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.

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.
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.

What are my career options?

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.
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:

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

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