

# Liberal Arts & Humanities



# How do the Liberal Arts and Humanities shape our world?

They do so by showing individuals the path to discovery. English classes teach our students how to communicate effectively with one another; History classes give our students an understanding of from where they came; Philosophy classes teach students how and when to question things; and Arts and Languages classes teach the importance of reflecting on ourselves and communicating across cultural barriers.

Liberal Arts & Humanities are the wellspring of progress - for individuals and for the world.

# Liberal Arts & Humanities

For as long as higher education has existed in the western world, so have the educational programs that make up what today is known as Liberal Arts & Humanities.

Generally considered the basis for any type of formal education, Liberal Arts & Humanities encompasses a diverse grouping of topics that range from religious and cultural studies to natural and social sciences, mathematics, philosophy and the arts.

Through expansive educations provided by instruction across these topics, students throughout history have found themselves able to take a more direct role in life.

Long thought to be the essential foundation for a free society, Liberal Arts & Humanities helped shape thinkers from ancient Rome and Greece through the Renaissance, as well as providing the enlightened education the founding fathers needed to turn the 13 Colonies into the United States of America.

Regardless of the topics studied, students who had educations throughout the Liberal Arts & Humanities found themselves on consistent, lifelong paths of discovery. While educations with

strong Liberal Arts & Humanities have fallen out of favor in certain circles, those very educations are finding more appreciation again as technology figuratively works to shrink the world and connect people from all walks of life.

The main goal of any society to provide these wide-encompassing educations is to create lifelong learners, to instill in students a sense of wonder and curiosity about the world and the ability to seek out new experiences, to shape individuals to take active roles in their organizations and communities.

These traits help shape lifelong learners, and a lifelong learner is more likely to be more active and successful both in the community and in their organization. Studies consistently reflect that students who graduate with four-year degrees that typically include Liberal Arts & Humanities educations earn more throughout their lifetime.

Those same graduates have a tendency to find more opportunity thanks to the educations that provided them the foundations to discover more about their surroundings.

More and more, business and industry is reporting that their workforce reflects higher needs for employees who can communicate across job positions, who can think on their feet, and who can question how processes are done to create efficiencies on the fly. North Dakota's main industries – Agriculture, Energy, Health Care, Manufacturing and Technology – all agree. Higher education is right with them.

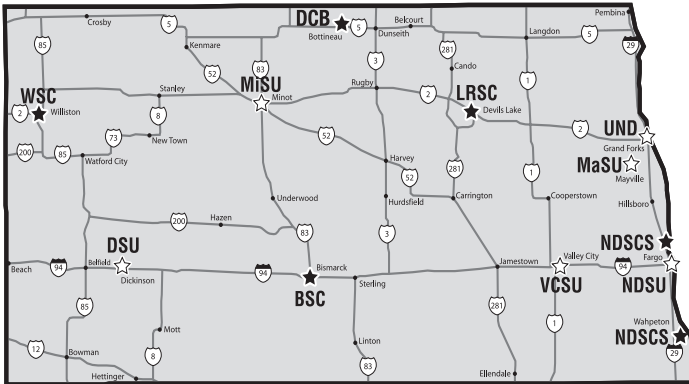
The Association of American Universities noted that it believes that a robust humanities education is a critical component to cultivating a broadly-educated workforce ready to compete in the knowledge-based, global economy of this century.

To do this, high school teachers

are already busy teaching English, History, Social Studies, Language Arts and more to help create the foundation for today's students to be as successful as possible, no matter what field they go into.

Since workers in the 21st Century are more likely to change jobs and careers with higher regularity than at any time in history, a well-rounded individual who can learn new things quickly, and think on their feet is more sought-after than ever.

Please take some time to discover through this publication, how Liberal Arts & Humanities can help everyone achieve their goals.



**Key:** ★ = Two-Year Colleges

☆ = Four-Year Universities

- Bismarck State College (BSC)**
- Dakota College at Bottineau (DCB)**
- Lake Region State College (LRSC)**
- North Dakota State College of Science (NDSCS)**
- Williston State College (WSC)**

- Dickinson State University (DSU)**
- Mayville State University (MaSU)**
- Minot State University (MiSU)**
- North Dakota State University (NDSU)**
- University of North Dakota (UND)**
- Valley City State University (VCSU)**

# Why Envision?

Envision 2030 set out in 2016 to learn what our university system needed to do to make sure our graduates were getting the educations they desired for themselves and that were required to become successful in their fields. Ten Advisory Teams were created. The team focused on Liberal Arts & Humanities drew from its members' histories in business, education, communications, and more, to deliver the following findings:

Liberal Arts & Humanities are tied to everything: Agriculture. Business. Commerce. Diversity. Etc.

Everything from the ability to read to the skills to conduct one's job, or role in society to the know-how of an individual to challenge it all - Liberal Arts & Humanities can provide.

