The Liberal Arts and Engineering Studies (LAES) degree is jointly offered by the colleges of Liberal Arts and Engineering. This program prepares students for a wide range of innovative careers in emerging professional fields that combine skills and interests in the arts, technology and culture, and also prepares them for further study in graduate school. This program, which only accepts students as internal transfers after the first year, is open to all students at Cal Poly. This program is not intended to be an ABET-accredited engineering program.

Undergraduate Programs

Liberal Arts and Engineering Studies

Effective Spring 2019, the degree designation for the Liberal Arts and Engineering Studies program is changed from B.A. to B.S.

Students in the Liberal Arts and Engineering Studies program, in collaboration with students from all other Cal Poly majors, have the opportunity to participate in development teams working on national and international technology and cultural projects. To further prepare students for work with diverse teams that include participants from across the globe, the program strongly encourages students to spend three to six months studying and/or working abroad.

The Liberal Arts and Engineering Studies degree can lead to careers in fields such as:

- Animatronics
- Audio Engineering
- Digital Media Production and Management
- Digital Publishing
- Environmental Technology Education
- Film and Television Production
- Game Design
- Government Policy Making / Analysis
- International Technology Management
- STEM Education in School and Out-of-School Contexts
- Sustainable Community Development
- Technical Communications
- Technology Services and Management
- Web Design

BS Liberal Arts and Engineering Studies - LAES Courses

LAES 200. Special Problems for Undergraduates. 1-4 units
Term Typically Offered: TBD
Prerequisite: Consent of department head.

Individual investigation, research, studies, or surveys of selected problems. Total credit limited to 8 units, with a maximum of 4 units per quarter.

LAES 270. 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.

LAES 301. Project-Based Learning in Liberal Arts and Engineering Studies. 4 units
Term Typically Offered: F, SP
Prerequisite: MATH 241; PHYS 132; PHYS 133; and GE Area A with a grade of C- or better.

Examination of how to define LAES as a new field of study; analysis of the creative process and team building in theory and in application. Researching, writing, revising and presenting a technical proposal suitable for submission to a national design competition seeking innovative solutions to complex technological/social problems. 2 seminars, 2 activities.

LAES 302. Advanced Project-Based Learning in Liberal Arts and Engineering Studies. 4 units
Term Typically Offered: F, SP
Prerequisite: LAES 301.

Teamwork and leadership in project-based learning. Students lead, build, and maintain project teams; guide the creative process; and use and evaluate the principles of project management in theory and practice. Development of a technical proposal suitable for submission to a national design competition seeking innovative solutions to complex technological/social problems. 2 seminars, 2 activities.

LAES 400. Special Problems for Advanced Undergraduates. 1-4 units
Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP
Prerequisite: Consent of department head.

Individual investigation, research, studies, or surveys of selected problems. Total credit limited to 8 units, with a maximum of 4 units per quarter.
LAES 411. Global Synthesis in Liberal Arts and Engineering Studies. 4 units
Term Typically Offered: TBD
Prerequisite: LAES 302; junior standing.

Onsite work with a global technical development and/or design team to
develop a project to be completed/expanded upon in LAES 461. Through
guided online discussion with the instructor and fellow LAES students,
work through intercultural collaboration and design issues, and present
works-in-progress. 4 lectures.

LAES 430. Internship. 2-12 units
CR/NC
Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP
Prerequisite: Approval of area chair, junior standing, and a CPSLO
cumulative GPA of at least 2.5 without being on academic probation.

Work experience in business, industry, government and other areas of
student career interest. Periodic written progress reports, final report, and
evaluation by work supervisor required. Credit/No Credit grading. Total
credit limited to 12 units.

LAES 461. Senior Project in Liberal Arts and Engineering Studies. 4 units
Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP
Prerequisite: LAES 302; senior standing; and permission of instructor.

Under faculty supervision, the selection and completion of a senior
project, demonstrating an interdisciplinary focus in LAES. With one-on-
one format with the instructor, individual or small group work through
many iterations of the senior project, with occasional showing of works in
small student groups.

LAES 462. Capstone Senior Seminar in Liberal Arts and Engineering
Studies. 4 units
Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP
Prerequisite: LAES 461.

The final refinement and completion of LAES senior projects and other
projects. In a development workshop format, presentation of final
versions of works-in-progress to combined faculty and professional
review committees throughout the quarter.

LAES 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.

LAES 471. Selected Advanced Laboratory. 1-4 units
Term Typically Offered: TBD
Prerequisite: Consent of instructor.

Directed group laboratory 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 laboratories.

LAES 485. Cooperative Education Experience. 6 units
CR/NC
Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP
Prerequisite: Sophomore standing and consent of instructor.

Part-time work experience in business, industry, government, and other
areas of student career interest. Positions are paid and usually require
relocation and registration in course for two consecutive quarters. Formal
report and evaluation by work supervisor required. Major credit limited to
6 units; total credit limited to 18 units. Credit/No Credit grading only.

LAES 495. Cooperative Education Experience. 12 units
CR/NC
Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP
Prerequisite: Sophomore standing and consent of instructor.

Full-time work experience in business, industry, government, and other
areas of student career interest. Positions are paid and usually require
relocation and registration in course for two consecutive quarters. A more
fully developed formal report and evaluation by work supervisor required.
Credit/No Credit grading only. Major credit limited to 6 units; total credit
limited to 24 units.