

LETTERS ARTS AND SCIENCES (LASCC)

Description of the Degree

The Letters, Arts, and Sciences degree (LASCC) differs from most other degrees by being more flexible. With disciplines such as Chemistry, Sociology, or History, the department identifies specific prescribed courses for the major. In contrast, LASCC enables a student to develop a unique program representing at least three disciplinary areas and including 12 credits (1 course in each area) of research methods, communication, theory application, and critical thinking.

The LASCC proposal, as approved by the Campus LASCC Program Head, is the document that details a student's plan for completing the degree. Because the proposal guides course selection, students are expected to complete their proposals at the beginning of their major coursework, generally between 60 and 80 credits. If a student has not completed a proposal by the time he or she has accumulated 80 credits, a hold may be placed on the student's record, preventing him or her from registering for courses. Although students have a deadline by which proposals must be submitted and approved, students may be able to amend their proposals after initial approval has been obtained.

LASCC Policies

Transfer credits: Transfer credits may be applied toward LASCC for course work below the 400 level.

Special Topics and Independent Study: Students may use a total of 6 credits selected from special topics [297, 397, 497] or independent study [296, 496] toward the degree without special permission.

Internship: Students may use 6 credits of internship [295, 395, 495] toward the degree.

Research: Students may use 6 credits of research [294, 494] toward the degree upon approval of the research plan by the LASCC coordinator.

Concurrent and Sequential Majors: Students may not declare concurrent or sequential majors with LASCC.

GUIDELINES FOR WRITING THE LASCC PROPOSAL

Educational and Career Goals

In one paragraph, outline your educational goals. Conclude this paragraph with a transition to the explanation of your career goals. In a separate paragraph, outline your career goals. Indicate the type of career you plan to enter and why you have selected this career. Explain the connection between your educational and career goals. End with a transition to the list of the courses you plan to apply toward the “Supporting Courses and Related Areas” as well as your “Additional Courses”.

Supporting Courses and Related Areas (12 credits)

Write one paragraph for each of the four supporting courses you have selected. In each paragraph, explain how each course meets the requirement. If you have not yet taken the course, obtain a copy of the syllabus to identify the learning objectives for the course. You may also interview the instructor to learn specifics about the course. Include detailed information about each course that you plan to include in your program.

Research Methods/Projects:

You must either study research methodology in the discipline appropriate to your option or conduct an independent research study. Explain in detail the research you have done or will do in the course you have chosen for this requirement. Quote your research question, list the sources you consulted to gather your data, explain the analysis you performed to interpret your data, and describe the end product of your research. The end product will be a speech or a paper. If you have not yet taken the course, such information is usually available from the course syllabus.

Communication Skills:

Communication skills include verbal, symbolic and written skills including speaking, writing, acting, production of fine arts, signing, and symbolic logic. Most people have given a speech, written a paper, or worked on a group project in one or more of their courses. Explain in detail what course assignment(s) you wish to use to fulfill your communication skills requirement. If you have not yet taken the course, such information is usually available from the course syllabus.

Critical Analysis:

These are courses in which you analyze, evaluate, or synthesize theories in the discipline. For example, in philosophy you explore concepts such as truth or justice. You may take a religious studies class in which you compare concepts from different religions. An African/African American Studies class may point out how history is skewed by the absence of the experience of people of African heritage. Women’s Studies classes may point out how a certain theory was developed without the inclusion of women. Some courses explicate several theories for the same phenomenon: juvenile delinquency or abnormal psychology. Explain in detail in what way the course or a specific assignment within the course you have selected for critical analysis fills the requirements for conducting critical analysis and evaluation. If you have not yet taken the course, such information is usually available from the syllabus.

Theory and Its Application:

These courses focus on theory, principles, central concepts, or fundamental issues in a discipline. Explain how the course you have selected fulfills the requirement for learning basic theory in your chosen area of study. If you have not yet taken the course, such information is usually available from the syllabus.

Additional Courses (24 credits total) At least 9 credits of the 24 total must be from the humanities or social sciences. At least three different subject areas must be represented in the major.

Additional Selections (9 credits):

Additional selections consist of courses that will lead you toward your educational and career goals. These courses may be at any level. Write one paragraph for each of the three courses that satisfy this component. Explain what you learned or expect to learn in the class and how that knowledge relates to your goals. If you have not yet taken the course, such information is usually available from the syllabus.

400-level Selections (12 credits):

Write one paragraph for each of the four courses that satisfy this component. Explain how the content of each course supports your educational or career goals.

400-level Capstone Course (3 credits):

Write one paragraph in which you describe the course which is designated as your capstone course. Explain what you will do in this course and how this course will help to prepare you to enter graduate studies or the workforce.

Letters, Arts, and Sciences Program Requirements

To earn a Bachelor of Arts degree in Letters, Arts, and Sciences, a minimum of **120 credits** is required in the following areas:

General Education:	45 credits
B.A. Degree Requirements:	12 – 24 credits
Major Requirements:	36 credits

All major courses must be completed with a “C” grade or above.

Electives:	15 – 27 credits
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Supporting Courses:

12 credits related to your plan of study and chosen to develop the skills below

- 3 credits research methods / projects
- 3 credits critical analysis
- 3 credits communication skills
- 3 credits theory / application

Additional and 400 – Level Selections

24 credits chosen to further develop your major theme and at least 15 credits must be at the 400 – level, with 3 of these credits representing a capstone course.

SUPPORTING COURSES AND RELATED AREAS (12 credits)

Each of these courses must relate to your theme and contain the elements of the skills outlined below.

Research methods/projects

3 credits in a course that involves research methodology or that focuses on a research project relevant to your plan of study. Types of courses include: all courses numbered 294/494, all laboratory courses, all statistical courses, and all research methodology courses.

Critical analysis

3 credit in a course that focuses on evaluation, synthesis, and analysis. Types of courses include: criticism, comparative studies, and policy analysis.

Communication skills

3 credits in a course that focuses on verbal, written, or symbolic expression. Types of courses include: speaking, writing, acting, production of the fine arts, signing, and symbolic logic.

Theory/application

3 credits in a course that focuses on theory, principle, central concepts, or fundamental issues in a disciplinary group. Types of courses include: theory, major figures, basic problems, and basic principles.

ADDITIONAL AND 400-LEVEL SELECTIONS (24 credits)

Each of these courses must relate to your stated plan of study, and at least three subject areas must be represented. A minimum of 15 credits must be at the 400-level, with 3 of these credits representing a capstone course.