Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies

Accelerated Degree Completion

Global Perspectives...Personal Attention...Real-World Integrative Learning Experiences

Advisor

Lorraine S. Brandenburger, M.B.A.

Degree/Concentrations

Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies

Applied Social Science for the Global Citizen Individualized Concentration Leadership Concentration

About the B.A. in Liberal Studies

Arcadia University's Liberal Studies degree is for students looking to complete their undergraduate degree and prepare for careers in a wide range of professions in industry, government, profit and non-profit organizations.

The curriculum joins together areas of study to develop your field of interest and increase your expertise. Employing an interdisciplinary course of study, integrating a liberal arts education across the social sciences, the arts and the humanities, provides students a broader awareness of the world around them and a better understanding of the human condition in contemporary society. Opportunities to choose a wide range of courses across disciplines allowing multiple modes of inquiry and approaches to knowledge engages your capacity for critical thinking skills and builds on work experiences.

Recognizing the importance of work-life balance for each student, courses are accelerated with fully online or evening option at the King of Prussia campus. Dedicated program coaches work with you to develop a flexible schedule and program plan to help you meet your career goals.

All core courses in the Liberal Studies curriculum (LB) are offered in a 7 week accelerated format. Students may select to take LB core courses (LB 200, 330, 385 and 490) as fully online or blended meeting one

evening a week at the King of Prussia campus 6-9:30pm.

Admission Requirements

Eligibility for admission is based on previous academic experience; an associate's degree (or courses completed towards) with a minimum GPA of 2.5 is required (students with a 2.00-2.49 may be reviewed for admission). Students that have not completed college-level courses may apply. Students may apply for admission for any academic semester. Students will submit an:

- Arcadia University undergraduate application
- Official transcript from each college/university (if attended)
- Official High School transcript (if fewer than 30 college credits were earned)
- SAT/ACT (if out of high school for fewer than 5 years)

Transfer and Credit Evaluation

Arcadia University will accept up to 75 credits from regionally accredited two- year institutions and up to 90 credits from regionally accredited four-year institutions.

Transfer credit is granted for college-level work completed at another accredited institution if the course content is comparable to that offered at Arcadia University or appropriate for the degree program.

Credit will not be granted for courses in which grades below "C-" are earned.

Students may be required to take a placement examination in Mathematics and/or Modern Language and/or the Arcadia University Writing Inventory for English composition. Assignment or exemption from

these courses is determined by the exams or by transfer credit.

Community College Transfer: Arcadia has core-to-core agreements with Bucks County Community College, Burlington County College, Cecil County Community College, Delaware County Community College, Montgomery County Community College and Northampton Community College

Requirements for the B.A. in Liberal Studies

A total of 120 credit hours are needed to complete the bachelor's degree and students must fulfill university curriculum requirements. At least half of the required concentration courses must be taken at Arcadia University.

Your degree program plan will define individual requirements based upon the transfer evaluation and granting of transfer credits.

The following lists all the degree requirements for a Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies:

1. Liberal Studies Core Courses (12 credits)

LB	200	Introduction to Liberal
		Studies
LB	330	Evaluating Research
LB	385	Social Theory
LB	490	Liberal Studies Capstone

- 2. Concentration courses (27-36 credits)
 Distributed over 100-300 level
- 3. Undergraduate university curriculum requirements as defined by transfer status. The requirements for transfer students depend upon the number of credits transferred. All students must complete English 101 if they do not have an equivalent course with a "B" or better. In addition, all transfer students must complete the Global Connections Experience and Reflection as well as the Senior Capstone Project. Any remaining curricular requirements are based on the number of credits accepted
- 4. Additional electives as needed to fulfill credit hours required to complete the degree

Concentration in Applied Social Science for the Global Citizen

(27-36 credits)

The concentration in Applied Social Scinece for the Global Citizen unites coursework in Anthropology, Sociology, Business, Ethics and Communications to create a unique, globally focused academic experience. Courses are distributed over the 100, 200 and 300 levels and across the disciplines.

This concentration is available fully online

Individualized Concentration

(27-36 credits)

Individualized Concentrations include social sciences (including Sociology, Anthropology, Women's Studies, Communications and Political Science), applied social sciences (including Business, Health Administration, Sociology, Anthropology and Communications), and humanities (including History, English, and Theater, Communications and Art and Design). Courses are distributed over the 100, 200 and 300 levels and across at least two disciplines.

