

# LIBERAL ARTS

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## Departments and Schools

### Department of African American Studies

The Department of African American Studies is a meeting ground for scholars, students and thinkers committed to the study of African American and African-descended peoples in the Americas. As we foster meaningful engagement with the economic, social and political conditions of black life on campus and beyond, we seek to build a vibrant community of inquiry and innovation at Penn State.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES (<https://afam.la.psu.edu>)

### African Studies Program

The African Studies Program offers many opportunities for students to learn about important historical, social, political, and economic features of the African continent. The African Studies Program seeks to expand student knowledge of Africa by, among other things, highlighting Africa's place in the global community, the vital geo-resources sustaining the world's ecosystems, the depth of its artistic creativity and the resourcefulness of its peoples.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE AFRICAN STUDIES PROGRAM (<https://africanstudies.la.psu.edu>)

### Department of Anthropology

Anthropology is the study of humanity—our biology and behavior, past and present. Anthropologists study living people across cultures and populations; past people through fossil, archeological, and historical records; as well as living and extinct nonhuman primates. Our students gain holistic, integrative social science training in and out of the classroom.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY (<https://anth.la.psu.edu>)

### Department of Applied Linguistics

Our mission is to advance understandings of language use and language learning from a range of anthropological, sociological, and psychological perspectives. Our faculty are committed to teaching and mentoring students. They are recognized worldwide for their topically and geographically diverse research involving a broad spectrum of languages and settings.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT OF APPLIED LINGUISTICS (<https://aplng.la.psu.edu>)

### Department of Asian Studies

The Asian studies department offers undergraduate majors and minors in Asian Studies, Chinese, and Japanese, with plans to also expand the Korean and Hindi programs. Students who take courses in our department learn to think critically; to make literary, political, and historical judgments; and to understand the impact of the past on the present and of present choices on the future. Our language programs offer deep immersion in new cultural contexts and broaden linguistic and social horizons.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT OF ASIAN STUDIES (<https://asian.la.psu.edu>)

### Department of Classics and Ancient Mediterranean Studies

CAMS is the study of ancient civilizations that arose and flourished around the Mediterranean basin (including Egypt, Greece, Rome, Anatolia, Israel, Mesopotamia, and North Africa) from the “cradle of civilization” in Mesopotamia (ca. 4000 BCE) to the end of Greco-Roman antiquity (ca. 600 CE). CAMS investigates the whole scope of the ancient Mediterranean world and trains students to interpret the linguistic and archaeological evidence of the greatest ancient cultures.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS AND ANCIENT MEDITERRANEAN STUDIES (<https://cams.la.psu.edu>)

### Department of Communication Arts and Sciences

CAS is committed to the study, teaching, and practice of human communication for the betterment of Pennsylvania, the nation, and the world. Using methods and theories that span the humanities and social sciences, we create knowledge about the role of communication in diverse interpersonal, communal, national, international, and cultural settings.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION ARTS AND SCIENCES (<https://cas.la.psu.edu>)

### Department of Comparative Literature

Our department offers exciting ways to study literature and culture in a global context; to examine global media (print, visual, electronic); and to explore questions of ethics, human rights, and the real-world contexts of literary and cultural production. Training students in important skills such as analytical writing, argumentation, and communication in an international context, comparative literature provides many of the key components to success in the global economy.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT OF COMPARATIVE LITERATURE (<https://complit.la.psu.edu>)

### Department of Economics

Economics studies the allocation of scarce resources. At the core of economics are theories of how individuals, firms, and other organizations make choices and interact, taking into account constraints on their behaviors. The topics studied by our students include the determination of prices and quantities in various types of markets; the effects of taxes, subsidies, and regulations; economic growth and income distribution; international trade and international finance; and more.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS (<https://econ.la.psu.edu>)

### Department of English

Our students explore the imaginative and practical uses of English through courses in literature, writing, rhetoric, and language. They develop perspectives on human nature and cultural values through American, British, and other English literatures; they learn how to gather, analyze, synthesize, and communicate information; they gain mastery over their language. These skills help English majors find careers in such fields as publishing, business, industry, government, and teaching.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH (<https://english.la.psu.edu>)

## Department of French and Francophone Studies

The French language is the most direct route to 150,000,000 people in over 40 countries and territories of Europe, Africa, Asia, North America, and Latin America. If your goals include a future that requires contact with these diverse peoples or if your plan is to teach French, we offer a variety of options that will fit your needs: French/business, French/engineering, French language and culture, French language and literature, French language and linguistics, and applied French.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT OF FRENCH AND FRANCOPHONE STUDIES (<https://french.la.psu.edu>)

