

# Liberal Studies

Professor A. Mullen, Program Coordinator

## Subject Matter Preparation for Elementary Teaching Candidates

**Description of the Major:** The liberal studies program is a multi-disciplinary major designed for those preparing to become elementary teachers. Unlike most other majors at Westmont, the liberal studies major requires students to develop themselves in a wide range of academic fields. Although some courses are designed specifically with teacher candidates in mind, the primary emphasis of the program is to develop candidates' subject matter expertise.

Westmont's liberal studies program is recognized by California's Commission on Teacher Credentialing as a state-approved Elementary Subject Matter program. As such, it is designed, among other purposes, to prepare prospective elementary school teachers for the California Subject Examination for Teachers (CSET), required as of 2003 for entry into a state-approved credential program.

Typically, students completing the liberal studies major go on immediately to enroll in a one-year Multiple Subject (K-6) credential program. For information on Westmont's Credential programs, refer to Education, p. 88.

**Distinctive Features:** With proper planning, students may complete the liberal studies major (including Westmont's general education requirements) and the teacher preparation program in four years, beginning their professional careers immediately after receiving the B.A. degree. Careful, one-on-one advising guides liberal studies students at Westmont through the sometimes bewildering maze of California requirements leading to a teaching credential. Program personnel are consistently available and responsive to individual student questions.

Field placements in local elementary schools throughout the liberal studies major help to prepare students for the demands of a teaching credential program and the responsibilities of full-time teaching.

Liberal studies students who have completed the B.A. degree and who live off campus receive a scholarship (equal to a 55% reduction in tuition) during the student teaching semester. Note that this is given in lieu of other Westmont scholarships students may have received previously.

Since 1988, Westmont has provided the opportunity to student teach at an American International School in Costa Rica.

**Career Choices:** As noted above, the liberal studies major is explicitly designed for those pursuing a career in elementary teaching. In many cases, graduates of the Westmont program eventually go on to careers in special education, school administration, teacher education, or writing.

## LIBERAL STUDIES

### **Requirements for Liberal Studies (Multiple Subject) Major: 116-112 units**

*Note: The outline of requirements below incorporates all of Westmont's General Education Requirements.*

#### **I. Language and Literature (20-24 units)**

ENG 002 Composition (4) (waived if a score of 580 on the SAT I Writing Component) or a score of "4" or "5" on AP language exam  
ENG 104 Modern Grammar and Advanced Composition (4)  
ENG 006 Studies in Literature (4)  
ED 172 Literature for Children and Adolescents (4)  
ENG 106 Language Acquisition (4)  
General Education Language Requirement (4)

For details of how students fulfill the College's writing intensive course requirements, please see Liberal Studies Handbook.

#### **II. History/Social Science (16 units)**

HIS 009 World Civilization I (4)  
HIS 007 US History to 1877 (4)  
HIS 178 California Experience (4)  
ED 105 Cultural Diversity (4)

#### **III. Mathematics and Computer Science (8 units)**

MA 160 Fundamentals of Mathematics I (4)  
MA 165 Fundamentals of Mathematics II (2)  
ED 160 Computers for Classroom Teachers (2)

#### **IV. Natural Science (12 units)**

LS 012 Introduction to Life Science (4)  
PHS 011 Introduction to Physical Science (4)  
PHS 114 Earth Science (4)

#### **V. Visual and Performing Arts (8 units)**

ART 180 Art for Children (4)  
MU 184 Music for Children (4)

#### **VI. Health and Physical Education (7 units)**

KNS 156 Health Education for the Classroom Teacher (2)  
KNS 155 Fundamentals of Movement (2) [counts as one PE activity course]  
PEA 032 Fitness for Life (1)  
Two additional one-unit PEA courses (2)

#### **VII. Human Development (4 units)**

PSY 115 Child Development (4)

## LIBERAL STUDIES

### **VIII. Preprofessional coursework (5 units)**

ED 100 Explorations in Teaching (4)

ED 109 Liberal Studies Seminar (1)

### **IX. Academic Concentration (10-12 units)**

Each Liberal Studies major selects three full (3-4 unit) courses totaling no less than 10 units, beyond the requirements above, in one of the following areas. For details, see Liberal Studies Handbook.

1. American Studies
2. Hispanic Studies (Spanish)
3. English
4. History/Social Science
5. Art
6. Music
7. Mathematics
8. Physical Science
9. Environmental Science

### **X. Additional courses to fulfill General Education requirements (16 units)**

PHI 006 Introduction to Philosophy (4)

RS 001 Life and Literature of the Old Testament (4)

RS 010 Life and Literature of the New Testament (4)

RS 020 Introduction to Christian Doctrine (4)

Transfer students *may* have reduced requirements for Religious Studies courses. See departmental advisor for details.

Students taking courses that do not appear on the list above must gain approval from the education department in order for the coursework to be validated as part of their major.

LIBERAL STUDIES

**Sample Four-Year Course Sequence  
Liberal Studies Program—Fast-track option  
(3 years Liberal Studies Major  
+ 1 year Credential Program)**

**First Year**

**Fall (17) Spring (17)**

RS 020 (4) RS 010 (4)  
ENG 002 (4) ENG 006 (4)  
HIS 007 (4) GE Language Requirement (4)  
PHS 011 (4) LS 012 (4)  
PEA 032 (1) PEA elective (1)

**Second Year**

**Fall (18) Spring (19)**

ART 180 (4) RS 001 (4)  
HIS 009 (4) MA 165 (2)  
PHS 114 (4) PSY 115 (4)  
MA 160 (4) ED 172 (4)  
KNS 155 (2) Concentration elective (4)  
PEA elective (1)

**Third Year**

**Fall (20) Spring (19)**

ENG 104 (4) HIS 178 (4)  
ENG 106 (4) ED 160 (2)  
ED 105 (4) ED 100 (4)  
PHI 006 (2) ED 109 (1)  
Concentration elective (4) MU 184 (4)  
Concentration elective (4)

**Fourth Year (Credential Program)**

**Fall (20) Spring (15)**

ED 110 (4) ED 190 (12)  
ED 120 (4) ED 195 (3)  
ED 150 (4)  
ED 170 (4)  
ED 130 (2)  
KNS 156 (2)

## LIBERAL STUDIES

### **Notes on sample four-year schedule:**

Students who choose not to complete the teacher preparation program as part of their four-year program, or who have not been admitted to the credential program, will replace the education courses in the fourth year, above, with elective units.

Four semesters shown in the sample four-year course sequence consist of schedules exceeding the regular limit of 18 units. Not all students are eligible to exceed this limit. Students may use Mayterm, approved summer coursework from other institutions, or approved AP coursework from high school to keep from having to enroll in more than 18 units in any given semester.

For students on the “fast-track” schedule, the baccalaureate degree would officially be awarded at the conclusion of the first semester of the fourth year. Students participate in graduation ceremonies the following May. A student in this program would have, at the conclusion of the four years, fifteen post-baccalaureate credit hours.