Concentration in Leadership

(27 credits)

The concentration in Leadership offers the opportunity to study the theories and the practical skills underlying successful leadership.

Required 100 level (9 credits)

1XX Leadership Theories

1XX Leader as Coach and Mentor

1XX Dynamic Communications

Required 200 level (9 credits)

2XX Strategy Design and Implementation

2XX Diversity in Leadership

2XX Emotional Intelligence

2XX Building and Sustaining a High Performance Team

Required 300 level (9 credits)

3XX Ethics in Leadership

3XX Change Management

3XX Leading in a Global Environment

Leadership concentration courses are offered in accelerated 7 week classes either fully online or blended meeting one night a week 6:00-9:30 at King of Prussia campus.

Liberal Studies Courses (LB)

1XX

Leadership Theories

(3 credits; 7 week online and blended)

Pending Approval

Decisions today about leadership are based on long-term icons of leadership theories as researched by Hersey, Blanchard, Blake-Mouton, Fiedler, Vroom and others. The concepts of trait, behavioral and situational theories are studied and used in today's most successful organizations leading to an understanding that one static style may not fit all occasions. Students will understand the way leaders can balance their attention to people issues and task issues. They will also be introduced to the top leadership experts of today, including Blanchard, Covey, and others. Students will be able to incorporate these practices into their later classes, their work life and their personal life.

1XX

Dynamic Communications

(3 credits; 7-week online and blended)

Pending Approval

Through exercises and observations, students will learn how communication has an energy level. How we speak and how we go about encouraging others to share their thoughts, feelings and beliefs will either inspire others to take action, or will deflate others who will not take action. A main objective of any leader is to influence others toward the achievement of goals and results. Engaging others to take a path toward success is done by creating open and direct dialogue. Learning to listen actively and seeking to fully understand are two other aspects to this highly interactive course. Business writing—the ability to clearly express an idea in writing—will also be addressed.

1XX

Leader as Coach and Mentor

(3 credits: 7-week online and blended)

Pending Approval

In this course, students will look at the leader as coach and mentor. A first step in developing others is understanding what motivates their behavior, so we will look at the most respected theories of motivation put forward by Maslow, Herzberg, McClelland, McGregor, Vroom,

Adams and Skinner. Students will learn a variety of techniques for motivating others toward the achievement of their goals. They will also learn how to communicate expectations and how to give performance feedback, thereby assuring that their employees are developed to reach their highest potential and that their performance is aligned with organizational strategy. The importance of development at a system-wide level will address the succession planning needs of organizations, one of the key responsibilities of leaders – to provide their organizations with leaders to replace themselves.

200

Introduction to Liberal Studies

(3 credits; Fall; 7-week online)

This course introduces students to perspectives on and methods for understanding disciplines in the humanities and the social sciences, exploring the ways in which thinking and writing in different disciplines complement each other and provide a basis for understanding the nature of being human. Students discover the nature of learning as an open-ended process through readings, collaborative discussions, oral presentations, and written assignments. This course begins and ends with two questions: What does it mean to acquire a liberal arts education? And what is the relationship between a liberal arts education and an understanding of what it means to be human? To this end, the readings selected and the writing assignments included do not provide definitive answers to these questions but provide a forum for students to begin exploration.

2XX

Strategy Design and Implementation (3 credits; 7-week online and blended)

Pending Approval

The leader is key in inspiring an organization to develop a mission, vision and values. Students will learn the value of strategic planning; how to conduct a SWOT analysis, and how to set long range objectives. But putting a strategy into action can be more difficult, so we will also study implementing the strategy through short term objectives, action plans, and assigning resources. We will use real world examples of how to implement strategy in complex organizations.

2XX

Emotional Intelligence

(3 credits; 7-week online and blended)

Pending Approval

Daniel Goleman writes that our emotions play a much greater role in thought, decision making and individual success than is commonly acknowledged. His theory of Emotional Intelligence describes the ability or skill to identify, assess, manage and control the emotions of self, others and of groups. Traditional types of intelligence, as measured by IQ, fail to fully explain cognitive ability. We will look at the idea of multiple intelligences which includes interpersonal intelligence (the capacity to understand the intentions. motivations and desires of others) and intrapersonal intelligence (the capacity to understand oneself, to appreciate one's feelings, fears and motivations. Class participants will read Daniel Goleman's best seller Emotional Intelligence: Why It Can Matter More Than IQ. and will learn the abilitybased model and debate the validity of this concept.

