

Liberal Studies - B.S.

Curriculum

Effective May 14, 2026 ENG0001 will no longer be a requirement in our undergraduate programs.

Through the required and elective courses in the Liberal Studies bachelor's degree program, students acquire knowledge and experience in the arts, cultural studies, history, philosophy, behavioral sciences, math and science that prepares them to enter the workforce in business, nonprofit, government, and arts and cultural organizations. The degree also prepares them for further graduate studies. In addition, the program includes experiential learning through an internship, service learning and an optional study abroad.

Key differentiators of the JWU Liberal Studies degree program include a requirement that students complete a minor, the inclusion of a heightened form of experiential learning, and in-depth advising in fulfillment of the mission. The required minor is intended to ensure that students have an introduction to a profession or set of professional skills prior to program completion or are prepared to undertake graduate studies.

Upon completion of the program, graduates are expected to:

- Apply oral and written rhetorical strategies to communicate complex arguments.
- Apply appropriate disciplinary criteria to examine complex issues, analyze arguments, conduct credible research, solve problems, make ethical decisions and create original ideas and/or approaches.
- Synthesize and apply knowledge from multiple perspectives to evaluate complex issues and address real-world problems.
- Critically examine and interpret the complexities of human culture, expression and/or behavior using the theories and methods of various disciplines in the humanities, social sciences and natural sciences.

Liberal Studies

A four-year program leading to the bachelor of science degree

Major Courses

| | | |
|---------------------------|---|---|
| ART, HIST, LIT, PHIL, REL | One course 2000 level or higher | 3 |
| BIO, CHM, PHY or SCI | One course 1000 level or higher | 3 |
| ECON, PSCI, PSYC, SOC | One course 2000 level or higher | 3 |
| Foreign Language | 3 credits as determined by language placement | 3 |
| LIBS4900 | Liberal Studies Capstone | 3 |

Major Focus

| | |
|--|----|
| Choose one of the following: | 15 |
| Arts & Culture | |
| ART, HIST, LIT, PHIL, REL, SOC: One course 2000 level or higher | |
| ART, HIST, LIT, PHIL, REL, SOC: Four courses 3000 level or higher | |
| Or | |
| Science & Society | |
| MATH: One course 1000 level or higher | |
| BIO, CHM, ECON, PHY, PSCI, PSYC, SCI, SOC: Four courses 3000 level or higher | |

Minor

Select any minor from offerings within the university * 15

Applied/Experiential Learning

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Choose 6 credits from the following: | 6 |
| ASCI4799 | College of Arts & Sciences Internship ^{1c} |
| RSCH3810 | Undergraduate Laboratory and Field Research |
| RSCH3830 | Undergraduate Research Experience |
| Study Abroad ^{5a} | |

Related Professional Studies

| | | |
|---------------------------|---|---|
| Arts & Sciences Electives | 9 credits with an EASC attribute selected from offerings within the College of Arts & Sciences. | 9 |
|---------------------------|---|---|

University Core Curriculum

| | | |
|--|---------------------------|---|
| Communicating | | 9 |
| ENG1020 | Rhetoric & Composition I | |
| ENG1021 | Rhetoric & Composition II | |
| ENG1030 | Communication Skills | |
| Connecting | | 6 |
| Two courses with the Connecting attribute (ECNG), one at the 2000 level, one at the 4000 level | | |
| Experiencing | | 6 |
| Two courses with the Experiencing attribute (EEXP), different disciplines | | |
| Measuring | | 6 |

| | | |
|---|---|--------------|
| MATH1002 | A Survey of College Mathematics (or higher, based on student's placement) | |
| MATH2001 | Statistics I | |
| Exploring | | 3 |
| SCI1010 Environmental Science | | |
| Interacting | | 6 |
| Two courses with the Interacting attribute (EINT), different disciplines | | |
| A&S Electives | | 6 |
| Two courses with the Arts & Sciences elective attribute (EASC) | | |
| Free Electives # | | |
| 18 credits selected from 1000-4999 numbered offerings within the university | | 18 |
| Total Credits | | 120.0 |

* Students are responsible for meeting prerequisites.

