



In the **College of Letters & Science (L&S)**, earn your bachelor's degree through your own customized mix of classes where you explore your interests and discover new ones.

College is a remarkable period of learning and self-discovery. In L&S you will grow your ability and desire to learn throughout your lifetime. It's a full education that gives you options, inspiration, and the tools to live well, make a difference in your community, and flourish in your career.

L&S bachelor's degrees are based in the liberal arts

Open-ended curiosity and life-changing experiences.

Think of *liberal* as “free, unrestricted,” and *arts* as “skills-knowledge” (like the culinary arts). In education, this means freely learning across many different disciplines:

- **social sciences** (how people interact with each other, like Political Science, Psychology, and Economics);
- **arts and humanities** (like Music, History, Philosophy, and the 50 languages taught here);
- **biological, physical, mathematical, computer, information, and data sciences**.

No matter whether you are into chemistry or poetry—your degree will include a mix of classes across the three groups of disciplines listed above. L&S students also gain a basic understanding of at least one language other than English, and complete other components of the degree.

You have a lot of flexibility in which classes you choose in these areas. The goal is a good liberal-arts foundation across many kinds of subjects (we call this *breadth*).

AP & other incoming credit

Some classes completed *before* UW–Madison may be counted as part of a degree. The **Office of the Registrar** (keeper of student records) manages this process and the UW equivalents.

registrar.wisc.edu/credit-by-exam

How are students admitted into the College of Letters & Science?

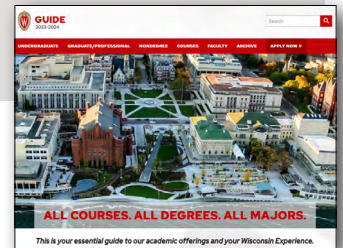
Students who select “Undeclared” or any L&S major (listed in the *Guide* and on the next page) as their intended major on the university application will start with the College of Letters & Science as their academic home.

The Guide: UW–Madison's academic handbook

guide.wisc.edu

Browse the catalog of degrees, majors, certificates, and courses.

Learn about academic policies and the components and requirements of degrees and majors.



WISCONSIN
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
College of Letters & Science

Your major

The major is about a quarter of your classes.

It's not your whole degree.

Majors are the part of your L&S degree where you dig deeper into a subject.

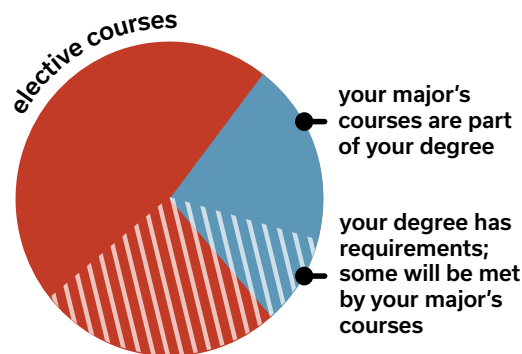
You declare (officially select) a major after you begin college, when you are ready and eligible. In L&S, you are not limited to a major that you selected in your college application. **It's fine to be undecided right now**: there is so much more to discover in college.

Change my major?

Yes! Allow enough time to complete the new major's required classes before graduation.

More than one major?

Yes! Many L&S students discover deep interests in more than one subject.



Majors in the College of Letters & Science

African American Studies	Chinese	Information Science	Neurobiology
African Cultural Studies	Classical Humanities	International Studies	Philosophy
Anthropology	Communication Arts	Italian	Physics
Applied Mathematics, Engineering, and Physics	Communication Sciences and Disorders	Japanese	Polish
Art History	Computer Sciences	Jewish Studies	Political Science
Asian Languages & Cultures	Conservation Biology	Journalism	Portuguese
Astronomy—Physics	Data Science	Landscape and Urban Studies	Psychology
Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences	Economics	Landscape Architecture	Religious Studies
Biochemistry	English	Latin American, Caribbean, and Iberian Studies	Russian
Biology	Environmental Sciences	Legal Studies	Scandinavian Studies
Botany	Environmental Studies	Linguistics	Social Welfare
Cartography and Geographic Information Systems	French	Mathematics	Social Work
Chemistry	Gender and Women's Studies	Molecular and Cell Biology	Sociology
Chican@ & Latin@ Studies	Geography	Music	Spanish
	Geology and Geophysics	Music: Education	Statistics
	German	Music: Performance	Zoology
	History		

And there is variety and range within each of these subject areas!

Certificates

UW–Madison is different from other universities by offering certificates: our version of a *minor*. These are optional programs with about **half the classes of a major**.

Certificates can focus on proficiency in one area, like “Italian” or “Physics,” or blend classes together in new ways, like the certificates in “Political Economy, Philosophy, and Politics” or “Health and the Humanities.”

Certificates are a great way to dig into different interest areas, as an alternative to an additional major.

The College of Letters & Science offers about 50 certificates. L&S students are eligible to complete about 30 certificates managed by other UW–Madison colleges. Find them all in the *Guide*—on this web page, check the box for certificates:

guide.wisc.edu/explore-majors/

Classes

Combining academic goals with personal interests

Classes are the best part! The College of Letters & Science offers a huge range of classes every semester: from introductions to new topics to advanced investigation.

