

Liberal Arts and Sciences

The Curriculum

The program in liberal arts and sciences offers breadth and diversity rather than specialization. The curriculum is not housed within any one of the academic schools, but consists of the sum of those courses approved for general education credit for the Associate in Arts degree, and in particular the courses approved within each of the following four major disciplines: natural sciences, social sciences, fine arts and languages, and humanities. Students interested in the program should therefore consult first the list of approved general education courses and secondly individual course descriptions in those areas in which the student has interest.

The Associate Degree Major

In that a degree in liberal arts and sciences is specifically a multidisciplinary degree offering a basic core education in the traditional academic disciplines, the major is ideal for those students who are undecided in their major, who intend an upper-division major in an area requiring little lower-division coursework, or who simply seek a non-specialized course of study providing a solid and diversified liberal education. The degree is widely recognized within educational institutions; thus it offers the student a great degree of flexibility and a wide range of possibilities. The liberal arts and sciences major learns above all to think, read, and write clearly; to become familiar and conversant with the major intellectual traditions in the arts, languages, humanities, and empirical and social sciences; and to recognize the common pursuits of each of these disciplines while learning the languages particular to each of them. The well-educated liberal arts major will find any number of careers possible, ranging from numerous aspects of business, to public service, to education, to the sciences and fine arts.

If you intend to transfer:

Courses that fulfill major requirements for an associate degree at Irvine Valley College may not be the same as those required for completing the major at a transfer institution offering a baccalaureate degree. If you plan to transfer to a four-year college or university, you should (1) refer to the transfer section of this catalog, (2) consult the catalog of your prospective transfer institution (see the IVC Transfer Center for assistance), and (3) schedule an appointment with an IVC counselor to develop a plan of study before you begin your program. In addition, it may be helpful to meet with the appropriate department faculty at IVC.

If you plan to complete an associate degree :

You must complete the courses described below to fulfill the major requirement for the Associate in Arts (A.A. degree). Refer to page 16 for additional options for fulfilling the major requirement.

LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES MAJOR

(A.A. Degree)

The liberal arts and sciences major must complete the general education requirements for the Associate in Arts (A.A.) degree (see page 21) and, in addition, complete 18 more units selected from courses in the following four categories, with at least one course taken in each category: Natural Sciences, Social Sciences, Fine Arts and Languages, and Humanities.