



THE ADVISOR ADVOCATE

Why do Liberal Studies Matter?

The Liberal Studies curriculum is a common core curriculum required by all undergraduates that include courses related to the humanities, arts, and sciences. It adds breadth to a student's major. It helps our students live and work together as part of a community both while they are at IUP and once they graduate and become part of the workforce. Liberal studies courses will help students to synthesize what they learn into a coherent whole that serves their life goals. The liberal studies courses that students take allow them to be more marketable when seeking employment once they graduate, provides them with opportunities to advance in their careers, and prepares them for their second, third, and fourth career should the need arise.

Liberal Studies provides the broad vision and understanding that enable individuals to enjoy full, rich lives and to play constructive roles in their communities.

It is necessary for the Liberal Studies program to meet the goals of the University and to provide a comprehensive curriculum that will provide all IUP students the opportunity to meet the Expected Undergraduate Student Learning Outcomes (EUSLO). This is the objective of the Liberal Studies program as a whole but not the responsibility of individual courses. No one course is expected to meet all the Student Learning Outcomes. Through our Liberal Studies curriculum, it is hoped that all IUP graduates will become the following:

Informed Learner: understanding of nature and society through inquiry fundamental to the sciences, humanities, and arts. Learners are informed by knowledge and ways of knowing that extend beyond core concepts enabling them to link theory and practice.

Empowered Learner: critical thinkers who demonstrate intellectual agility and creativity and the ability to manage or create change. They are able to derive meaning from experience and observation. They communicate well in diverse settings and employ various strategies to solve problems. They are empowered through mastery of intellectual and practical skills.

Responsible Learner: engaged citizens of a diverse democratic society who have a deep sense of social responsibility and ethical judgment. They are responsible for their personal actions and civic values.

nypost.com



**"I do think that a general liberal arts education is very important, particularly in an uncertain changing world."
Steve Case**



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More on Expected Undergraduate Learning Outcomes

There are 19 EUSLOs distributed across each of the three characteristics listed on page one. Student Learning Outcomes in courses that are part of the Liberal Studies curriculum need to be mapped to one or more of the EUSLO. One course does not have to address all 19 EUSLOs, rather the EUSLO selected should be a large part of the course. Courses from different colleges and departments are going to be mapped to different EUSLOs. The distribution of the 19 EUSLOs is as follows:

Informed Learners demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:

- the ways of modeling the natural, social and technical worlds
- the aesthetic facets of human experience
- the past and present from historical, philosophical and social perspectives
- the human imagination, expression and traditions of many cultures
- the interrelationships within and across cultures and global communities
- the interrelationships within and across disciplines

Responsible Learners demonstrate:

- intellectual honesty
- concern for social justice
- civic engagement
- an understanding of the ethical and behavioral consequences of decisions and actions on themselves, on society and on the physical world
- an understanding of themselves and a respect for the identities, histories, and cultures of others

Empowered Learners demonstrate:

- effective oral and written communication abilities
- ease with textual, visual and electronically-mediated literacies
- problem solving skills using a variety of methods and tools
- information literacy skills including the ability to access, evaluate, interpret and use information from a variety of sources
- the ability to transform information into knowledge and knowledge into judgment and action
- the ability to work within complex systems and with diverse groups
- critical thinking skills including analysis, application and evaluation
- reflective thinking and the ability to synthesize information and ideas

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