

BA Degree in Liberal Studies

The Hutchins School of Liberal Studies is an interdisciplinary school within Sonoma State University offering lower-division students an alternative General Education program, and upper division students a major in Liberal Studies leading to a BA degree. The School also offers a four year Blended program leading to a BA and a multiple subject teaching credential. A minor in Integrative Studies is also offered. For more information, please see the Hutchins website at www.sonoma.edu/Hutchins.

A nationally recognized leader in the movement for reform in higher education, the Hutchins School has maintained its commitment to innovative pedagogy and interdisciplinary inquiry into vital issues of modern concern since its inception in 1969. A key feature of the program is the small seminar in which students take responsibility as active participants in the learning process. The program is designed to encourage students to take themselves seriously as readers, writers, and thinkers capable of continuing their own educational process throughout their lives.

Hutchins Fulfills General Education Requirements

The Hutchins School offers a unique approach to the lower-division GE requirements. Completion of four 12-unit interdisciplinary seminars plus GE math fulfills all lower division general education requirements. Seminars as a rule have no more than 14 students and require a high-degree of student participation. Students ordinarily begin as first-semester freshmen, but occasionally may be allowed to enter at a later point on a space-available basis. Completed units may be transferred at the end of any semester. Grading in the Lower Division is done on a Credit/No Credit basis and includes an extensive written evaluation of student achievement and participation.

Hutchins Upper Division Major Program

Students may transfer into Hutchins School at the junior or senior class level. Hutchins offers a distinctive interdisciplinary 40 unit major in Liberal Studies consisting of two programs of study, each of which culminates in the presentation and assessment of the student's Portfolio in a Senior Synthesis course.

Track I: Interdisciplinary Studies consists of three required courses, four core seminars, elective seminars and independent study. To better prepare for the world of work, students are also required to incorporate internship/field Experience in their programs of study.

Track II: Subject Matter Preparation Program for Elementary Teaching Credential also consists of three required courses, four core seminars, and elective seminars. Additionally students must do a set of pre-credential courses and concentration courses. Followed by an additional year of professional training courses in the School of Education, this plan leads to the elementary teaching credential.

Hutchins Four Year Blended Program (B.A. plus Multiple Subject Teaching Credential)

In collaboration with the School of Education, Hutchins offers a Blended program (Track III) that allows students to complete a B.A. in Liberal Studies and to fulfill requirements for a Multiple Subject Teaching Credential in four years. This program combines the Hutchins General Education program with the Track II program described above and allows student to begin taking courses in the School of Education during their junior year. In addition, students will have an opportunity to integrate their academic and professional training beginning in the first semester of their freshman year. Students admitted to this program must meet higher admissions criteria and be able to take 17 to 18 units per semester.

Career Alternatives

Through flexible requirements, Independent Studies, Internships, and Study Abroad, the Hutchins School also provides effective preparation for a wide variety of careers in which creativity, independent thinking, and effective communication are the prime requisites. Hutchins School graduates do especially well in teaching, counseling, social services, law, media, journalism, and many types of business. They have entered graduate programs in fields as diverse as American studies, anthropology, counseling, English, history, law, library science, management, medieval studies, physics, religion, sociology, and theatre arts.

Interdisciplinary General Education Program

The lower division program of the Hutchins School fulfills, with the exception of mathematics, all the Sonoma State University lower-division General Education requirements. The program consists of four interdisciplinary seminars of 12 units each (LIBS 101; 102; 201; and 202, described below).

Each of these seminars is made up of 14 students and a single instructor. Learning proceeds by a process of reading, writing, and discussion in which all students are urged to take an active part. Students also meet together in a weekly symposium for field trips, guest lectures, and hands-on projects. Students may also take additional electives and pre-major course in other SSU departments while completing the Hutchins General Education program. In order to be accepted into the program, students must have a passing score on the EPT, or be EAP exempt.

Lower Division Courses

LIBS 101 The Human Enigma (12 units in Fall)

Drawing on materials about small-scale societies, ancient Greek culture, and contemporary civilization, this course concentrates, within a comparative framework, on the development of cultural values, the concept of human nature, the growth of self-awareness, and the emergence of scientific and abstract thought.

LIBS 102 In Search of Self (12 units in Spring)

This course focuses on the individual, exploring how personal history, unconscious processes, and political and historical environments shape the concept of self. This course develops a fuller understanding of these influences through scientific investigation, historical exploration and creative expression, employing materials drawn from biology, psychology, sociology, literature, history, politics, and the arts.

LIBS 201 Exploring the Unknown (12 units in Fall)

This course is an investigation of the meaning and limits of knowledge with respect to the nature of the mind and physical reality. These issues are pursued through several different but interrelated fields of study including literature, art, philosophy, comparative religions, and science. The course considers Newtonian and quantum mechanical theories of physical reality, the religions of varied cultures, and the functions of myth and religious language. The term concludes with a section focusing on the nature of human creativity.

LIBS 202 Challenge and Response in the Modern World (12 units in Spring)

An examination of modern accomplishments and problems that have derived from several sources: the 18th century mechanical models, the Scientific and Industrial Revolutions, and the rise of modern economic theories. Asking how it is possible in the 20th Century to live a moral life, the course examines the rise of individualism, the tension between personal and social values, the problems of poverty and the distribution of wealth, and the multiple consequences of modern technology. Also included is a major project addressing environmental issues.

Completion of four semesters in lower division program fulfills laboratory, ethnic studies and statutory requirements for U.S. History, Constitution, and California State and Local Government.

Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies

Upper Division

Options for the bachelor's degree include: **Track I**, the flexible Liberal Studies major plan; and **Track II**, the Teaching Pre-Credential Program, and **Track III**, the Blended Program leading to a BA and a teaching credential. The general pattern for the major in both tracks is as follows:

During their first semester in the upper division, all transfer students are required to take LIBS 302, Introduction to Liberal Studies. In this course, students work on the skills required in the major, develop their own learning plans, and begin the Portfolio, a document the student expands throughout the upper division and brings to a close in LIBS 402: Senior Synthesis. LIBS 302 is a prerequisite for all upper division Hutchins courses. Students continuing from Hutchins lower division, however, are exempt from LIBS 302. One of these courses may be taken in conjunction with LIBS 302: LIBS 304 We Hold These Truths or LIBS 308 The Practice of Culture.

LIBS 304 and LIBS 308 are key courses designed to involve students in a discussion and critique of some of our most fundamental beliefs and values, viewed in a worldwide context. Building on the foundations laid in the Key Courses, the student chooses at least one additional course from each of four Core Areas, as follows:

- Core I (A) Society and Self
- Core II (B) The Individual and the Material World
- Core III (C) The Arts and Human Experience
- Core IV (D) Consciousness and Reality

A current list of courses offered in each Area is available in the office on the Hutchins website at www.sonoma.edu/hutchins/pages/academic and select Course Descriptions.

The remainder of the forty units required in the major may be earned through elective seminars, workshops, and independent study in the Hutchins School. The student may select these courses on the basis of interest in the topic, or may use them to develop a specific area of emphasis within the Major.

Track I: Liberal Studies Major Plan

In addition to the above courses, **Track I** students will work toward the development of an individualized study plan. Incorporating elective seminars, workshops, independent and directed studies, internships and study away experiences to develop a specific area of emphasis within the major; the study plan may also include such activities as participation in Hutchins student community projects, research experiences through the Hutchins Institute, preparation and instruction of student-taught courses, involvement in social and community action projects, and tutorial work on writing and seminarizing within the Hutchins community.

Track II: Teaching Pre-Credential Preparation Plan

The Hutchins School offers a state-approved Multiple Subject Preparation Program for students intending to earn a California Elementary Teaching Credential or an Early Childhood Emphasis Credential. The BA pre-credential option ensures interdisciplinary subject matter proficiency as well as possession of the high-level analytic, synthetic, creative, and expressive academic skills required of future educators. Completion of the pre-credential liberal studies option is excellent preparation for entering a graduate-level Credential Program, either in the School of Education at SSU or elsewhere, for the professional training required for a California teaching credential.

Questions about admissions requirements for the Credential Program should be directed to the School of Education at Sonoma State University, 664-2832.

Track III: Blended Program

This program combines the lower-division general education program, the pre-credential program (Track II) described above, and graduate courses in the School of Education, allowing students to complete a BA degree in Liberal Studies plus a Multiple Subject Teaching Credential in four years. A unique feature of the Blended Program is two lower-division seminars (EDMS100 and EDMS200) that are taught by faculty from the School of Education and involve student observation in the classroom beginning in the first semester of the freshman year. The curriculum is carefully designed to help students articulate connections between the academic curriculum in the general education program and their own professional goals. For more information on this program, please contact the Blended Program Advisor, Donna Garbesi, at (707) 664-2492.

HUTCHINS SCHOOL OF LIBERAL STUDIES

Interdisciplinary General Education Program

The lower division program of the Hutchins School fulfills, with the exception of mathematics, all the Sonoma State University lower-division General Education requirements. The program consists of four interdisciplinary seminars of 12 units each (LIBS 101; 102A and B; 201; and 202, described below).

Each of these seminars is made up of 14 students and a single instructor. Learning proceeds by a process of reading, writing, and discussion in which all students are urged to take an active part.

Lower Division Courses

LIBS 101 The Human Enigma (12 units in Fall)

Drawing of materials about small-scale societies, ancient Greek culture, and contemporary civilization, this course concentrates, within a comparative framework, on the development of cultural values, the concept of human nature, the growth of self-awareness, and the emergence of scientific and abstract thought.

LIBS 102A In Search of Self (8 units in Spring)

Focuses on the individual, exploring how social environment, personal history and unconscious processes influence our perceptions and actions. This course develops a fuller understanding of these processes through scientific investigation and creative expression, employing materials drawn from biology, psychology, sociology, literature, and the arts.

LIBS 102B The American Experience (4 units in Spring)

An examination of the major historical, political, social and economic components of the American Experience. Satisfies the state code requirement in US History, US Constitution, and California State and Local Government.

LIBS 201 Exploring the Unknown (12 units in Fall)

An investigation of the meaning and limits of knowledge with respect to the nature of the mind and physical reality. These issues are pursued through several different but interrelated fields of study including literature, art, philosophy, comparative religions, and science. The course considers Newtonian and quantum mechanical theories of physical reality, the religions of varied cultures, and the functions of myth and religious language. The term concludes with a section focusing on the nature of human creativity.

LIBS 202A Challenge and Response in the Modern World (12 units in Spring)

An examination of modern accomplishments and problems that have derived from several sources: the 18th century mechanical models, the Scientific and Industrial Revolutions, and the rise of modern economic theories. Asking how it is possible in the 20th Century to live a moral life, the course examines the rise of individualism, the tension between personal and social values, the problems of poverty and the distribution of wealth, and the multiple consequences of modern technology. Also included is a major project addressing environmental issues.

Laboratory requirement fulfilled by completion of four semesters in lower division program.