The College of Liberal Arts provides students with the foundation for a liberal education, preparing graduates to think independently, to choose freely, to base personal and professional decisions on a broad understanding of history and culture, and to live full, rewarding lives. Recognizing the central importance of liberal education, the university requires that more than fifty percent of the general education core curriculum be taken in the College of Liberal Arts, and students increasingly declare majors or minors in one of the college's nine departments or special programs.

The College of Liberal Arts offers the Bachelor of Arts in each of its nine departments: Anthropology, English, Geography, History, Philosophy, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology, and World Languages and Literatures. The Bachelor of Science is awarded in Anthropology, Geography, Psychology, and Sociology. The college also offers two special degrees: The Bachelor of Arts in International Studies (B.A.I.S.), and the Bachelor of Public Administration (B.P.A.). The college houses nineteen interdisciplinary minors: African American Studies, Aging and the Life Course, Diversity Studies, Environmental Studies, Forensic Psychology, International Studies, Latina/o Studies, Media Studies, Medical Humanities, Medieval and Renaissance Studies, Nature and Heritage Tourism, Peace and Social Justice Studies, Religious Studies, Southwestern Studies, Sport Psychology, Studies in Popular Culture, Sustainability Studies, Value Studies, and Women's Studies. The college provides education not only in the traditional humanities but also in the practical application of the humanities to professional careers.

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