LIBERAL STUDIES

College of Education

Program Description

Liberal Studies (LBS) is an interdisciplinary undergraduate major for students who intend to become elementary and special education teachers or to pursue related graduate work. Courses leading to the B.A. in Liberal Studies focus on the subject areas taught in elementary schools as well as professional preparation and early fieldwork. LBS is a California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) approved Elementary Subject Matter Preparation Program (ESM). LBS also offers two Integrated Teacher Education Programs (ITEP) in which students earn a B.A. and a credential for teaching elementary school (multiple subjects) or special education (education specialist mild/moderate support needs).

Highlights of a Liberal Studies Degree

Balanced Learning and a Focus on Social Justice and Racial Equity

The Liberal Studies curriculum covers a broad spectrum of liberal arts and sciences to give future teachers a solid foundation of knowledge and ideas to use in diverse Multiple Subject classrooms. Our curriculum is grounded in theoretical frameworks and sustaining pedagogies that foster critical thought around equity, access and justice.

Depth of Study

Students pursue an area of deeper learning in an approved option within the Liberal Studies Program. This allows them to add more specialized knowledge in a particular area to their well-rounded liberal arts education.

Accelerated Completion of a Credential Program

- The program is an approved Elementary Subject Matter Preparation Program (ESM) meaning that students who successfully complete the Liberal Studies major requirements with a grade of “C” or better will not need to take the CSET.
- Liberal Studies students complete the multiple subject credential program in two semesters instead of three and may also complete requirements towards a credential in special education.
- Liberal Studies also offers three Integrated Teacher Education Program Options (ITEP). Students may earn a B.A. and a credential for teaching elementary school (multiple subjects), teaching elementary school in a dual language setting (multiple subjects with bilingual authorization) or special education (education specialist mild/moderate). Note: Liberal Studies is not currently accepting students into the Integrated Teacher Education Program Options (ITEP).

Responsive Curriculum

Faculty in the Liberal Studies department are continuously addressing the curriculum to meet the needs of students while also maintaining quality standards, high expectations and relevant, required content in all of our courses.

Preparation

Students preparing to enter the Liberal Studies major should focus on building a strong GPA to facilitate their future entry into credential programs. Community college students planning to transfer should know that several GE courses "double-count" in the Liberal Studies major. These courses are listed at www.assist.org (http://www.assist.org/).

Academic Advisement

Liberal Studies students should see an advisor each semester. Advising is available throughout the year. Students requiring information should email lbs@csudh.edu or call (310) 243-3832 to confirm advising schedules. Students on academic notice are required to attend STEPS (Strategies Toward Educational Progress & Success) workshops provided by the COE Student Success Center. Academic notice holds will be lifted by COE Student Success Center after satisfactory completion of STEPS. In addition to program and professional advising, advisors may refer students to other university services on campus.

All students applying to the Liberal Studies major (or current CSUDH students changing their majors) must attend a Liberal Studies Advising Meeting. The meeting includes information about: creating a LBS student file, registration for courses, important university policies, community

Graduation with Honors

Undergraduate majors are eligible to graduate with honors in Liberal Studies if they meet the following criteria:

1. Complete a minimum of 36 units in residence at CSU Dominguez Hills.
2. Maintain a minimum grade point average of 3.5 in all upper-division coursework (300 and 400 level) used to satisfy the requirements for the Liberal Studies major (Core and Option).

Overall Program Structure

The major consists of two parts:

1. **Core** Course Requirements. Students take specific courses in each of five areas: Language and Literature; Mathematics and Science; History and Social Science; Visual and Performing Arts; and Professional Development. These specific courses provide the subject matter background for elementary and special education teachers.
2. **Option** or Depth of Study Course Requirements. Students study a subject area within the major in depth and may choose any approved option. (Integrated Option also requires Depth of Study).

Career Possibilities

Liberal Studies is the preferred undergraduate major for students preparing to teach elementary or special education.

