

LIBERAL STUDIES, AN UNDERGRADUATE TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAM

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Department Chair: Lola Berber-Jimenez

Academic Program

Program name	Program type
Liberal Studies	BS

Liberal Studies is Cal Poly's pre-professional Teacher Preparation Program leading to enrollment in a multiple subject credential program. The mission of Liberal Studies is to ensure that students are prepared to teach competently and professionally each of the seven content areas in the state-mandated curriculum (K-8). These include language arts, mathematics, science, history/social sciences, visual and performing arts, health/physical education and human development. Liberal Studies provides the educational experience and preparation best suited for the prospective elementary teacher.

Faculty from the following disciplines help to offer the required curriculum in the major: Art and Design, Biological Sciences, English, Ethnic Studies, History, Kinesiology, Mathematics, Music, Philosophy, Political Science, Physics, Psychology and Child Development, Social Sciences, Statistics, Theatre, and Education.

Undergraduate Program BS Liberal Studies

A depth of study is required of all students seeking a multiple subject credential by the California Commission on Teaching Credentialing. Liberal Studies majors select one of the following concentrations or, with prior approval from the department chair, an individualized course of study.

- Biology
- Child Development
- English
- History/Social Sciences
- Mathematics
- Science
- Spanish
- Teaching English as a Second Language

LS Courses

LS 201. Orientation to Liberal Studies. 1 unit

Term Typically Offered: F

Career and academic planning, co-curricular, extra-curricular opportunities, and pathway into a K-8 teaching profession. Academic policies and procedures, goal settings, elements of career in education, and other topics relevant to student and professional success. Intended for new students in the Liberal Studies major. Not open to students with credit in LS 101. 1 activity.

LS 211. Visual Arts in the Elementary Classroom. 4 units

Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP

Theory, aesthetics, appreciation and applications of visual arts, through multiple two dimensional art strategies, as related to educational processes for the elementary classroom. Focus on elements, principles of design while fostering artistic perception. One Saturday field trip required. 3 lectures, 1 laboratory.

LS 214. Constitutional Issues in the History of U.S. and California Education. 4 units

Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP

Examination of U.S. and California constitutions, significant legislation, and court cases affecting public education from the colonial period to the present. Overview of contributions by individuals of historical, national, and international educational significance. Examination of landmark decisions. 4 lectures.

LS 230. Field Experience in the Elementary Classroom I. 2 units

Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP

Overview of current practices and issues in elementary education, including teacher compensation, cultural impact on schools, time and classroom management, English learners, and the affective aspect of teaching. 24 hours of fieldwork required. 2 activities.

LS 250. Field Experience in the Elementary Classroom II. 2 units

Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP

Overview of current practices and issues in elementary education, including components of effective teaching, motivating students, diagnostic/prescriptive teaching, curriculum, and accountability. In addition to class time, 24 hours of fieldwork required. Participation in public schools requires fingerprint clearance. 2 activities.

LS 260. Children's Literature. 4 units

Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP

Prerequisite: Completion of GE Area A with a grade of C- or better.

Analysis and evaluation of traditional literature, fantasy, realistic fiction, historical fiction, informational books, picture books, and poetry for children in multiple subject classroom grades K-6. Emphasis on multicultural texts. 4 lectures. Crosslisted as ENGL/LS 260.

LS 290. Selected Topics. 1-4 units

Term Typically Offered: TBD

Prerequisite: Open to undergraduate students and consent of instructor.

Directed group study of selected topics. The Schedule of Classes will list title selected. Total credit limited to 8 units. 1 to 4 lectures.

LS 301. Liberal Studies Career Preparation. 1 unit

Term Typically Offered: F, SP

Prerequisite: Junior standing. Corequisite: LS 201.

Overview of ethical, legal, and historical issues in education; major foundational philosophies in American public education. Career pathways in education, targeted advising, portfolio building and professional goals and opportunities. Not open to students with credit in LS 101. 1 activity.

LS 305. Project Based Learning in STEM Education. 2 units

CR/NC

Term Typically Offered: TBD

Prerequisite: Completion of GE Area B.

