LIBERAL STUDIES, AN UNDERGRADUATE TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAM

Faculty Offices East (Bldg. 25), Room 125B  
Phone: 805.756.2935; Fax: 805.756.2967  
https://liberalstudies.calpoly.edu (https://liberalstudies.calpoly.edu/)

Department Chair: Lola Berber-Jimenez

Academic Program

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Liberal Studies is Cal Poly's pre-credential teacher preparation program. The mission of Liberal Studies is to ensure that students are prepared to teach competently and professionally each of the seven domains 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. Upon completion of this undergraduate degree, students are eligible to enter a multiple subject credential program.

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

Undergraduate Program

BS Liberal Studies

The BS Liberal Studies degree directly addresses California's need to produce more and better-trained elementary school teachers. LS graduates will be especially well prepared in the "high-need" teaching areas of science, mathematics, and reading. Students have the opportunity to earn a BS in four years including education classes that will count towards earning a credential.

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 to Speakers of Other Languages

The Multiple Subject teaching credential requires one additional year. Application to the credential program at Cal Poly is done during the last quarter of the BS degree and it is recommended that you meet all the pre-requisites two quarters before you graduate. For more information: https://soe.calpoly.edu/content/multiple-subject-program-prerequisites (https://soe.calpoly.edu/content/multiple-subject-program-prerequisites/)

LS Courses

LS 201. Orientation to Liberal Studies. 1 unit  
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  
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  
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  
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  
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 255. Children's Literature in a Diverse Society. 4 units  
2020-21 or later catalog: GE Area C2  
2019-20 or earlier: GE Area C1 or C2  
Prerequisite: Completion of GE Area A with grades of C- or better.

Culturally diverse children's literature with a focus on analysis and evaluation of literary elements and structures, critical perspectives, trends, and issues. A wide range of authors, genres and formats including folktales, fantasy, poetry, informational, historical and realistic fiction books. 4 lectures. Crosslisted as ENGL/LS 255. Fulfills GE Area C2 (GE Area C1 for students on the 2019-20 or earlier catalogs).

LS 260. Children's Literature. 4 units  
Prerequisite: Completion of GE Area A with grades of C- or better.

LS 290. Selected Topics. 1-4 units
Prerequisite: Open to undergraduate students and consent of instructor.
Directed group study of selected topics. The Class Schedule will list topic selected. Total credit limited to 8 units. 1 to 4 lectures.

LS 301. Liberal Studies Career Preparation. 1 unit
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
Prerequisite: Completion of GE Areas B1 through B4, with a grade of C- or better in one course in GE Area B4 (GE Area B1 for students on the 2019-20 or earlier catalogs).
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 Class Schedule 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
Prerequisite: Completion of GE Area A1 with a grade of C- or better (GE Area A2 for students on the 2019-20 or earlier catalogs).
Techniques for selection, preparation and presentation of traditional folktales and myths for an audience. Discussion of theatrical and storytelling techniques. 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
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
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 Class Schedule 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
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.