

General Studies Option

**Liberal
Studies
Program**

What is the General Studies Option?

The General Studies Option provides students with a rich educational experience across a broad range of academic disciplines. Students take courses in the language arts, mathematics, natural sciences, social sciences, humanities, and the visual and performing arts. They also complete an area of specialization. Program requirements will develop the student's communication, analytical, and problem solving skills.

Is the General Studies Option right for me?

The General Studies Option is ideal for students who:

- Enjoy studying a variety of subjects instead of specializing in just one area.
- Want a major that develops their reading, writing, research, and critical thinking skills.
- Are interested in having the flexibility to choose from a wide range of classes.
- Want the opportunity to gain real world experience before graduation.
- Desire to advance professionally by earning a BA degree.
- Plan to pursue a graduate program in a variety of fields such as law and public administration.

**A Strong
Foundation
For
Success**

What are my career options?

General Studies Option students are employed in a variety of fields. Your Liberal Studies degree signifies to others that you are a capable well-rounded individual who can accomplish complex tasks and communicate well with others.

Many employers are looking for individuals who possess certain skill sets instead of a degree in a particular area. Communication, writing, critical thinking, and computer skills are among these skill sets. Ability to work in a team and independently is also important to employers.

How can the Area of Specialization requirement help me with my career goals?

General Studies Option students are required to complete an Area of Specialization. They have the choice of either completing an approved minor or creating their own interdisciplinary specialization. This aspect of the major provides students with a great opportunity to complete courses that will enhance their future employment opportunities.

For instance, a student who is interested in a Business related career such as marketing, human resources, or management, may either complete a Business minor or create an individualized package of business classes that will provide a foundation for a successful business career. Students who are interested in working in the social services field may choose to select either a Psychology or Sociology minor or again create an individualized plan with the assistance of their academic advisor.

The possibilities are endless. The Liberal Studies advisors along with the Career Center counselors can guide you to find the right combination of career and academic preparation so that you can achieve your career goals.

As a General Studies Option student, I have benefited from an academic experience that gave me the opportunity to create a curriculum of a wide variety of courses that were of greatest interest to me. Not only has this diversity made me a more well-rounded academic individual, but it has also helped me realize my strengths and weaknesses and how to make the most of both.

*Janice
Chanthalangsy
Class of 2008*

How can the “Real World Experience requirement help me with my career goals?

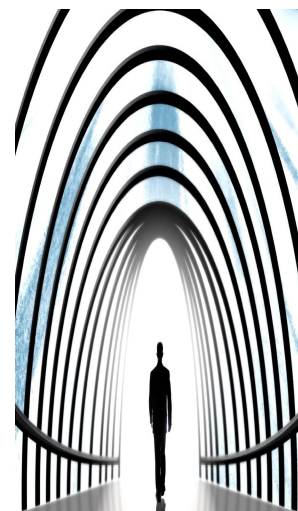
General Studies Option students may meet the Real World Experience requirement in the major by completing an internship, community service, or enroll in a class that has a service learning component. This requirement in the major can provide students with the opportunity to explore and gain experience in a particular area. Students who participate in internships often times are hired by the same organization after graduation. The real world experience requirement can help you establish invaluable contacts and help you decide whether a particular career is right for you.



What are some career opportunities available to me?

Liberal Studies students have numerous career opportunities in fields such as business, government, social services, non-profit agencies, and the entertainment industry. The following is a small sampling of careers for Liberal Studies graduates:

Accountant	Financial Consultant	Public Relations
Advertising Account Executive	Graphic Designer	Quality Engineer
Air Traffic Controller	Human Resource	Real Estate Sales/Brokerage
Artist	Industrial Designer	Recreation Administrator
Auditor	Interpreter/translator	Research Analyst
Bank Manager	Journalist	Retail Manager
Business Systems Analyst	Librarian	Sales
Buyer	Management Consultant	Social Worker
Claims Examiner	Marketing Representative	Speech Pathologist
Communications Specialist	Museum Coordinator	Stockbroker
Copywriter	Office Administrator	Systems Analyst
Counselor	Paralegal	Tax Consultant
Customer Service	Photographer	Technical Writer
Employee Relations	Product Specialist	Underwriter
Engineering Planner	Project Management	Urban Planner
Entertainment Industry Agent	Psychologist	Writer



How can I prepare for a successful job search?

- Work closely with a counselor at the Career Center to define your job interests.
- Evaluate your strengths and interests and determine how they fit into what employers need.
- Develop your verbal and written communication skills.
- Obtain part-time, summer, internship, or volunteer experience in an area that interests you.
- Develop good computer skills.
- Participate in co-curricular activities and develop your leadership skills by organizing an event or project.
- Join professional organizations.
- Network through formal and informal contacts.
- Be flexible. Many people begin in entry level positions in order to gain experience and network.
- Research websites and books that address various job opportunities for Liberal Arts graduates.

Career Resources

CSUN, Career Center	http://www.csun.edu/career/
Internships	http://www.csun.edu/career/students/interships.htm
Occupational Information	http://online.onetcenter.org
Non-profit center	www.nonprofits.org/
US Dept of Justice jobs	www.usdoj.gov
Career Find-O Rama	www.review.com
Federal Government Jobs	http://www.usajobs.opm.gov/
State of CA Jobs	http://www.ca.gov/Employmentt/Jobts.html
Top Careers for Liberal Arts Graduates by Checkmark Books: a copy located at CSUN's Career Center	