Extended collaborative study of a question or problem in STEM using a Project Based Learning (PBL) environment; includes consideration of the educational framework and principles of PBL. Topics will have an engineering design component that will require application of mathematics, technology, and science. The Schedule of Classes will list topic selected. Total credit limited to 4 units. Credit/No Credit grading only. 2 activities.

LS 310. Storytelling: Modern Applications of Traditional Narrative. 4 units

Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP

Prerequisite: Completion of GE Area A2 with a grade of C- or better.

Techniques for selection, preparation and presentation of traditional folktales and myths for an audience. Applications of storytelling in teaching and organizations; theory and history of folk literature and mythology. 4 lectures.

LS 370. Performing Arts in the Elementary Classroom. 4 units

Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP

Prerequisite: LS 211 and GE C3. Recommended: LS 310.

Current theory and practice of standards based performing arts with an emphasis on the use of music, theater, media arts and dance, as discrete disciplines with historical and cultural context in the classroom. Attendance at outside performances required. 4 lectures.

LS 380. Subject Matter Apprenticeship. 2 units

CR/NC

Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP

Prerequisite: Junior standing and consent of instructor.

Structured application of a specific content area in schools and informal educational settings. Topics include: Arts, English, Science, Mathematics, History/Social Studies, and Physical Education and Health. The Schedule of Classes will list topic selected. Participation in public schools requires mandated fingerprint clearance. Total credit limited to 4 units. Credit/No Credit grading only. 2 activities.

LS 400. Special Problems for Advanced Undergraduates. 1-2 units

Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP

Prerequisite: Consent of instructor, junior standing.

Individual investigation, research, studies, or surveys of selected problems. Total credit limited to 4 units, with a maximum of 2 units per quarter.

LS 410. Subject Matter Seminar. 4 units

Term Typically Offered: F, SP

Prerequisite: LS Majors and Senior standing.

Analysis and practice of subject matter knowledge and skills to facilitate K-8 learning through identifying major themes and questions. The use of inquiry, assessment, curriculum integration, and technology to connect discipline specific content to contemporary social issues. The Schedule of Classes will list topic selected. Total credit limited to 12 units. 3 seminars, 1 activity.

LS 411. Advanced History/Social Sciences Integration for the K-8 Classroom. 4 units

Term Typically Offered: F, SP

Prerequisite: GEOG 308; HIST 208; LS major; and senior standing.

Analysis and practice of history and social sciences knowledge and skills to facilitate K-8 learning through identifying major themes and questions. The use of inquiry, assessment, curriculum integration, and technology to connect discipline specific content to contemporary social issues. 3 seminars, 1 activity.

LS 412. Advanced Arts Integration for the K-8 Classroom. 4 units

Term Typically Offered: SP

Prerequisite: LS 211 and senior standing.

Analysis and practice of Arts knowledge and skills to facilitate K-8 learning through identifying major themes and questions. The use of inquiry, assessment, curriculum integration, and technology to connect discipline specific content to contemporary social issues. Field trips required. The Schedule of Classes will list topic selected. Total credit limited to 8 units. 4 lectures.

LS 461. Senior Project Seminar. 4 units

Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP

Prerequisite: Senior standing, completion of GWR or consent of instructor.

Examination of issues in education of state, national and international concern. Students prepare presentations and conduct individual research and analysis of selected problems. Substantial research paper required. 4 seminars.

LS 462. Senior Project Research. 2-4 units

Term Typically Offered: W

Prerequisite: Senior standing; completion of GWR; LS 410 or LS 411 or LS 412.

Application of content and theory to the educational experience of one specific subject matter area in the Liberal Studies program. Total credit limited to 4 units.

LS 470. Selected Advanced Topics. 1-4 units

Term Typically Offered: TBD

Prerequisite: Consent of instructor.

Directed group study of selected topics for advanced students. Open to undergraduate and graduate students. The Schedule of Classes will list title selected. Total credit limited to 8 units. 1 to 4 lectures.