Undergraduate Programs

Bachelor

- Liberal Studies ITEP Mild/Moderated Disabilities Option, Bachelor of Arts (https://catalog.csudh.edu/academics/liberal-studies/liberal-studies-itep-mildmoderated-disabilities-option-ba/)
- Liberal Studies, Bachelor of Arts (https://catalog.csudh.edu/academics/liberal-studies/liberal-studies-ba/)
- Liberal Studies: Integrated (Multiple Subject) Option, Bachelor of Arts (https://catalog.csudh.edu/academics/liberal-studies/liberal-studies-integrated-multiple-subject-option-ba/)

Faculty

Angela Macias, Chair
Jennifer Stacy, Amina Humphrey, Mike Karlin

Department Office: COE 1412, (310) 243-3832
Email address: lbs@csudh.edu

Emeritus Faculty

Lisa Hutton, John McGowan

Courses

LBS 203. Introduction to Teaching: Becoming a Transformative Educator. (3 Units)
Students will consider the historical and philosophical foundations of education and state standards that guide effective teaching strategies in this introduction to teaching course. Students will develop the knowledge and dispositions to empower the as reflective, creative and transformative professionals.
Offered Fall, Spring, Summer

LBS 205. Child and Adolescent Development. (3 Units)
Overview of physical, cognitive, social and emotional development from conception through adolescence. Students will explore and reflect on conceptual and theoretical theories and methods as well as best practices for working with children and families in diverse/pluralistic communities.
Offered Fall, Spring, Summer

LBS 212. Service Learning in Urban Elementary Schools. (3 Units)
Introductory course utilizes a service-learning approach to explore culturally and linguistically responsive teaching and learning environments in urban elementary schools. Students will observe, participate and reflect throughout the course with linkages to learning outcomes. Requires 30 hours of service.
Offered Fall, Spring

LBS 300. Early Field Experience. (3 Units)
Prerequisite: California Commission on Teacher Credentialing Certificate of Clearance, current negative TB documentation and scores for all three sections of the CBEST. Provides Liberal Studies majors with planned, structured field experiences in classrooms at the elementary school level (K-6). A minimum of 30 hours of structured, documented observation/participation in public elementary schools (K-6) is required. CR/NC grading.
Offered Infrequent

LBS 301. Schooling in a Multicultural Society. (3 Units)
Prerequisite: LBS 203 is required. Students will explore the themes of social justice education including the complex relationship between education and the multicultural society of the U.S. They will analyze social identities and how discrimination based on these factors translates into school structures, policies and practices.
Offered All terms, Infrequent

LBS 302. Responsive Teaching and Classroom Management. (3 Units)
Prerequisites: LBS 301 and CCTC Certificate of Clearance, Negative TB Documentation and scores from all 3 sections of CBEST are required. Restricted to majors. Corequisite: LBS 303 is recommended. Students observe and think critically about culturally and linguistically responsive teaching and learning environments to develop knowledge of teaching and classroom management strategies and create inclusive, productive and well-structured learning environments. Requires 30 hours of observation in a public school.
Offered All terms, Fall, Spring

LBS 303. Teaching and Learning in Diverse Classrooms. (3 Units)
Prerequisite: LBS 301 Co-requisite: LBS 302 is recommended. Restricted to majors. Examine theory, research and practice on teaching and learning in diverse classrooms. Using knowledge of educational research, child and adolescent development, and data on students and their communities, students analyze, design, and differentiate instruction to engage and support all learners.
Offered Infrequent

LBS 310. Early Language and Literacy. (3 Units)
Concepts and theories of language development and literacy from birth through age five. Topics include language development, play, emergent literacy, and age appropriate literature. Emphasis on urban, diverse and inclusive preschool settings; second language learners and exceptional learners.
Offered Fall, Spring

LBS 330. Bridging Cultures Through Literacy and Learning. (3 Units)
Cultural dimensions of literacy and language acquisition in early years. Strategies for supporting heritage language, teaching comprehensive family literacy, English language development, and valuing culture in home and school. 10 hours of fieldwork in an urban setting with English learners.
Offered Fall, Spring

