

# College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

## Dean

Sara Sanders

## Associate Dean for the Arts and Humanities

Roland Racevskis

## Associate Dean for the Natural, Mathematical, and Social Sciences

Christopher Cheatum

## Associate Dean for Research

Joshua Weiner

## Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education

Cornelia C. Lang

**Undergraduate majors:** BA; BS; BFA; BM

**Graduate degrees:** programs leading to AuD; DMA; MA; MCS; MFA; MS; MSW; PhD (degrees conferred by the Graduate College)

**Website:** <https://clas.uiowa.edu>

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS), established in 1900, is the largest of the 12 colleges that comprise the University of Iowa, with about 30 academic units spanning the visual, performing, literary, and cinematic arts; humanities; natural and mathematical sciences; social and behavioral sciences; and communication disciplines.

Throughout CLAS departments and programs, faculty are at the forefront of their disciplines. They bring their world-class research and artistry into their classrooms, studios, and labs, giving students the unparalleled opportunity to learn right from the source of the latest innovations in knowledge and practice.

Graduate students and many undergraduates work side by side with faculty members, conducting breakthrough research that advances understanding of ourselves and the complex, ever-changing world in which we live.

Faculty members help students discover their individual talents and passions, mentoring students about research opportunities, internships, and career choices. Professional academic advisors encourage students to create unique academic portfolios that help them stand out among their peers, with students developing creative strategies to combine majors, minors, and certificates—a common practice in CLAS, where all work together to support students' diverse interests and goals.

CLAS students can choose from almost 80 undergraduate majors, 65 minors, and 18 undergraduate interdisciplinary certificate programs, with choices that particularly focus on applied skills helpful in a chosen profession, and that encourage students to pursue intellectual and artistic interests along with pragmatic preparation for a first career. Students in CLAS have many opportunities to engage beyond the classroom: for example, faculty-mentored research, study abroad, honors, community engagement, and internships.

## CLAS Undergraduate Programs

Located in Schaeffer Hall, at the center of campus on the Pentacrest, CLAS Undergraduate Programs (CLAS UP) is an integral part of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Under the direction of the Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education, CLAS UP oversees academic advising in the college; the development of the undergraduate curriculum, including the General Education CLAS Core; and the collegiate academic standards.

Academic staff in CLAS UP meet with students about requirements, collegiate policies that affect students, and a range of other issues, including successful completion of a degree. CLAS UP staff strive to promote the success of every student, maintain the academic integrity of CLAS, and impart the value of a liberal arts education.

## GE CLAS Core

Students entering the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences who wish to earn a Bachelor of Arts (BA), Bachelor of Science (BS), Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA), or Bachelor of Music (BM) degree must complete the requirements of the General Education CLAS Core in addition to the requirements of a major and other UI and CLAS graduation requirements.

The GE CLAS Core encourages students to explore beyond familiar topics, helping students to discover intriguing majors, minors, and certificates while challenging students to embrace personal transformation by expanding their core knowledge and perspectives. For this reason, the GE CLAS Core is framed by the overall concept that general education (GE) courses also teach students how to learn, thereby fostering success in the major and lifelong learning.

For GE CLAS Core requirements, related academic policies, and lists of approved courses, see the GE CLAS Core and related GE courses in the catalog.

## Programs

## CLAS Units and Academic Programs

### Undergraduate Majors, Minors, and Certificates

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) has about 30 departments and offers about 80 undergraduate majors, 65 minors, and 18 undergraduate certificates.

In addition, CLAS collaborates with other University of Iowa colleges to award degrees in the following majors: enterprise leadership (BA) with Tippie College of Business; biochemistry (BA and BS) and microbiology (BS) with Carver College of Medicine; and science studies (BS) with the College of Education. For descriptions of these majors and their requirements, view those programs in the catalog. CLAS also offers three majors both on campus and online: enterprise leadership, political science, and sport and recreation management.

CLAS also works closely with the College of Education, which offers a Teacher Education Program (BA) designed to lead to licensure at the secondary level. These students must also complete a related CLAS major to earn the education degree, such as a major in art, English, mathematics, the sciences, the social sciences, or various world languages. Students must apply for admission to the Teacher Education

Program; contact the College of Education's Office of Student Services for more information.

Students who begin their studies in CLAS may apply to degree programs in other colleges at the University of Iowa. If they are accepted, they may earn undergraduate degrees in business (BA, BBA, BS), education (BA), engineering (BSE), nursing (BSN), or public health (BA or BS); a BS with a major in medical laboratory science, nuclear medicine technology, or radiation sciences; or a professional degree in pharmacy (PharmD). Use the General Catalog's Catalog Contents page to find these programs.

