Why Major in Letters, Arts, and Sciences?
Penn State Altoona’s Letters, Arts, and Sciences degree program allows you to uniquely tailor your course of study to meet your individual pursuits, and was designed entirely by our students to meet their own goals and interests. Rather than focusing your classes on one subject, you will develop a program that combines at least three different academic areas.

For example, your primary interest may be criminal justice or business, but you want your college experience to include a broad liberal arts education as well. Or you might wish to focus on psychology, but would like to include human development and family studies or counseling education courses in your overall plan. You may wish to be a science reporter or business journalist and therefore need to take upper-level classes not only in media writing but also in science and business.

Letters, Arts, and Sciences puts you at the drafting table. Working closely with an advisor, you decide which classes best fit your interests and skills and build an undergraduate program that meets your needs.

Develop the Skills Employers Want
What do hiring managers look for in today’s college graduates? Critical thinking. Communication skills. Creative problem-solving. The Letters, Arts, and Sciences degree program at Penn State Altoona allows you to develop these vital skills while building on your own individual academic interests and strengths.

Academic Themes
Below are some programs our Letters, Arts, and Sciences students have recently designed. Choose from these or create your own program and add to this list!

- Adventure Media; Environmental Journalism; Pre-law; Allied Healthcare;
- Peace and Conflict Resolution; Professional Communications and the Humanities; Youth Outreach and Leadership; Event Planning; American Studies and Culture; Social Services Administration; History and Media; Communications and Liberal Arts; and Pre-physical Therapy

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"The LAS degree is all about flexibility, which was perfect for me because I could combine my interests in philosophy, literature, and environmental sciences, without having to sacrifice one for the other. With LAS, if you can’t find your degree here, you can create it. That’s amazing. And I am learning the critical-thinking and writing skills that employers want."

Damon DePaolis
Letters, Arts, and Sciences major
Letters, Arts, and Sciences, B.A.

CHOOSE FROM THESE THEMES OR CREATE YOUR OWN

- Adventure Media
- American Studies and Culture
- Comparative Humanities; or Comparative Arts and Humanities
- Culture of Poverty and Environmental Solutions
- Engineering Management
- Environmental Journalism
- Event Planning
- Gender, Culture, or Diversity Studies
- History and Media
- Human Development and Adult Education
- Human Mind in Art and Film
- Liberal Arts and Entrepreneurship
- Medicine and Narrative; or Healthcare in the Humanities
- Peace and Conflict Resolution or Mediation
- Pre-law
- Pre-physical Therapy
- Pre-professional Healthcare; or Allied Healthcare
- Professional Communications and the Humanities
- The Rhetoric and Politics of Work and Life
- Social Services Administration
- Social Justice and Cultural Diversity
- Special Needs and Education Counseling

Examples of courses that can be taken to complete themes listed on the left:

- Women and the American Experience
- History of American Folk Music
- Legal Environment of Business
- Social and Ethical Environment of Business
- Values and Health Behavior
- Genetics and Evolution of the Human Species
- Genetics
- Ecology of Infectious Diseases
- Biology of Cancer
- Developmental Biology
- Mediation and Communication
- Persuasive Speaking
- Health Communication
- Storytelling and Speaking
- Conflict Resolution and Negotiation
- Mother-daughter Communication
- Group Performance of Literature
- The Hero in World Literature
- Reading across Cultures
- The Arthurian Legend
- Women and World Literature
- Ethics, Justice, and Rights in World Literature
- Media and Democracy
- Women, Minorities, and the Media
- Cultural Foundations of Communications
- Anatomy for Performers
- Introduction to Laban Movement Analysis
- Shakespeare
- Authors, Texts, Contexts
- Literature and Society
- Fiction Writing
- Poetry Writing
- African American Novel
- Slavery and the Literary Imagination
- American Women Writers
- Infant and Child Development
- Adolescent Development
- Adult Development and Aging
- The Helping Relationship
- Family Dynamics
- History of Madness, Mental Illness, and Psychiatry
- History of American Immigration
- U.S. in Civil War and Reconstruction, 1850-1877
- Violence and the Impact on Society
- Concepts of Health
- Compassionate Counseling
- Death and Dying
- Introduction to Ethics
- Introduction to International Relations
- Ethics of Citizenship, Politics, and Government
- Political Foundations of the American Republic
- Global Political Economy
- Health and Psychology
- Learning and Memory
- Psychology of Fear and Stress
- Human Dimensions of Healthcare
- Race and Ethnic Relations
- Advanced Social Psychology
- Sexual and Domestic Violence
- Women’s Health Issues