LBS 340. Early Mathematical Concepts. (3 Units)
Practidce, principles and strategies in mathematics ages 0-5. Number sense, classification, measurement and geometry, patterning, mathematical reasoning; tools and manipulatives for teaching mathematics and pre-numeracy; planning, teaching, and evaluating a lesson. 10 hours of fieldwork in an urban preschool setting.
Offered Fall, Spring, Summer

LBS 355. Writing in Education. (3 Units)
Advanced grammar and composition for students preparing to be elementary school teachers. Focuses on professional writing modes and tasks for educators, including analytical educational writing, literature reviews, case studies, classroom observations, and school communications.
Offered Infrequent

LBS 360. Blended Math Methods. (5 Units)
Prerequisite: Admittance to the Integrated Option Program. Designed to develop students' mathematical content knowledge and pedagogical skills necessary for the effective teaching of elementary mathematics in the urban classroom.
Offered Infrequent

LBS 370. Multicultural Studies. (5 Units)
Prerequisite: LBS 203. Integrated Option Only. Students will critically analyze the experiences of diverse students in the U. S. schools by examining the structural and pedagogical implications on students' intersectional identities. They will draw on theories about child/adolescent development, learning, and differentiation to design instruction to effectively teach diverse students using the principles of social justice education. A grade of C or better in this course fulfills the GWAR requirement for Liberal Studies majors.
Offered Fall, Spring

LBS 375. The California Experience. (3 Units)
Examination of the California experience through three interrelated social science disciplines: history, geography, and government. Specifically focuses upon academic content which prepares students to teach the broad range of K-8 California Content Standards.
Offered Fall, Spring

LBS 380. Blended Science Methods. (4 Units)
Prerequisite: Admittance to the Integrated Option Program. Students develop content knowledge and pedagogical methods .in the natural sciences and technologies with an emphasis on astronomy, geology, meteorology, and oceanography. Inquiry-based teaching, disciplinary skills (including the scientific method), and interdisciplinary knowledge (crosscutting concepts) will be explored and students will reflect on the impact of science and technology on society.
Offered Fall, Spring

LBS 400. Senior Seminar in Liberal Studies. (3 Units)
Prerequisite: LBS 302; must have senior standing. Students will investigate key ideas from the California Curriculum Frameworks and Academic Content Standards. They will demonstrate competence in each of the major multiple subject matter content areas by creating a website portfolio, substantiating their learning each area. Students will also demonstrate an understanding of lesson planning and complete 10 hours of observation and participation in urban school setting.
Offered Fall, Spring

LBS 402. Liberal Studies Integrated Capstone. (2 Units)
Prerequisite: Admittance to Phase 3 of the Credential. Co-requisite: TED 437 is required. This capstone is designed to link theory and practice; students reflect on their learning, connecting subject matter knowledge and teaching. Students substantiate their learning with a philosophy of education paper, website portfolio, and an instructional planning and teaching cycle in an elementary classroom.
Offered Fall, Spring

LBS 405. Engineering and the Arts in the Elementary. (3 Units)
Co-requisite: LBS 400 is recommended. Restricted to majors. Must be a senior. Students will build the theoretical background and practical skills needed to design interdisciplinary, problem-based learning lessons with a focus on engineering and the arts. This will include inquiry teaching, STEAM and the K-8 Standards for Visual and Performing Arts.
Offered Fall, Spring, Summer

LBS 494. Independent Studies in Liberal Studies. (1-3 Units)
Prerequisite: Consent of instructor and Liberal Studies Department Chair. Independent study in a topic related to the Liberal Studies Program.
Offered Infrequent

LBS 495. Special Topics in Liberal Studies. (1-4 Units)
Prerequisite: Consent of instructor and Liberal Studies Department Chair. A course in a topic related to the Liberal Studies Program of special interest to faculty and students for which no current course exists.
Offered As needed

LBS 496. Special Fieldwork in Liberal Studies. (1-3 Units)
Prerequisite: Consent of instructor and Liberal Studies department Chair. Fieldwork experience related to the Liberal Studies Program in settings other than public schools. CR/NC grading.
Offered Infrequent