The College of Letters & Science (L&S) is a special place to be a Badger. This is your home at UW–Madison for academic discovery; personal growth and professional development. You are part of a community that includes more than 60 majors, from the natural sciences to social sciences and the humanities. Your new L&S friends and peers come from dozens of countries, all fifty states and every county in Wisconsin.

No matter what major you choose to study, your L&S degree helps you develop critical thinking, communication and leadership skills that prepare you for success in any field.

Your courses will encourage you to explore a wide range of interests beyond your major, sharing ideas with people from different backgrounds and perspectives. Through research opportunities, internships, international experiences and other programs, you have options to forge a path unique to your own skills and interests.

With so many possibilities ahead, how do you take your first steps or decide which paths to take? At SOAR, you will be encouraged to participate in experiences such as First-year Interest Groups (FIGs), Residential Learning Communities or other first-year seminars that help you connect with faculty and peers around common academic interests. L&S instructors, advisors and staff are here to help you navigate each step with confidence and make the most of your college experience at UW–Madison.

We’re so excited to welcome you to the College of Letters & Science!
A liberal arts education provides a college experience that is rich in discovery, exploration, personal growth and new ideas. You’ll be able to delve into a broad range of subjects beyond your major. When you graduate, you aren’t narrowly prepared for one career or field—you’ve developed writing, presentation and analytical skills that are needed to succeed in a wide array of careers and graduate studies. You’ve been exposed to the scientific method as well as literary analysis. A chemistry major, for example, will also graduate with knowledge of a language, history, social sciences, the arts and more.

Making Your Liberal Arts Education Unique to You

As an L&S student, you have both an opportunity and a responsibility to maximize the value of your liberal arts education by making it unique to you and your goals. Most majors in L&S require between 30 and 40 credits, meaning they take up about one-third of your entire 120-credit degree. Another 30–40 credits will go toward completing your General Education and Breadth requirements (see Degree Requirements on page 5 for more information). These requirements will allow you to explore the breadth of study in the liberal arts and also complement that breadth with the in-depth study required of a major. This also means that L&S students with one major will typically have 30–40 credits to explore and study a multitude of subjects.

What will you do with this opportunity? Will you complete a second major in a subject that has always interested you? Will you complete a certificate in order to fine-tune your skills and knowledge? Or will you decide to further prepare for graduate or professional school?

Because L&S has more than 60 majors and dozens of certificate programs from which you can choose, the possibilities are endless. It all starts with asking questions about your interests, goals and values. What questions do you hope to address and explore, and why? The conversation starts today!

Majors and Certificates

Majors span a range of areas of study in the humanities, social sciences, and sciences. In some cases, a major may encompass different breadth areas, combining social sciences and humanities, for example.

In addition to the Bachelor of Arts (BA) and Bachelor of Science (BS) degrees available in L&S, the college also offers a few specialized degree programs which often have additional admission requirements and additional requirements to complete the major.

A wide array of certificate programs is also available for students who have special interests in diverse topics. Certificates generally require 15–18 credits to complete and are similar to what other universities commonly call “minors.”

You can visit guide.wisc.edu to start exploring your major, degree and certificate options.
L&S MAJORS (guide.wisc.edu)

African Cultural Studies
Afro-American Studies
Anthropology
*Applied Mathematics, Engineering, & Physics
Art History
Asian Languages and Cultures
Astronomy-Physics
Atmospheric & Oceanic Sciences
Biochemistry
Biology
Botany
Cartography & Geographic Information Systems
Chemistry
Chinese
Classical Humanities
Classics
Communication Arts
Communication Sciences & Disorders
Computer Sciences
Conservation Biology
Data Science
Economics
English
Environmental Sciences
Environmental Studies
French
Gender & Women’s Studies
Geography
Geology & Geophysics
German
History
Individual Major
Information Sciences
International Studies
Italian
Japanese
Jewish Studies
*Journalism
*Landscape Architecture
Landscape and Urban Studies
Latin American, Caribbean, & Iberian Studies
Latin
Legal Studies
Linguistics
Mathematics
Microbiology
Molecular and Cell Biology
Music
Music: Education
Music: Performance
Neurobiology
Philosophy
Physics
Polish
Political Science
Portuguese
Psychology
Religious Studies
Russian
Scandinavian Studies
Social Welfare
*Social Work
Sociology
Spanish
Statistics
Zoology
*specialized degree programs
Advising Services

Academic Advising Services (AAS)
608-262-5858
advisingaas@ls.wisc.edu
101 Ingraham Hall, 1155 Observatory Drive
advising.ls.wisc.edu/appointments
Drop in advising: advising.ls.wisc.edu/drop_in

We advise students across all L&S majors and disciplines, especially students who have not yet declared an L&S major.

