentration. If you are considering trying to complete an **optional** minor in one of the areas as part of your concentration, please email [Marie Sarno](mailto:Marie.Sarno@su.edu), to discuss if it is possible, and how it might impact on your first term course selections. You may read about minors in the SU [online course catalog](https://www.su.edu/).

Total Inclusive Program credits typically required if this area is chosen: **133-136**, plus any needed algebra or language credits.

**Political Science Major**

Political Science is the study of politics and government, and their relationships to the wider society. This program provides students with a thorough introduction to the processes by which political power is attained, retained, and exercised. By introducing students to the techniques of political analysis, the program provides them the skills with which they can deepen their understandings of political processes,
preparing them for responsible citizenship. A major may include courses from any of the cluster areas within political science:

1. Law and Politics
2. Public Policy
3. Political Economy
4. American Politics
5. Comparative Politics
6. Democracy and Mobilization
7. Global Governance and Foreign Policy
8. Political Theory
9. International War and Peace

Requirements for Major:

- **Three introductory courses**, including one on American government, and a course in political argument and reasoning
- **Seven additional courses**, six of which must be upper division, with at least one from the approved list of courses with international content. At least 3 of the upper division courses must be from one of 9 cluster areas. Courses with grades of “D” cannot be used toward the major.

Total Inclusive Program credits required if you choose this area: **139-142**, plus any needed algebra or language credits.

**Sociology Major**

Sociology is the study of the formation of human groups, the behavior of these groups, and the behavior of the individuals within the groups. Students of sociology examine "normal" behavior and its deviations (crime, delinquency) as well as underlying conditions that produce and maintain group behavior and structure. Topics include urban problems, issues of gender and race, family relations, criminal justice, aging, political sociology, urban sociology, social stratification, etc. In addition to substantive courses, the major emphasizes skill development in the areas of analytic reasoning and writing, computer literacy, elementary qualitative and quantitative research, information retrieval, and report presentation.

Requirements for Major:

Introductory course; one 200 level course, and eight upper division courses, including Introduction to Research, Qualitative [research] Methods in Sociology, Contemporary Sociological Theory, and a senior seminar or appropriate substitute.

Total Inclusive Program credits required if this area is chosen: **142-145**, plus any needed algebra or language credits. This often means that a student must take three extra courses or more in the summer.