



DEFINING LIBERAL ARTS TODAY



AUBURN UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS



WHAT IS A LIBERAL ARTS EDUCATION?

First of all, “liberal” is not a political term. When used in academia, it means an interdisciplinary approach that aims to provide a broader spectrum of knowledge and skills. Second, a liberal arts education is more than just “art.” It helps us understand our place in the world and our relationships with each other. It introduces us to the satisfaction of informed debate, enabling our minds to pursue knowledge and understanding. It transforms us into life-long, self-motivated learners who are creative, empathetic, and open-minded.

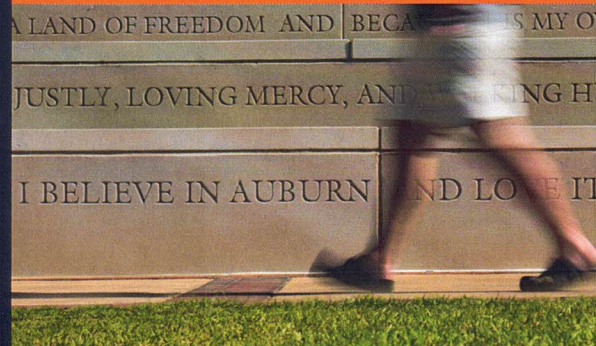
ADVANTAGES OF A LIBERAL ARTS DEGREE

A liberal arts education provides students with an intricate view of the world. It enables them to see beyond their own perspective, to respectfully debate all sides of an issue, and to appreciate other viewpoints, even if they don't agree. By taking courses in the arts, humanities, social sciences, and communications, students learn a variety of desired skills such as critical thinking, verbal and written communication, and problem-solving. In fact, the National Association of Colleges and Employers annual survey finds employers consistently report that an applicant's major does not matter as much as the skills he/she can contribute. The skills atop this list include leadership skills, ability to work as a team member, and oral communication skills. With an ability to read materials closely, analyze problems, apply systematic approaches to solve those problems, and communicate solutions to others, it's no surprise that liberal arts graduates are highly sought after in the job market.

How many students know exactly what they want to do for the rest of their lives? Probably very few. A liberal arts degree not only prepares graduates for their first job, but also their fifth, sixth, or seventh. It prepares them for jobs that may not even exist yet. Employers today recognize technical skills can be learned on the job. It's the soft skills that are difficult to teach. Employers are now looking for core skills like writing, speaking, the ability to learn and to work in a team, and to look at things from a global perspective. A successful career requires continually honing our skills and developing new abilities, many times in areas that aren't our forte. A liberal arts degree provides the tools for learning more effectively, creating new ideas, and adapting to changes throughout life.

MAJORS

- > Anthropology
- > Art
- > Art History
- > Art - Studio/Fine Art
- > Aviation Management
- > Aviation - Professional Flight
- > Communication
- > Economics - Primary Track
- > Economics - Quantitative Track
- > English - Creative Writing
- > English - Literature
- > English - Professional & Public Writing
- > French
- > French International Trade
- > German
- > German International Trade
- > Health Services Administration
- > History
- > Interdisciplinary Studies
- > International Studies
- > Journalism
- > Journalism - Sports Production
- > Law & Justice
- > Media Studies
- > Media Studies - Visual Media Option
- > Music
- > Music - Commercial Music
- > Music - Composition & Technology
- > Music Performance - Instrumental
- > Music Performance - Piano
- > Music Performance - Voice
- > Neuroscience
- > Philosophy
- > Political Science
- > Psychology
- > Public Administration
- > Public Relations
- > Social Work
- > Sociology
- > Spanish
- > Spanish International Trade
- > Speech, Language & Hearing Sciences
- > Theatre
- > Theatre - Design/Technology
- > Theatre - Management
- > Theatre - Music Theatre
- > Theatre Performance




MINORS

- > Africana Studies
- > Anthropology
- > Art History
- > Art - Studio Art
- > Asian Studies
- > Aviation Management
- > Aviation - Professional Flight
- > Classics
- > Communication
- > Dance
- > Economics
- > English
- > English - Creative Writing
- > English - Technical & Professional Communication
- > French
- > French Linguistics
- > German
- > German Linguistics
- > Global Cultures
- > History
- > Information & Cyber Analysis
- > Intercultural Communication
- > Italian Studies
- > Journalism
- > Latin American Studies
- > Leadership
- > Linguistics
- > Media Studies
- > Medieval & Renaissance Early Modern Studies
- > Music
- > Philosophy
- > Philosophy & Religion
- > Political Science
- > Psychology
- > Public Administration
- > Public Relations
- > Social Work
- > Sociology
- > Spanish
- > Spanish Linguistics
- > Sports Communication
- > Sustainability
- > Theatre
- > Women's & Gender Studies

UNDERGRADUATE CERTIFICATES

- > Leadership for a Global Society
- > Liberal Arts Research
- > Mediterranean Studies

47 
Number of undergraduate majors offered by the College of Liberal Arts

WHY PURSUE A LIBERAL ARTS DEGREE AT AUBURN UNIVERSITY?

