

Hutchins School of Liberal Studies

Track I Major

Effective Fall 1999

Revised 4/7/05

Introducing the Hutchins Track I Program

A nationally recognized leader in the movement for reform in higher education, the Hutchins School of Liberal Studies has maintained its commitment to innovative pedagogy and interdisciplinary inquiry into vital issues of modern concern since its inception in 1969. Acting under the premise that the life of the mind should inform and be informed by the life of the community, the Hutchins Track I program offers you an opportunity which is all too often absent in current educational discourse. As a Hutchins student, you are urged to identify issues and ideas of importance – real importance – to yourself and to others. You are given a chance to pursue these issues and ideas, research them, study them in depth and breadth, and consider how they speak – socially, politically, economically, ethically – to the communities and the larger worlds in which you live. Socrates said that the unexamined life is not worth living, an idea which proved too subversive for his fellow citizens; trusting that this is no longer the case, we invite you to examine your life and your world through the Hutchins Track I program.

BA in Liberal Studies

This program is designed for students seeking a broad liberal arts education. It is especially valuable for those who desire to explore intellectual interests for their own sake, or as the foundation for graduate work and careers in a variety of fields (e.g., community and public service, business, law, non-profit organizations, health administration, the arts, sciences, education, etc.).

Upon successful completion of the Hutchins School's interdisciplinary studies major (Track I) you will receive a Bachelor of Arts degree in Liberal Studies. While completing requirements for the BA in Liberal Studies, you may pursue an emphasis, which will help focus coursework into a particular supporting area. The emphasis might lead to more narrowly defined graduate study, specific career and vocational goals, or an in-depth understanding of another field of knowledge.

Students entering Sonoma State University as freshmen will, on average, require four years to complete this major. Transfer students with 60-70 university credits (from another major within Sonoma State University, from another four-year institution, or from a junior college) who select this major can complete the program in two years by taking 15-17 units each semester.

Overview of Requirements

Major Requirements: Students enrolled in the Hutchins Track I – Interdisciplinary Studies major must complete 40 units of upper division Liberal Studies coursework. Specific course requirements are listed below, but within the major students may also pursue either a broad range of study or a defined area of *emphasis*, selected with the help of a Hutchins advisor, and centering upon specific academic disciplines, areas of interest, fields of study, and/or social/scientific/artistic issues. The development of an *emphasis* might include elective seminars, workshops, independent and directed studies, internships and study away experiences. Up to 9 units of advisor-approved *emphasis* courses may be taken outside the Hutchins School of Liberal Studies (Study Abroad students may include advisor approved 12 units from their program in the Hutchins major).

SSU Requirements: Students enrolled in the Hutchins Track I – Interdisciplinary Studies major must take at least 9 units of upper division General Education courses distributed over a minimum of two areas of the GE program. *Your LIBS Core D course can be applied to GE Area E, thus you must take 6 units of upper division*

GE in addition to your Core D, and only one of these courses may be in Area E. Generally, you will complete these 6 units outside the major, but if you take two Core D courses, you must take 3 units of upper division GE outside the major, and the course must be outside area E. 120 total units of university credits are required for graduation.

Advising: Before selecting courses for the major, all students must consult with a Hutchins advisor, usually the student's LIBS 302 instructor. Students continuing from the Lower Division should consult with the Track I coordinator. Liberal Studies majors should meet with a Hutchins advisor at least once each semester.

How to Fill In Hutchins Major Form (HMF) and Worksheets:

The following KEYS are designed as a line-by-line explanation of all requirements.

KEY I	Hutchins Major Form
KEY II	Emphasis Form
KEY III	Graduation Procedures and Requirements Form

Read the **Keys** carefully. At the end of each semester, fill in completed courses and grades on the appropriate lines of the appropriate forms.

KEY I Hutchins Major Form (HMF)
Fill in your courses as you complete them.

Student Information Box

Complete all information requested.

Area of Emphasis: After receiving advisor approval, specify your area of emphasis. Students not choosing an area of emphasis, write in "no emphasis."

Grades: All courses for the major must be taken for a Letter Grade unless offered CR/NC only. You must receive a "C" or higher in LIBS 302, and a "C-" or higher in all other courses taken for a Letter Grade.

Seminar Requirement: The educational philosophy of the Hutchins School of Liberal Studies emphasizes the small collaborative environment of the seminar. Limited to 14 students, the seminar fosters students in their ability to participate actively in discussion and in their learning. *Students must complete at least four seminars* (12 units); LIBS 302 counts as a seminar. All 320 courses are seminars. 321 courses are not. On the HMF place an X under the column Seminar for a minimum of 4 LIBS seminars (including LIBS 302).

Course Information Box

1. *LIBS 302 Introduction to Liberal Studies:* This course is taken in your first semester in the Major, together with LIBS 304 or 308. Except for LIBS 304 or 308, no other LIBS seminars may be taken until LIBS 302 has been successfully completed with a "C" or higher grade. LIBS 302 may be taken only once. *Students who have completed the Hutchins Lower Division do not take LIBS 302, and make up the 3 units with LIBS electives.*
2. *LIBS 304 We hold These Truths:* Fall Semester only.
3. *LIBS 308 The Practice of Culture:* Spring Semester only.

4. 4– 7. *LIBS Core Area Courses*: There are 4 Core Areas in the Major

Core Area A: Society and Self

Core Area B: The Individual and Material World

Core Area C: Human Experience and the Arts

Core Area D: Consciousness and Reality.

