

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. A minor in Integrative Studies is also offered.

A nationally recognized leader in the movement for reform in higher education, the Hutchins School has maintained its commitment to high-quality Liberal Arts and Sciences education since its inception in 1969. All features of the program are 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 13 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: Liberal Studies Major Plan consists of three required courses, four core seminars, elective seminars and directed 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: Multiple-Subject Pre-Credential Plan also consists of three required courses, four core seminars, elective seminars. Additionally students must do a set of pre-credential courses and subject concentration courses. When followed by professional training courses in the School of Education, leads to the elementary teaching credential.

Career Alternatives

The Hutchins approach provides effective preparation for a wide variety of careers in which creative, 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 13 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 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)

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 state requirements for U.S. History and Politics.

Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies

Upper Division

Options for the bachelor's degree include: **Track I**, the general Liberal Studies major plan (code #49015); and **Track II**, the Teaching Credential Preparation Plan (code #49012). 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.

Also, in each of their first two semesters, students will take a key course designed to involve them in a discussions 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

Hutchins' upper-division seminars are classified in one of these Areas. A current list of courses offered in each Area is available in the office of the Hutchins School.

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 (code #49015)

In addition to the above courses, **Track I** students will work toward the development of an individualized study plan as part of their participation in LIBS 305, the Hutchins Forum. 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 Center for Interdisciplinary Learning, preparation and instruction of student-initiated courses, presentation of topics to the Hutchins Forum, involvement in social and community action projects, and tutorial work on writing and seminarizing within the Hutchins community.

Track II: Teaching Credential Preparation Plan (code #49012)

The Hutchins School offers a State-approved Multiple Subject Waiver 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 waives the need to take the Multiple Subject Assessment for Teachers examination (MSAT), and 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. You may call Teresa Tope at 664-2131 (Stevenson Hall 3021).

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HUTCHINS SCHOOL OF LIBERAL STUDIES

Interdisciplinary General Education Program

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Each of these seminars is made up of 13 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.