Students who are interested in earning a professional or graduate degree in addition to a bachelor's degree may apply for early admission or to combined degree programs offered through partnerships between CLAS and other UI colleges. Students admitted to these programs may count a limited amount of credit toward both degrees. CLAS has early admission programs with the College of Dentistry (DDS) and the College of Law (JD), for example. Combined bachelor's/graduate degree programs are available in several disciplines; see Combined Programs in the Graduate College section of the catalog.

CLAS offers a wide selection of undergraduate certificates and minors. CLAS students may also earn undergraduate certificates and minors offered by other colleges. For lists of all undergraduate certificates and minors offered by the university, see Find Your Program in the catalog.

## Graduate Degrees and Certificates

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences offers graduate programs in most of its disciplines, with degrees conferred by the Graduate College. Students may earn degrees at the master's and doctoral levels; graduate certificates are available in some areas of study. See the Graduate College section of the catalog for a complete list of graduate degrees offered by the university.

For information about CLAS graduate programs, consult the specific academic programs.

## Courses

Most College of Liberal Arts and Sciences courses are offered by the college's departments, programs, and schools. They are listed and described in the corresponding General Catalog sections.

The college also offers the following nondepartmental courses.

## Liberal Arts and Sciences Nondepartmental Courses

- CLAS:1000 First-Year Seminar** 1 s.h.  
Small discussion class taught by a faculty member; topics chosen by instructor; may include outside activities (e.g., films, lectures, performances, readings, visits to research facilities). Requirements: first- or second-semester standing.
- CLAS:1005 ESL Special Topics** 1 s.h.  
Small discussion class taught by a faculty member; topics chosen by instructor; may include outside activities (e.g., films, lectures, performances, readings). Same as ESL:1005.

- CLAS:1800 The Art of Active Learning** 1 s.h.  
Case studies, individual assessments, video, class discussions, and short readings to encourage understanding of academic standards and active engagement in the learning process; examination of behaviors, study skills, habits, and attitudes that can affect success in the classroom and in life.

- CLAS:2500 Professional Readiness in Enterprise Leadership** 1 s.h.  
Overview of professional career pathways; development of core career-readiness skills, including the preparation of professional resumes, LinkedIn profiles, and Handshake profiles, as well as effective interview techniques and job-search strategies; professional networking through structured interactions with alumni, entrepreneurial leaders, and industry professionals; emphasis on obtaining internships and full-time employment.

- CLAS:3300 Global Career Accelerator** 3 s.h.  
Experiential learning opportunity for undergraduate students to build career-focused professional and technical skills through a virtual global experience; students work together on real-world projects sourced from top global companies, allowing them to experience the challenges and rewards of collaborating with peers from different countries and cultures; includes an online learning platform alongside a local campus component. Same as INTD:3330.

- CLAS:3500 Fundamentals of Project Management Leadership** 3 s.h.  
Overview of the fundamental principles of project management and interdisciplinary team leadership. Students develop essential skills to plan, execute, and oversee projects of varying types and complexity. Key concepts include project planning, risk management, team leadership, conflict resolution, communication, and decision-making within organizational contexts. Students are introduced to technological tools used by organizational leaders to effectively plan, lead, and execute projects across organizations. Same as INTD:3500.

- CLAS:3600 Advanced Topics in Project Management Leadership** 3 s.h.  
Builds on foundational project management concepts to deepen students' understanding of strategic project management and leadership in complex, ever-changing economic, business, and social environments. Examine advanced topics such as strategic growth planning, organizational change, technology innovation, stakeholder engagement, and implementation. Enhances students' ability to lead high-performing teams and manage multifaceted projects with confidence and impact. Prerequisites: INTD:3500. Same as INTD:3600.

- CLAS:4100 Peer Assistant** 1-2 s.h.  
Opportunities to participate in classroom and course activities; work with students as an assistant to course instructor.

- CLAS:5100 Practicum: College Teaching and Professional Development for Teaching Assistants** arr.  
Guidance for teaching assistants seeking introduction to teaching at college level; focus on practical pedagogical concerns, including how to structure a course, devise learning outcomes, develop a syllabus and a calendar of assignments, evaluate student work, and create a student-centered classroom with collaborate learning experiences; pre-semester intensive training session, weekly meetings during first month of semester, periodic meetings to address midterm and late-semester issues; concurrent with TA teaching assistantships. Recommendations: interest in teacher training and preparation. Same as RHET:5100.

**CLAS:6290 Interdisciplinary Humanities Seminar 3 s.h.**

Examination of interdisciplinary topics related to the humanities; topics vary.

**CLAS:7290 Digital Humanities Theory and Practice 3 s.h.**

Overview of theories and use of technology to preserve, deploy, visualize, map, and analyze concepts; discussions with practicing digital public scholars; assignments consist of a digital portfolio tailored to student research; introductory course in public digital humanities certificate.