You know the benefits of a liberal arts degree, but why should you study at Auburn's College of Liberal Arts (CLA@AU)? There is a multitude of reasons.

CLA's excellent **student-faculty ratio of 10:1** allows students to receive personalized attention. In addition, we offer small core classes for CLA majors exclusively. With an average class size of 25, students are more engaged and can participate in meaningful dialogues and exchanges, which are not typical of large lecture hall courses.



Preparing our students for career success is a priority. CLA requires most students to take the course **LBAR 2010: Career Preparation**. Students are taught how to write a cover letter and résumé, craft a personal statement, complete an employment application, and interview for a job. By participating in the **CLA Career Communities**, students can interact with alumni, attend career workshops and networking events, and receive information about internships and job opportunities.

We recognize students have a variety of interests and because of this we are adding **new interdisciplinary programs**. Current offerings include neuroscience, law and justice, interdisciplinary studies, and international trade. Several others are in the works.

Students are given the opportunity to enhance their college experience by easily **adding a minor** like global cultures, leadership, communication, English, economics, or a foreign language.

We offer **high impact experiences outside the classroom** that employers find desirable in applicants. There are a number of study abroad and exchange programs led by CLA faculty, and we encourage all CLA students to complete at least one internship during their time regardless of their major. The CLA Office of Career Services assists students with internship placement.

CLA@AU has a track record of success. In a recent survey of CLA seniors, **two thirds reported having located employment or being accepted to graduate school prior to graduation**. Of those that obtained jobs, 80% stated their starting salary would be \$40,000–\$50,000. **CLA graduates are employed at leading companies such as Google, The Walt Disney Studios, ESPN, Turner Broadcasting, Wells Fargo, Amazon, Facebook, and Delta**. Graduates have been accepted into graduate programs at prestigious institutions like Harvard University and University of Cambridge (UK). CLA alumni have started well-known businesses like Chicken Salad Chick, TLish, and Melt. Notable CLA graduates include Academy-Award winner Octavia Spencer (English), CNN entertainment reporter Chloe Melas (radio, tv and film), and NFL quarterback Cam Newton (sociology).

CLA@AU feels like a **small traditional liberal arts college but with the benefits of a large university**. Because of greater resources than some smaller institutions, students can choose from more than 500 student organizations, participate in a variety of sports or fitness activities, and utilize academic support services like The Miller Writing Center. In addition, CLA awards over \$950,000 in scholarships to students each year, including support for internships, study abroad, and undergraduate research. And of course, there's SEC football!

 **\$950,000**
SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED IN COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

Liberal arts graduates are well suited for career success in today's job market. Why? The world is much different than it was 30, 15, or even 5 years ago. Today's technology, the economy, and a broader global perspective have made the skills gained from a liberal arts degree more essential than ever before. Rapidly changing technology is moving our society forward at a faster pace, and what is considered "practical" education now is more likely to become obsolete sooner. A liberal arts education prepares students for these changes better than any other by focusing on critical thinking, writing skills, and effective communication.



DID YOU KNOW?

One-third of all Fortune 500 CEOs have liberal arts degrees.

More than 93% of employers say that a demonstrated capacity to think critically, communicate clearly and solve complex problems is more important than one's major.¹

According to employers, the most important college learning outcomes are oral communication, critical thinking, ethical judgment and working effectively in teams.¹

Graduates of liberal arts programs are 25–35% more likely to view their professional and family lives as meaningful.²

PayScale data says a liberal arts graduate's starting salary (depending on major) is between \$39,000 and \$44,000 in the first five years. In just 10 years after graduation, these same graduates are earning almost double, between \$60,000 and \$82,000. And guess what the highest earning liberal arts major is in 10 years — philosophy!

¹Source: Hart Research Associates

²Source: www.insidehighered.com

Auburn University is an equal opportunity educational institution/employer.



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**For more information or to schedule a tour,
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College of Liberal Arts

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