

LIBERAL STUDIES PROGRAM

Declaration of Intent

The Liberal Studies Program provides students with opportunities to integrate in two self-selected areas of study within the framework of an individualized and coherent plan. Building on the scope of disciplines explored in **The Concordia Distinctive**, students in the Liberal Studies Program develop depth of knowledge in two areas of study along with support courses, electives and experiences, which enhance their individualized graduation plan. Students complete a capstone experience in one of their chosen areas of study, which involves research and/or experiences leading to demonstration of cohesion and mastery in their program.

It is the mission of this program to provide a broad-based liberal arts education with flexibility and creativity, preparing graduates to achieve personal and academic objectives. The goals of this program are to:

1. provide students with opportunities to explore the liberal arts and connect various fields of learning;
2. provide an environment which fosters self-discipline and self-initiated learning;
3. provide a strong liberal arts foundation as the basis of understanding the world;
4. build upon foundational analytical, critical thinking, and communication skills developed in The Concordia Distinctive;
5. nurture creativity and enthusiasm for learning; and
6. assist students in understanding and embracing the mission of Concordia College.

Submit this “Declaration of Intent” to be enrolled in the Liberal Studies Program to the Registrar’s Office. This should be completed by the end of sophomore year. These Declarations will be regularly reviewed by the Liberal Studies Program at Program Meetings.

The following are the areas of study offered by the College (see the *Catalog* for curriculum requirements):

Art	Music
Biblical Languages	Psychology
English	Religion
History	Sociology
Mathematics	Signature (self-designed Area extension)
New Media & Digital Production	

LIBERAL STUDIES PROGRAM -- *Declaration of Intent*

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY: This completed form should be submitted to the Registrar's Office.

STUDENT _____ ID # _____

Print the names of two faculty members familiar with your academic potential:

1) Identify the **two** areas of study to be completed in the Liberal Studies Program:

Art	Mathematics	Religion
Biblical Languages	Music	Sociology
English	New Media & Digital Production	Signature (self-designed Area extension-complete next page)
History	Psychology	

2) Write a brief rationale for your selection. _____

3) Which area will sponsor the capstone experience? _____

4) List the potential support courses and electives. _____, _____, _____,

_____, _____, _____, _____, _____,

5) List two or three possible goals to be achieved from this study (e.g., career, grad school, personal).

6) Briefly indicate other courses or experiences that exist or could be created to support this program.

Student Signature: _____ date _____

Current Adviser Signature: _____ date _____

Office Use: Committee Endorsement: initial & date _____

Recorded by Registrar: _____ date _____

Copies to: Advisers assigned _____

THE SIGNATURE AREA OF STUDY

The Signature Area of Study is designed to allow academically qualified, self-motivated, Liberal Studies students the opportunity to bring together academic classes, independent studies, and experiential learning in a creative synthesis that extends the scope of any student’s learning beyond the boundaries of programs and catalog offerings. After choosing a foundational area of study, students focus their interests and create their own 18-credit complementary area. Thus, the Signature Area of Study allows for a truly individualized graduation plan within Liberal Studies—in line with the College’s stated mission to engage and nurture the needs of a diverse student body.

As each signature area is necessarily different, the faculty member in the foundational area will be responsible for advising the student how to create the area so the student in question will:

- formulate his/her own goals for continued learning and inquiry;
- synthesize multiple sources into a coherent area of study with a Liberal Education focus and perspective;
- demonstrate both critical and creative thinking;
- demonstrate depth of knowledge in the signature area; and
- establish a clear connection between the signature area and the foundational area through the capstone.

Identify in the grid below the courses you wish to combine into your Signature Area of Study.

Course Levels	Types of Courses	Credits (18 credits minimum)	Signature Courses:
200-level courses	May be chosen from any discipline (provided pre-requisites are met) Must fit with Signature Plan.	3 credits maximum	
300- and 400-level courses	May be chosen from any discipline(provided pre-requisites are met) Must fit with Signature Plan.	3 credits minimum, 9 credits maximum	
Independent Study/ Experiential Learning courses	At least one independent study/ scholarship course in the Signature Area	3 credits minimum, 9 credits maximum	

Capstone course is taken in the foundational area (not the Signature Area)

Write a brief statement of what you have learned or intend to learn from the courses in connection with your proposed Signature Area:
