Liberal Studies (LS)

Adult students, 24 years of age or older, may earn the Bachelor of Arts degree by completing a broad, liberal arts-based curriculum. Courses in this program are scheduled to facilitate attendance by those having other full-time responsibilities. Students benefit from the wide scope of seminar-formatted classes that are student driven, focus on specific topics and explore events and attitudes through critical thinking and interaction with other adult students. Students less than 25 years of age at the time of admission may be accepted at the discretion of the Assistant Dean of CALL.

Students begin by enrolling in the Liberal Studies Introductory Research Seminar (ALS 2500). In conjunction with individual advising, students are introduced to liberal studies by emphasizing processes that build effective critical thinking and writing as foundations. Students progress to topical seminars that utilize the foundational skills developed earlier in the program. Students choose a concentration related to an area that meets their professional or personal goals. Students take an active role in determining the direction and content of their learning. This program can also serve as a degree completion option for those with existing college credit.

Graduates find their broad education valuable in finding employment opportunities in all business, industry and service sectors. Many choose to pursue advanced degrees in law, health and other areas of special interest.

Online Option

The LS program seminars can also be completed entirely online. Minimum computer skills are advised for online courses, such as Internet navigation, Blackboard 9.1, email and basic knowledge of Microsoft Office.

CLEP Scores for the Liberal Studies Program

Students may have the potential to take the CLEP (College Level Examination Program). These examinations are given to establish competency in the general education discipline areas of mathematics, humanities, social sciences and natural sciences. These four discipline areas are required for graduation. The required general education credit hours and the regulations for the CLEP exams for this program are as follows:

1. Students earning a CLEP exam score of below 50 or those choosing not to take the CLEP exam must earn a minimum of three semester hours of credit in a math general education course. A minimum of nine semester hours each of credit in general education courses in the areas of the humanities, social science and natural science are required. Independent studies may not be substituted for any general education course.

2. Students who take any courses in these four discipline areas after entry into the ALS program forfeit their right to apply CLEP credit in that discipline toward their LS degree. In addition, passing scores on the general education courses are required as prerequisites to enroll in the LS topical seminars. Therefore, students are encouraged to take the CLEP exams early in their academic endeavors.
3. Students who have taken course work in any of these discipline areas prior to entry into the ALS program and subsequently earn CLEP credit cannot have credit for both count toward meeting general education requirements.

4. Students earning a CLEP exam score of 50 will have 10 semester hours of credit posted to their transcripts.

5. Students earning a CLEP exam score of 45 to 49 may retake the exam after a period of six months.

Liberal Studies Program Requirements

Topical Seminars
These seminars are upper-division courses in the social sciences (ALS 3040), humanities (ALS 3050) and natural sciences (ALS 3060) that change each semester. Each student will complete one seminar from each of the three areas. Three additional ALS seminars may be taken from any of the three areas. Students may then choose to complete an additional three ALS seminars, or select twelve hours of course work (4 classes) that is related to the students’ academic interests at the 3000-4000 level that supports their academic interests. **No more than 10 ALS seminars will be counted toward fulfillment of graduation requirements.** The final requirement of the Liberal Studies program is completion of the AL 4950 Senior Capstone class. Students are responsible for fulfilling the program’s prerequisites and should seek an academic adviser’s guidance before enrolling in courses. Students who enroll in a topical seminar without the required prerequisites may be administratively dropped from the course. Students must complete a minimum of 30 semester hours of credit as a CALL Degree Program student (per Academic Policy 3364-71-10 of The University of Toledo).

Prerequisites for the Topical Seminars
1. Completion of both a freshman orientation course (if applicable) and the ALS 2500 Introductory Research Seminar.
2. Earned credits in College Composition I and II by taking and passing the courses or earning credit through PLA.
3. Completion of a minimum of nine credit hours in the discipline area of the topical seminar or passing the CLEP examination in the discipline of the seminar with a 50 or above score.

Electives
Students are to establish an emphasis area that ties together their educational interests and/or career aspirations. The objective of these courses should be academic investigation and should focus on sound educational goals. Students should seek the advice of an academic adviser in drafting their elective course components.

Area of Concentration
Students are required to complete a minimum of three classes (nine hours) of upper-division courses (3000/4000 level) that are associated with an area of academic investigation or a knowledge base that is related in theoretical content to support the Senior Thesis.

Senior Capstone
The senior capstone (AL 4950) is the final requirement of the ALS program. It is a four-credit-hour project undertaken with a faculty member as the capstone adviser. Students should seek the advice of an academic adviser and must turn in the appropriate paperwork before enrolling in this final
requirement. Students are expected to integrate their respective thesis themes with their Concentration courses.

**LS Honors**
The LS Honors program provides a valuable foundation of writing and research for students who want to be admitted into advanced graduate or professional programs or for those wanting a stimulating learning experience. Any student qualifying for ALS Honors needs to complete 36 Honors hours with a final 3.3 GPA or better to graduate with College Honors.

**Liberal Studies Required Courses**

**UT Core**
- Orientation: 1 hr.
- One Math course or CLEP Test: 3 hrs.
- English Comp I: 3 hrs.
- English Comp II: 3 hrs.

**CALL College Core**
- ALS 2500 – Introduction to Research: 2 hrs.
- Humanities General Ed or CLEP: 9-10 hrs.
- Social Sciences General Ed or CLEP: 9-10 hrs.
- Natural Sciences General Ed or CLEP: 9-10 hrs.
- BUAD 1020 or CMPT 1100 or Computer Proficiency: 3 hrs.

**Liberal Studies Core**
- 1 Class in each seminar area: ALS 3040, 3050, 3060: 12 hrs.
- 3 Classes from any seminar area: 12 hrs.
- 3 Additional ALS seminars or 4 classes at the 3000-4000 level: 12 hrs.
- 3 Concentration* (3000-4000 level): 9 hrs.
- Senior Thesis*: 4 hrs.

**Electives**
- 20-33 hrs.

Courses electives are selected in consultation with adviser. Many of these may be fulfilled by transfer credit if applicable.