## Department of Germanic and Slavic Languages and Literatures

We offer undergraduate and graduate degrees in German and Russian. Other Slavic languages offered include Ukrainian, Polish, and Czech. Our award-winning faculty is committed to teaching and research in the areas of language, literature, and culture.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT OF GERMANIC AND SLAVIC LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES (<https://german.la.psu.edu>)

## School of Global Languages, Literatures, and Cultures

The school's purpose is to promote the study and knowledge of languages, literatures, and cultures worldwide. Our member departments offer graduate and undergraduate degrees, study abroad programs, student research opportunities, internships, and more.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCHOOL OF GLOBAL LANGUAGES, LITERATURES, AND CULTURES (<https://sgllc.la.psu.edu>)

## Department of History

History majors acquire skills critical in today's workplace. History majors learn how to learn. Increasingly, the work world places a premium on this kind of flexibility. Most people change jobs frequently, and jobs themselves are transformed rapidly, which means workers need to learn new skills all the time. History majors can have a long-term edge in this type of environment because they are taught how to conceptualize an issue, research it, weigh evidence, and make conclusions.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY (<https://history.la.psu.edu>)

## Jewish Studies Program

Our interdisciplinary program ranges globally in scope from the Israelite origins of the Jewish people to the experiences of postmodern Jews in the 21st century. Our distinguished faculty offers courses across a diverse array of fields and topics, with perspectives that combine the humanities and the social sciences. We offer a major and minor in Jewish studies, a minor in Hebrew, and a certificate in Holocaust and genocide studies.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE JEWISH STUDIES PROGRAM (<https://jewishstudies.la.psu.edu>)

## School of Labor and Employment Relations

Our school offers B.S. and B.A. majors in Labor and Employment Relations. LER majors learn about all aspects of work and the employment relationship, including: the best strategies for recruiting and hiring a productive workforce, the laws that protect employees in the workplace, effective human resource practices and policies, the challenge

of balancing work and family pressures, the impact of globalization on work and the workforce, and more.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCHOOL OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS (<https://ler.la.psu.edu>)

## Department of Philosophy

We educate undergraduates with an eye toward both of these features of philosophy: its rich and varied historical traditions and its ongoing contemporary relevance. Students not only learn the greatest thinkers, theories, and texts of the history of philosophy, they are also challenged to develop their own ideas, to apply philosophy to their own lives, and to use philosophy to address the pressing issues of our times.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY (<https://philosophy.la.psu.edu>)

## Department of Political Science

Students interested in American politics, the politics of other nations, international relations, and/or political theory can pursue four degree options in the political science department. We offer B.A. degrees in political science and international politics. The department also offers two B.S. degrees—one in political science, the second in social data analytics—that emphasize data analysis and research across all areas of political science.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE (<https://polisci.la.psu.edu>)

## Department of Psychology

Many people associate psychology with psychological therapy and the practice of clinical psychology. There are actually many other important areas of scientific psychology, such as cognitive, developmental, industrial/organizational, and social psychology.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY (<https://psych.la.psu.edu>)

## School of Public Policy

The School of Public Policy brings together expertise from across the University to educate the next generation of problem solvers and leaders. Current focus areas include data/science analytics, health policy, children and family policy, labor and employment relations, information technology, international policy, and criminal justice.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY (<https://publicpolicy.psu.edu/>)

## Department of Sociology and Criminology

Ranked among the top programs in the nation, the sociology program offers undergraduate students a broad liberal arts education with courses in family, religion, government, race, class, and gender, among other areas. The criminology program is one of the nation's top programs in this area. Our undergraduate program promotes an understanding of crime and the criminal justice system and how they are related to human behavior, social environments, and government policy.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND CRIMINOLOGY (<https://sociology.la.psu.edu/>)

## Department of Spanish, Italian, and Portuguese

Our department is at the forefront of literary, linguistic, and cultural studies in the United States. Our mission is to provide training that not

only meets the highest standards of professional research but also prepares students for civic engagement and intellectual autonomy.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT OF SPANISH, ITALIAN AND PORTUGUESE (<https://sip.la.psu.edu>)

### **Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies**

Women's studies is an interdisciplinary field of research and teaching that places women's lives, perspectives, and experiences at the center of inquiry. Women's studies asks questions regarding the diversity of women's lives and experiences throughout history, contemporary problems from the perspectives of women and gender, and how changes in fundamental assumptions about the production of knowledge have transformed conventional areas of study.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN'S, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY STUDIES (<https://wgss.la.psu.edu>)