A *credit* is a measurement roughly based on the weekly meetings and amount of study time needed outside of class. Students generally take four or five classes, averaging a total of about 15 credits, per semester.



Enroll in first-semester classes during SOAR orientation

Many classes have about 20 students. Larger lecture classes often have other meetings in the week for small-group discussions or a hands-on lab.

Professors and other instructors

Ready to share enthusiasm and knowledge with you

An advantage of UW–Madison is that our extremely talented professors love being at this university, teaching and conducting high-level research.

Professors design your classes and set the educational direction of each subject area. They bring their expertise to classes from 1-credit seminars for new freshmen to graduate-level study.

Other talented instructors lead classes, too: skillful teachers who have deep knowledge in their topics and *love* to help students get the most out of their learning. And, like at most universities, graduate-student teaching assistants are sometimes part of a course's instructional team.

Research

Students at UW–Madison are fortunate to have access to some of the world's leading researchers who push the frontiers of knowledge in all academic areas. Joining a faculty-led research team is a life-changing experience for many L&S students.

Your own hands-on research is a regular component of majors in all disciplines, not just science but also the humanities, arts, and social sciences. Research is a big part of earning Honors within your major (open to any student; read more on the next page).

Undergraduate Research Scholars is a two-semester program for about 180 first-year students. Students meet in a small seminar class, and work a few hours a week on an existing UW–Madison research project.

urs.ls.wisc.edu

Learning Support

Get the most from your classes

Every student can sharpen their skills. From comprehensive tutoring programs to specialty centers for **Writing, Chemistry, Math, Physics, Computer Science, and Statistics**, you will find many ways to learn with, and from, others.

learningsupport.wisc.edu

Study Abroad

As a university with a global influence, we have **260 programs in 65 countries**. These vary in length, academic focus, teaching format, language requirements, cost, and level of independence. There are many programs to complement every major and all meet UW–Madison's high academic standards.

studyabroad.wisc.edu

Scholarships

Letters & Science has limited scholarships for first-year students. There is no application: they are awarded based on information already received through the college application process. Most scholarships are for students *after* their first year of classes.

scholarships.ls.wisc.edu

UW–Madison's **Office of Student Financial Aid** are the experts on all the options for funding college.

financialaid.wisc.edu

Advising

You make the decisions that fit your academic plan: we'll help you know your options.

Academic advisors are experts who help you explore UW–Madison courses and understand the components of your degree. They help you find learning support, tutoring, activities, and services that enhance your college experience.

You will connect with your advising team at SOAR, the orientation for all incoming students. You will have an assigned advisor who has broad knowledge of courses, majors, and certificates.

After declaring a major, you shift to an advisor in that major's department who specializes in its requirements and opportunities.

UW–Madison has specialist advisors for students interested in future study in medicine and health professions, law, business, and more.

Career services

SuccessWorks, the L&S career center, gives you access to professional skills and support staff from your first year on campus through graduation. SuccessWorks helps you find jobs and internships; provides career advising; and hosts career-exploration communities with themes like “Communications, Entertainment, and the Arts” and “Government, Policy, International Affairs, and Law.”

Our strong, connected network of **thousands of Badger alumni** regularly come to campus to talk about their work, hire interns, give career advice, and support students in so many ways.

successworks.wisc.edu

First-Year Interest Groups

FIGs are clusters of three Fall-semester UW–Madison classes, linked together to explore a common theme. Choose from more than 60 themes! At the heart of each FIG is a top-notch professor who develops and leads a seminar class exclusively for the 20 students in your FIG. The seminar is connected to two complementary UW classes (that you attend together with your FIG classmates), combining and expanding what you learn in these other classes with the main FIG seminar. All FIG classes fulfill graduation requirements.

During SOAR orientation, talk with your academic advisor about which FIGs fit your interests before enrolling in your classes.

figs.wisc.edu

Interested in biology?
Biocore Honors
biocore.wisc.edu

L&S Honors Program

College classes are designed for you to participate, be committed to learning, and embrace new perspectives and ideas—Honors classes have *even more* of this. It's a great fit for students who enjoy active class discussions with both classmates and the teacher, and who want to dig deeper into the topics. Choose *Honors in the Liberal Arts* or, after declaring a major, *Honors in the Major*.

The program also offers tailored academic advising, special events, and scholarships and grants just for Honors students.

No previous secondary-school Honors experience is required.

Apply after you have been admitted into L&S. All incoming L&S students may apply. The Honors in the Liberal Arts application is an online form with a few short essays; no transcripts or other documents are submitted.

honors.ls.wisc.edu

Residential Learning Communities

Live in a University Housing residence hall with its own UW course and activities—only for the students who live in the RLC—based on a theme like biology; environment & sustainability; business & entrepreneurship; multiculturalism; international cultures & languages; gender & sexuality; and arts & creativity. The Chadbourne RLC takes a wider view to explore what it means to be a liberal-arts educated person.

It's a lot of fun to learn, discuss, and study with the people you live with. These classes are taught by some of our most praised and experienced professors. RLCs also organize special events, faculty guests, field trips, and many ways for students to create their community on campus.

When you sign up for Housing (go.wisc.edu/my-housing), select your preferred RLC and choose “learning communities” as your priority for hall preferences.

housing.wisc.edu