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.

Students are encouraged to schedule an appointment with an advisor at least once per academic year; however, academic advisors are available year-round and offer flexible options to meet students' advising needs. In addition to individual advising sessions, drop-in advising is offered during times of peak registration, and a number of helpful advising resources can be found on the College of Liberal Arts Advising Center website.