Once a student declares a major, the advisor in that major’s department will become the student’s primary academic advising connection as they complete their undergraduate education.

We strive to create an open, respectful and supportive environment for students of all abilities, citizenships, genders, races/ethnicities, religions, sexual orientations and socioeconomic statuses. We believe in preparing students to live, work and engage in a global and diverse community.

We are knowledgeable about all 60+ L&S majors and we work with major advisors to ensure a seamless transition when you declare your major. We are also an information resource for many common questions that you may have.

Conveniently located in the heart of campus in Ingraham Hall, we offer advising by appointment and also welcome drop-ins. We look forward to working with you!

Note: Students exploring majors across colleges may be best served by the Cross-College Advising Service (CCAS); students in the L&S Honors Program will be assigned to Honors advising.

Center for Academic Excellence (CAE)
608-263-5068
cae@saa.ls.wisc.edu
B47 Bascom Hall, 500 Lincoln Drive
cae.ls.wisc.edu

For students admitted to UW-Madison as CAE Scholars

We provide an inclusive community and academic support for L&S students who have been historically underrepresented in higher education, including first-generation and low-income students and students of color.

CAE strives to provide comprehensive support through academic advising, tutoring programs, dean’s services, wellness and social events, mentoring relationships and connections to educational opportunities such as First-year Interest Groups and research programs. CAE Programming and Services also assists students in their pursuit of legal and health professions as well as other postgraduate opportunities.

AAS and CAE Shared Advising Goals

Our goal is to support your efforts to:
• Identify your strengths and interests
• Explore your educational goals and create realistic plans to reach them
• Connect with campus resources
• Navigate the university environment

We are knowledgeable about:
• Degree requirements, majors, courses and certificate programs
• Opportunities for campus and community involvement, study abroad, and research
• Academic policies and procedure
• Any other questions and concerns you might have in your first year and beyond

We encourage you to:
• Take ownership of your education
• Seek support when needed
• Be honest about your strengths, interests and goals for the future
• Be open to exploration
An Introduction to the L&S BA/BS Degree

You will work with an advisor to decide on a Bachelor of Arts (BA) or Bachelor of Science (BS) degree. You can change this later.

All degree and major requirements are listed in the Guide: [guide.wisc.edu](http://guide.wisc.edu)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Bachelor of Arts (BA)</th>
<th>Bachelor of Science (BS)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Credits</strong></td>
<td>108 credits in liberal arts &amp; sciences courses (&quot;LAS credits&quot;)</td>
<td>60 credits in Intermediate- or Advanced-level courses</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| **Major**                      | **30 to 45 credits** approximately, depending on the major’s required courses  
|                                 | • most majors can be earned within either a BA or BS degree |
| **UW General Education:**      | a Communications Part A course ("Comm A") |
| **Communications**             | a Communications Part B course ("Comm B") |
| **UW General Education:**      | a Quantitative Reasoning Part A course ("QR A") |
| **Quantitative Reasoning**     | a Quantitative Reasoning Part B course ("QR B") |
| **UW General Education:**      | an Ethnic Studies course (focusing on marginalized racial/ethnic groups in the United States) |
| **Ethnic Studies**             | |
| **L&S Breadth: Humanities**    | 12 credits, including at least 6 credits of Literature courses |
| **L&S Breadth: Social Sciences**| 12 credits |
| **L&S Breadth: Natural Sciences**| 3 credits of Biological Sciences  
|                               | 3 credits of Physical Sciences  
|                               | 6 credits of either Natural, Biological, or Physical Sciences  
|                               | 6 credits of Biological Sciences  
|                               | 6 credits of Physical Sciences |
| **Mathematics**                | no additional requirement |
| **World Language**             | two Intermediate- or Advanced-level courses in either Mathematics, Computer Sciences (limit 1), or Statistics (limit 1) |
| **level = 1 semester of college language or 1 year of high school language** | fourth-level course in one language; OR  
| **languages.wisc.edu**         | two languages: one third-level course and another second-level course  
|                               | third-level course in one language |

Courses may count toward more than one requirement, such as both a General Education and a Breadth category.
Preparing for Your First Advising Appointment

To be most helpful to you, advisors will need information about you and your goals and interests to assist you with course selection and to help make the most of related activities such as internships, research opportunities and study abroad programs.

