Open-ended curiosity and life-changing experiences.

Your academic advisors

Academic advisors will help you understand your L&S degree, and how to explore and enroll in courses.

Throughout college, advisors are available to help you understand your academic options.

You are responsible for your academic choices, including choosing your classes and managing your enrollment.

Your bachelor’s degree

In the College of Letters & Science, you have freedom and flexibility to choose the courses that fit your interests and customize your learning in many ways.

This is your liberal-arts education. Think of liberal as meaning “free, unrestricted,” and arts as “skills-knowledge.” An essential part of your L&S experience is developing broad knowledge through your unique combination of courses across disciplines:

- social sciences: the study of groups, institutions, and society, including data collection and analysis
- humanities: explore the human condition to build empathy and appreciation your own and other people’s perspectives, including interpretation of literary texts
- natural sciences: systematic study of living organisms and the physical world, including abstraction and logical reasoning.

Your L&S education will give you options, inspiration, and the tools to live well, make a difference in your community, and flourish in the paths and careers you explore.

Your L&S major

The part of your degree for focused, in-depth study of a subject is your major. L&S offers 65 majors!

After the semester begins, you may declare your major when you are eligible and ready. Exploration is encouraged—and well worth it. Most L&S majors can be declared at any time, and some have conditions to be met first, like completing certain courses or a minimum grade-point average. [go.wisc.edu/lsmajors]

Certificates (similar to “minors”). — Choose from over 80 optional certificates to customize your degree. Certificates have about half the classes as a major. [go.wisc.edu/uwcerts]

Change my major (or certificate)? Yes! As long as you complete the new program's required classes before graduation.

More than one major (or certificate)? Yes! Many L&S students discover deep interests in more than one subject.
Your L&S degree

Today you will choose a Bachelor of Arts (BA) or Bachelor of Science (BS) degree, just to get started with course enrollment. These have just a few differences, shown below.

Most L&S majors can be earned within either degree. The major’s requirements are the same for both BA and BS degrees.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BA: Bachelor of Arts</th>
<th>BS: Bachelor of Science</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>At least 120 credits</strong></td>
<td>credit amounts listed below are minimums needed, and are part of the degree’s 120 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UW General Education</td>
<td>a Communications Part A course (“Comm A”)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A part of every UW–Madison undergraduate degree.</td>
<td>• college-level literary and writing proficiency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>a Communications Part B course (“Comm B”)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• in-depth research and writing skills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>a Quantitative Reasoning Part A course (“QR A”)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• college-level foundation in mathematics or formal logic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>a Quantitative Reasoning Part B course (“QR B”)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• high-level quantitative reasoning within a subject</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>an Ethnic Studies course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• increase understanding of the culture and contributions of persistently marginalized racial or ethnic groups in the United States</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>L&amp;S Breadth</th>
<th>Humanities 12 credits, including 6 credits in Literature courses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A part of every L&amp;S undergraduate degree.</td>
<td>Social Sciences 12 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Most L&amp;S courses are assigned Breadth categories. These credits are the minimums needed for your degree: you can do more!</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Natural Sciences</th>
<th>Natural Sciences</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a 3+ credit Biological Science course <strong>and</strong> a 3+ credit Physical Science course plus 6 credits in either Natural, Biological, or Physical Science courses</td>
<td>6 credits in Biological Science courses <strong>and</strong> 6 credits in Physical Science courses</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mathematics</th>
<th>none</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Language</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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<tr>
<th>level = 1 semester of college language or 1 year of high-school language <a href="http://languages.wisc.edu">languages.wisc.edu</a></th>
<th>fourth-level course in one language; or third-level course in one language and second-level course in another language</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>two Intermediate- or Advanced-level courses in Mathematics, Computer Sciences (limit 1), or Statistics (limit 1)</td>
<td>third-level course in one language</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Your choice of additional classes to reach at least 120 credits needed for your degree |

The Guide

All academic requirements are listed in the Guide—the catalog of degrees, majors, certificates, and courses: [guide.wisc.edu](http://guide.wisc.edu)
Courses and credits

A diverse set of classes, equaling 12 to 15 credits, is a good plan for your first semester. This is usually three to five classes combining courses for your major, for L&S degree requirements, and your personal interest and exploration.

Explore classes!

1. Select a major that's interesting to you in the Guide: go.wisc.edu/lsmajors.
2. Look at the major’s “Four-Year Plan” tab to find a sample course sequence. Which courses are shown in the first year?
3. Review your placement scores on your profile or in Student Center: kb.wisc.edu/registrar/8159 and write them here.
4. Browse Fall 2023 subjects and classes in Course Search & Enroll, including those that fit your other interests and goals: enroll.wisc.edu
5. Use the Course Search & Enroll filters to fine-tune your search. The Course Panel shows UW General Education, L&S Breadth, or other designations.
6. Use the “Add to cart” button to bookmark classes.
7. Requesting a seat in a First-Year Interest Group (FIG)? Add all its classes to your cart. figs.wisc.edu/catalog

Tips
• Check for “holds” that should be cleared before enrolling: kb.wisc.edu/registrar/4139
• How to fix common error messages: kb.wisc.edu/87287
• Read all your classes’ information. Look for “Subject notes” in the Course Panel. Some classes have “Instructor provided content” in the Section Panel, with a fuller class description, reading lists, and assignments: kb.wisc.edu/74443
• Wait listed class (▲)! Add yourself to the course wait list: kb.wisc.edu/15644
• “T” is Tuesday and “R” is “Thursday” in class day/time.
After you enroll in your classes

Complete SOAR checkout steps

Sign up for “L&S Academic Advising 101” in Canvas, your guide to advising and enrollment in your first year: go.wisc.edu/advising101

• Select “Enroll in Course.”
• Select “Go to Course.”
• On the course homepage, start your SOAR checkout process.
• Write down any checkout notes to discuss with your advisor.
• Let your peer advisor know you’re done with the checkout steps. They will ensure that you meet with your SOAR Advisor before leaving.
• You will complete other L&S Academic Advising 101 modules during your first year.

Take a picture of worksheet pages so you have a backup copy.

SOAR Advising Notes

In the next day or so, look in your campus email account for a message with the subject line “SOAR Advising Notes.” Read your SOAR Advising Notes for important next-step action items customized for you.

Course changes after SOAR

Each class has specific deadlines when you can add (enroll), swap, or change sections, or drop the class completely. Most of your classes are in the “Regular” or “A1” 15-week session: registrar.wisc.edu/dates

Your assigned advisor

You will start in the fall with an assigned advisor in L&S’s Academic Advising Services (AAS), where we support students who will likely choose an L&S major.

AAS advisor profiles: advising.ls.wisc.edu/staff
Find your advisor: my.wisc.edu > Academic Navigator
By appointment: my.wisc.edu > Starfish

Your assigned advisor is:

You’re ready for your semester!

Return to “L&S Academic Advising 101” in August to complete the next module: canvas.wisc.edu

Special advising event on Tuesday morning, September 5, before the Chancellor’s Convocation: newstudent.wisc.edu/programs/wiwelcome

Instruction begins on Wednesday, September 6.