A variety of courses are offered in each of these categories every semester. *Take one course in each of the 4 Core Areas.* Each semester the Hutchins Schedule of Classes handout lists all courses (320s & 321s), which fulfill Core Areas. See detailed description of core areas and course descriptions offered during the current semester at:

http://www.sonoma.edu/Hutchins/pages/academic/course_descriptions.htm. It is recommended that you complete 3 Core Areas before your final semester. Additional Core Area courses may be taken as electives and used to fill lines #10-14.

8. *LIBS 310/315/410/415 Independent or Directed Study*: Every student is required to engage in at least one Independent or Directed Study project (The Guidelines for Independent Studies are available from the Hutchins Office). Such work can serve as preparation for Field Study, Study Away or Internship, or for the projects suggested in LIBS 305. These can also help to clarify an area of emphasis.
9. *Field Study 396, Study Away 397 or Internship 499*: You are required to take at least 3 units in this category (which may be broken up into projects of 1-4 units). LIBS 395 CIP cannot be used to fill line 10. This requirement allows students to receive credit for experiences as diverse as: a period of travel and formal study in a foreign country; an independent project in a nearby city; an internship in a local school, business, or social service agency; or substantial involvement in some other department or program on this or some other campus. The Field Study, Study Away or Internship (designed in collaboration with a faculty advisor) may be preceded by a semester of Independent or Directed study related to the expected activities. Whether close at hand or far away, this experience should help students relate educational experiences to the larger world, and such explorations can often lead to expanded career options.
- 11 – 14. *Student Choice Liberal Studies*: In order to reach the 40 unit major requirement for graduation, students take additional LIBS courses selected to fill educational gaps and enrich the academic experience. These courses should be chosen carefully, and might serve as the basis for an area of emphasis (described elsewhere). Up to 9 units of coursework from other departments may be counted towards the Liberal Studies Track I Interdisciplinary Studies major, if it is justified by the nature of the Hutchins emphasis and approved by your advisor. *Exceptions: LIBS 395 CIP does NOT count for the major, but either University 301 “The Holocaust Lecture Series” or Social Science 305 “War and Peace Lecture Series” may be taken as LIBS student choices.*
15. *LIBS 402 Senior Synthesis*: This capstone course emphasizes your Portfolio, and must be taken in the semester in which a student graduates. Application to graduate must be filed. See Key III Graduation Procedures and Requirements.

Key II Area of Emphasis Form – Fill in your courses as you complete them.

Students in the Hutchins School are in no way required to choose an area of emphasis. Indeed, the very nature of the program is such that many students choose to range far and wide as they explore the possibilities of a liberal education. Yet for others, the interdisciplinary work of the Hutchins School lends itself to a more focused and defined area of personal investigation. A particular course or workshop or event may spark a life-long interest in and passion for a particular endeavor. Sometimes a student may come to realize how a question or issue can be addressed from a variety of perspectives, and will choose to pursue that question or issue through independent means. Frequently students' intellectual and career/life interests allow them to connect, directly or indirectly, with fellow students, teachers, authors and artists, professionals, and members of the community with like minds. In these cases and many more, an area of emphasis might be the best or most valuable approach to achieving your goals and becoming learned in a chosen arena. The purpose of the area of emphasis is to become part of a dialogue, to enter into a conversation between yourself and your chosen focus. Your participation may come through the selection of coursework within the Hutchins School, within the context of a workshop or Forum meeting, or as a result of off-campus fieldwork or internships. In selecting an area of emphasis you are choosing to take control of your SSU education and your future. Through the questions you pose, the courses you take, the projects you pursue, and the activities you initiate, your emphasis can empower you in a practical way after you graduate.

Student Information and List of Emphasis Courses

- Title: Consult with your advisor on how you wish your area of emphasis to be designated.
- Signatures: Courses outside of the Hutchins School must be authorized by your advisor prior to your taking the course to be counted towards an area of emphasis.
- Fill in the course numbers and titles, units, semester, and grades for the emphasis. Up to 9 units may come from outside the major.
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Note: The emphasis is intended in part to facilitate completion of a minor or second major. Depending on how many units you need to complete the SSU graduation requirement of 120 units, you may want to extend your emphasis into a minor or a second major in another department. In either of these cases, you should consult the SSU Catalog and speak with an advisor from the relevant department to insure completion of all requirements. Because the Track I Interdisciplinary Studies major is an individualized program, there is no single way to develop an emphasis.

Key III Graduation Procedures and Requirements

Tests: The **WEPT** must be taken before receiving Senior Status.

Filing for Graduation

Check University schedule for date to apply for graduation *in the semester before you intend to graduate*. Obtain the Graduation Contract Packet in the Hutchins Office and:

1. Copy your Hutchins Major Form (HMF) onto the university Major Requirements Form (triplicate form). *Do NOT include any courses from outside the major except approved emphasis courses.*
2. See your Hutchins Advisor for review and signature.
3. For Department Chair signature, place in the mailbox of the Hutchins Director (faculty mailbox highlighted in blue) in Carson Hall, 44.

Graduation Requirements

Minimum 120 units. GPA of 2.0 or higher overall. The university Major Requirements Form will be returned to you by the Admissions and Records evaluator and will indicate if all university and major requirements have been met.