Here are some tips for preparing for your first advising appointment:

• Take some time to think about your goals for your education. What is your potential major? What kind of career are you considering? Are there programs (e.g., certificates, internships, study abroad) that complement your academic or career interests? The Career Exploration Center in Ingraham Hall is also a great resource to assist you with this process.
• Explore guide.wisc.edu and websites for majors and certificates that interest you. These will give you information about coursework to take during the first year, as well as eligibility for the major or certificate.
• Think about coursework in other fields that interests you and is related to your major or career field.
• Identify questions you have and write them down so you can be prepared to discuss them with your advisor.

How to schedule an appointment with your advisor:

• Academic advisors will send out emails reminding students to make an appointment for advising for the following semester. That email will indicate dates that course listings will be available, as well as when students can expect to see their enrollment dates listed in their Student Center in MyUW. Information about scheduling an appointment will also be posted in the email.
• In general, you can schedule an advising appointment online.
• You can find your advisor’s name in your Student Center in MyUW.

What to expect during your appointment:

• Your advisor will talk with you about how your courses are going, possible major(s)/certificate(s), and requirements and courses that interest you for the following semester.
• Your advisor can assist you with mapping out your best UW experience by providing information about academic resources and strategies to help improve your course performance, finding opportunities for further exploration of a subject that interests you or discussing ways to integrate other experiences—such as student organizations, certificates, research with faculty—into your academic plan.
The L&S Undergraduate Academic Deans’ Services (ADS) can assist you in reaching your academic goals, attaining your undergraduate degree and realizing your promise as a citizen of the global community.

Types of questions an Academic Dean can answer:
- Can I add or drop a course after the deadline?
- How can I take a class pass/fail?
- Can my topics class count toward the humanities breadth requirement?
- How do I request an exception to academic policy?

When to meet with an Academic Dean:
- When referred by an advisor.
- When seeking to understand an L&S college policy.
- When a nonacademic life event is impacting your education.
- When considering enrollment changes after a deadline or after a semester has ended.

Contact Academic Deans’ Services:
Dean on Call: 608-262-0617
M-F 1:15 pm – 3 pm
lsdeans@saa.ls.wisc.edu
deans.ls.wisc.edu
By appointment:
101 Ingraham Hall, F 8 am – 4:30 pm

CAE’s Learning Support team works collaboratively with AAS and CAE advisors to connect you with the most appropriate learning support and tutoring resources to help build your success team.

Examples of things we can do:
- Provide information about free tutoring and learning support resources on campus.
- Help select the resources that best match your needs.
- Connect you with the most appropriate learning support resources.
- Discuss your study strategies and help develop your academic strategy.
- Create study plans.

Please meet with us when you are:
- Referred by an advisor.
- Seeking resources to get through difficult classes.
- Unsure how to study for a class.
- Looking to get more out of your study time.

Contact the CAE Learning Support team:
608-263-5068
caetutoring@saa.ls.wisc.edu

Tutoring, learning support, and other help is available to all L&S students:
academicsupport.wisc.edu

For information about academic policies and forms: saa.ls.wisc.edu/policies-forms

Academic/class dates and deadlines:
registrar.wisc.edu/dates/
Here’s what you can do in your first year at UW–Madison:

Visit SuccessWorks — Third Floor, University Book Store or online

Advisors offer online and in-person guidance, all without pressuring you into pursuing anything that doesn’t feel right for you. Come for the advising or resume review and stick around for the free coffee. We’ve got all that.

Enroll in an L&S Career Course:
Inter-LS 210 (1 credit) or Inter-LS 215 (3 credits; fulfills Comm B requirement)

Not sure how to start getting professional experience, or even how to write a resume? L&S career courses offer the perfect place to get a head start. These courses will help you build on your strengths and interests to create a path that’s just right for you.

Explore Your Interests
Your major doesn’t always point to a specific career, and that career flexibility is one of the great things about an L&S degree. Our Career Interests Quiz can help you reflect on which paths you might want to explore: successworks.wisc.edu/quiz

Use Our Step-by-Step Guide
Our online, non-credit Canvas module, Jobs, Internships & How to Get Them, will help you explore career paths, build experiences for your resume, make valuable connections with alumni and employers, and find the opportunities you want while at UW–Madison.

SuccessWorks contact information
University Book Store
711 State Street, Third floor
M–F 9 am – 4:30 pm
successworks@wisc.edu
608-262-3921
successworks.wisc.edu

Career Advising with SuccessWorks: Personal & professional development, just for L&S students

We know your first year at UW–Madison might feel a bit too soon to start thinking about internships or career advising. You haven’t even declared a major, right?

As you discover exciting new courses and interests, your first year is actually the perfect time to start exploring how to turn your passions into professional experience. SuccessWorks is here to help you take your first steps through virtual or in-person advising.

SuccessWorks advisors will help you build on the things you love about your coursework, connecting you with peers and alumni who share your passions and can show you how to plan your unique path forward.