Liberal Arts and Sciences Program

Liberal Arts education fosters the development of rigorous intellectual skills by teaching students how to think critically and interpret information, to form and express informed opinions, to communicate effectively, and to appreciate the richness of a diverse human culture.

For students first entering the College of Staten Island, the general education requirements they have to fulfill will be liberal arts classes. Many students choose the Liberal Arts major at the beginning of their college education while they complete these general education requirements and elect to change their major only after they have been exposed to coursework in different fields.

Students admitted to the pre-baccalaureate program are automatically enrolled in an Associate of Liberal Arts and Sciences program while they are allowed the opportunity to establish a GPA and experience a wide cross-section of courses. Since most students are not required to declare a major until they are upper sophomores, this allows a seamless and pressure-free transition to college.

The Associate of Sciences in Liberal Arts and Science degree is a two-year program that will prepare students for advanced study in scientific areas like biochemistry, biology, chemistry, computer science, engineering science, mathematics, medical technology, or physics.

A liberal arts education consists of general courses in art, literature, languages, philosophy, politics, history, math, and science.

Dr. Deborah DeSimone delivers a lecture to students in the School of Education.

Rather than focus on technical or vocational skills, a liberal arts education consists of general courses in art, literature, languages, philosophy, politics, history, math, and science. Liberal Arts courses can be courses in the humanities, which focus on the human condition; or in the natural and social sciences. The Associate in Liberal Arts is a springboard to continued study in any desired four-year program.

The College offers two associate degrees in Liberal Arts and Sciences for CSI students interested in continuing their study in a baccalaureate program:

1. The Associate of Arts (AA) in Liberal Arts and Sciences; and
2. The Associate of Science (AS) in Liberal Arts and Sciences.

AS in Liberal Arts and Sciences
For students interested in pursuing a four-year degree in a scientific area like Biochemistry, Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Engineering Science, Mathematics, Medical Technology, or Physics, the Associate of Sciences degree is a two-year program which offers a solid foundation in scientific analysis, quantitative skills and analysis, and other general education requirements that will prepare students for advanced study in their selected major. Students can also consult with academic advisers to begin planning a course of study which will fulfill requirements of their chosen or intended major.

AA in Liberal Arts and Sciences
For students interested in pursuing a four-year degree in one of the many non-scientific majors which CSI offers, the Associate of Arts program offers two years of considerable flexibility to survey areas of academic interest, concentrate in a particular area or begin working on fulfilling requirements of a particular major.

An Associate in Liberal Arts and Sciences

Esteemed Professor Calvin Holder conducts a History class, a course of study in the Liberal Arts curriculum.
degree is well regarded as a solid academic foundation for continued collegiate studies.

**BA in Science, Letters and Society**
The major in Science, Letters, and Society (SLS) is designed for students seeking an overview of the liberal arts and sciences rather than specialization in a single discipline. The program requires a balanced sequence of broadly conceived upper-level courses in the humanities, social sciences, mathematics, and science. The development of high levels of competence in critical reading and writing is particularly emphasized. For admission to and continuation in the major of Science, Letters, and Society, a minimum GPA of 3.00 is required. As the SLS major is required for aspiring early childhood and elementary school teachers, many SLS majors pursue a concentration in Education.

**Program Coordinator**
The SLS Program Coordinator, Dr. Cary Karacas, can be reached in the Department of Political Science and Global Affairs, Building 2N, Room 238, at (718) 982-2890 or via email at: cary.karacas@csi.cuny.edu.

**Graduate Studies in Liberal Arts**
The College of Staten Island also offers students wishing to pursue graduate studies the Master of Arts in Liberal Studies (MALS Program). Students in the MALS program can study modern Western society, culture and thought through an intensive examination of their origins and through comparison with other societies and cultures.

The MALS Program Coordinator, Dr. Ismael Garcia-Colón, can be reached in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Building 4S, Room 237, or via email: Ismael.Garcia@csi.cuny.edu or (718) 982-3766.