2XX

Diversity in Leadership

(3 credits; 7-week online and blended) Pending Approval

The goal of this course is for students to undergo a paradigm shift in the way that diversity is viewed in today's increasingly global workforce. In order for an organization to capitalize on its employees' potential, both leaders and followers must understand and value the diversity within the organization. In this course, students will develop an increased multicultural awareness through readings and class discussions. Students will incorporate previous knowledge of Emotional Intelligence and other theories, and will explore various leadership frameworks that support diversity leadership.

2XX

Building and Sustaining a High Performance Team

(3 credits; 7-week online and blended) Pending Approval

A key to an organization's success is their leader's ability to assemble a high-performing team with complementary skills and styles; once a team is formed, clear expectations on goals and behavior must be communicated. Leaders must create environments where different styles are respected and collaboration is rewarded. What about the inevitable conflict

that will arise? We will learn how to identify and resolve conflict on a team, gaining cooperation from others and strengthening workplace relationships. Group decisionmaking will also be studied.

3XX

Change Management

(3 credits; 7-week online and blended) Pending Approval

Leaders are described as transformational, not transactional. By that very definition, they must embrace change. We will look at how leaders can initiate and sustain change; how they can lead innovation and create climates which encourage creativity in their organization, how they can create and sustain meaningful change that will position their organizations to thrive.

3XX

Leading in a Global Environment

(3 credits; 7-week online and blended) Pending Approval

Leading in a global environment requires additional competencies. A leader must be aware of and show respect for differences in culture. We will study how leaders can instill this sensitivity and adaptability throughout their organizations. How can they assure that diversity is valued? How should an organization align corporate vision and core values across localities and regions? We will also look at what's involved in managing a global, virtual team located throughout the world.

3XX

Ethics in Leadership

(3 credits; 7-week online and blended) Pending Approval

This course will focus on leaders creating a code of conduct and bringing ethics into the forefront of decision making. Regulatory compliance and following the letter of the law are required to avoid penalties, but is this all that is needed to be considered ethical? Research shows that only 36% of employees believe their leaders act with honesty and integrity. Ken Blanchard has written that leadership is more of what you don't see (character) than what you do see (skills) and that character may be as much as 80% of what is needed to be successful leading others. Students will research high trust leaders and high trust organizations; the will examine current events to determine the financial impact of high or low trust leadership on their organizations.

330

Evaluating Research

(3 credits; Fall; 7- week online)
This course examines the methodologies available for collecting information in the social sciences, such as experiments, survey research, field research, unobtrusive research and evaluative research and how these methodologies can help answer questions about society. Students learn to critically analyze published research findings through a series of structured exercises, culminating in a portfolio of written reflections.

Recommended semester prior to LB490

371

Liberal Studies Internship Experience (4 credits)

The general focus of the course is to provide a student with the opportunity to complete an internship experience or business project at his or her current employer that is connected with the student's coursework in Liberal Studies. Depending upon a student's current employment situation, he or she will have one of two options by which to complete the experiential component of this course, either through a traditional internship or a business research project. In the internship, or development of the business project, the student works with his or her supervisor to create a long-term project that must be utilized by the company, and the supervisor corresponds with the professor regarding progress and project completion. The culminating project in the course relates the internship experience or business project to the present course of study and career goals of the student.

Prerequisites: LB 200, LB 330 and junior or senior standing in the Liberal Studies major.

385

Social Theory

(3 credits;alternate years Spring/ Fall; 7-week online)

This survey of the contributions of major classical, modern and post-modern theorists, presented within their social and historic context considers the works of Marx, Weber, Durkheim, Freud, Parsons, Mead and Goffman, Habermas, Bourdieu as well as Appadurai, Butler, Hooks, Foucault, Baudrillard and Haraway and other theorists. Reviews critiques and elaborations of the theories and assesses their influences on contemporary thought in the social sciences and humanities.

490

Liberal Studies Capstone: Conversations on Being Human

(3 credits; Spring; 7-week online)
As the Capstone course for the Liberal Studies program, this course charts a number of current conversations on what exactly makes us human. Students are asked to engage with advanced material that links recent findings in the natural and social sciences with those of visual arts, literature, economics and philosophy. The main objective of the course is for students to integrate their own intellectual collegiate experience by confronting fundamental questions about the nature of humanity, and critically thinking about the current answers offered by scientists, scholars and artists.

Prerequisite: A GPA of 2.0 or higher in the major and completion of all core Liberal Studies requirements, or with permission of the Department required.