^{1c}Typically, internships require a minimum of six credits. Students interested in a 9 or 12-credit internship can apply additional experiential learning and free elective credits, if available. Students are strongly encouraged to contact a faculty advisor before scheduling internship and free elective credits.

^{5a}To be eligible to count toward Applied/Experiential Learning, a Study Abroad offering must meet certain requirements. Contact Experiential Education & Career Services to discuss eligible Study Abroad options for this degree program and visit the study abroad website for information, program descriptions and online applications.

In addition to classes, free elective credits may be applied to a number of options such as internship, study abroad, and courses in a specialization or minor as relevant. For students who qualify for the J2 program, up to four graduate courses may apply. Students are strongly encouraged to contact a faculty advisor before scheduling free elective credits.

Note: Students must pass MATH0010 Pre-Algebra or have equivalent placement scores to enroll in required math courses.

Internships will be available but they will not be required. For online students who do not wish to register for an internship, 3000+ level college discipline-specific courses can be taken in place of the internship.

Admissions Requirements

Johnson & Wales University holistically reviews all elements of a student's application to identify those students most likely to succeed at the university.

Prior to being considered for admission into an online JWU undergraduate program, the following must be submitted:

1. A completed application for admission
2. Official high school or GED transcript
3. If applicable, official or certified transcripts from all previous college/university institutions attended

Accelerated Program Options

J2 Program

The JWU J2 program allows qualified students enrolled in a matriculating undergraduate program to take graduate level courses at JWU. Students interested in pursuing this option should meet with their academic advisor to discuss their interest, qualifications and plans. The undergraduate student may take up to four graduate courses (maximum 12 credits) and are limited to 6 credits a semester and 3 credits per session (Fall Session I and Fall Session II).

The completion of graduate credits to fulfill undergraduate program requirements does not guarantee acceptance into the graduate program after completion of the baccalaureate degree. Matriculating undergraduate students who wish to formally enroll in a graduate program must fulfill all requirements for entrance into the intended graduate program and complete a graduate program application.

Note: Not all graduate courses are included as part of this policy. Courses offered as part of the Master of Arts in Teaching, Master of Education, Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies and doctoral courses are excluded from this policy and are restricted to program majors only. Additional courses and/or programs as determined by individual colleges may also have restricted access.

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible to enroll in graduate-level courses (excludes: Master of Arts in Teaching, Master of Education, Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies, doctoral courses, Counseling graduate program courses, and other programs as outlined by the colleges), undergraduate students must meet the following criteria:

- Undergraduate cumulative GPA of 3.00 or higher
- Completed and registered undergraduate credits at least 90 credits
- Meet the individual course prerequisites

Appeal to Eligibility Criteria

College dean or designee will receive a copy of the Petition Form, Student's GPS and email requesting appeal if the student requests to appeal the GPA or earned/registered credit criteria. College dean/designee will review and determine approval.

These courses carry graduate credit and will replace undergraduate degree requirements when applicable, traditionally free-electives (maximum of 12 credits). The course will be applied to the undergraduate degree in the order in which they are taken (if required) and will also be applied towards both the students undergraduate and graduate GPA.

Students should maintain enrollment in at least 12 credits of undergraduate coursework to maintain full-time status; graduate course enrollment is not calculated into undergraduate full-time status. For students already attending full-time as undergraduates (12 credits or more) and paying the full-time tuition, the graduate credits will be included in full-time tuition fee. Students attending part-time (11 credits or less) will pay the cost per-credit undergraduate tuition for the graduate course.

Course registration will be based on space availability and students enrolled in graduate level courses will be required to maintain good academic standing at the undergraduate and graduate level.