A relative wealth of information has entered the public sphere in recent years regarding Liberal Arts & Humanities as they apply to the workforce. Namely, that the soft skills delivered by through writing, public speaking, philosophy or history classes are the ones that create the foundation from which students learn to think and apply themselves critically.

These arguments made on behalf of creating well-rounded workers are positive, but we seek to create more than just well-rounded workers, we must strive to create well-rounded and engaged individuals.

Traditionally the core of college and university education, the liberal arts remain central and vital to college and university learning in the twenty-first century. The rationale for the liberal arts comprises three elements.

1. Study in the liberal arts imparts fundamental skills and aptitudes of lifelong service and applicability. Among these skills and aptitudes are reading, writing, speaking, and critical thinking--all essential to individual aspirations, constructive citizenship, and productive labor.

2. The liberal arts are the keystone of general education. General education, in turn, fulfills the American ideal of college and university education. College and university education in America is an aspirational enterprise. It assumes the right and capacity of all college and university students to be informed and to think seriously about their world, their work, their country, and their lives.

3. Disciplines of the liberal arts are important to the research mission.

They pursue basic and applied knowledge that informs our heritage and enriches our lives. Scholars of the liberal arts in public colleges and universities have an especial mandate to pursue research pertinent to their own states and communities, at the same time as they enlarge knowledge beyond borders.

Strong programs in the liberal arts, too, are a good fit with the hard-working, producerist culture of North Dakota. As the Association of American Universities affirms, “believe robust humanities education is critical to cultivating a broadly educated workforce ready to compete in the knowledge-based, global economy of the 21st Century.” The university system must meet this challenge.

The following elements are basic to meeting the challenge for the liberal arts.

- Evaluate the parameters of general education in the university system. While maintaining the minimal requirements already in place, consider the elevation of standards so as to produce graduates with better basic skills and stronger general knowledge.
- Provide resources, such as summer fellowships and grants-in-aid, that close the gap between the liberal arts and the hard sciences in research support, with the aim of cultivating a robust research culture in the liberal arts disciplines.
- Provide board and system affirmation of the importance of the liberal arts by bringing scholars and leaders of the liberal arts into board and system consultations with stakeholders.
- Make the liberal arts more salient in the system and the state through the support of endowed chairs and centers for research, learning, and service.

ENVISION  2030

# Transfer programs at our community colleges

Our community colleges have a great focus toward getting students up-and-running in their careers, as well as providing responsive training programs for adult learners who want to add to their knowledge base.

The schools also have Liberal Arts and Humanities Transfer Programs, which allow students the opportunity to prepare for later transfer to a four-year university while taking care of some of their general education requirements at home.

For the most part, these two-year programs help provide accredited courses to students that meet both the need for general education and personal enrichment. These programs can also serve to give a student a well-rounded education while they're on their way to selecting a major.

Throughout our two-year campuses, the following Liberal Arts Transfer Programs are available:

- Accounting
- Agriculture
- Art
- Biology
- Biotechnology
- Business Administration
- Business Education
- Chemistry
- Computer Information Systems
- Computer Science
- Criminal Justice
- Dentistry
- Economics
- Education
- Engineering
- English
- Finance
- Foreign Languages
- General Education
- History
- Human Services
- Management
- Mgmt. Information Systems
- Marketing
- Mass Communications
- Massage Therapy
- Mathematics
- Medical Coding
- Medical Lab Scientist
- Music
- Nursing
- Petroleum Production Tech
- Pharmacy
- Philosophy
- Physical Education
- Physics
- Political Science
- Pre-Med(Various)
- Psychology
- Religion
- Social Work
- Sociology
- Special Education
- Speech Language Pathology Assistant
- Speech Communication
- Study Abroad
- Theatre Arts
- Transportation Tech
- Veterinary Science
- Wildlife Management
- Welding Technology

and more!



# Languages and arts at DSU

At Dickinson State University, the Departments of Fine and Performing Arts, and Languages and Literature help students discover.

The Department of Language and Literature offers a variety of programs to students working toward developing the skills they need for fulfilling careers in literature, writing, and the modern languages. Our courses represent the heart of a liberal arts education, providing students with fundamental skills—reading, writing, and thinking—considered essential to a well-rounded education. As a student in our program, you will gain a knowledge of cultural interaction and critical thinking that will help you to thrive in a global community.

The Department of Fine and Performing Arts at Dickinson State University provides students with a variety of high quality programs designed to promote communicative and artistic excellence. You will receive the individual attention needed to hone your skills through specialized courses and a range of technical and performance opportunities. We believe, through teaching and practice, our students can enhance the quality of life for themselves and others through exhibitions, performances, and teaching.

Additionally, DSU's KickstART event gives students the unique opportunity to see how involvement in the arts translates to real career opportunity through the shared experiences of individuals such as entrepreneurs, community leaders, and political figures.

In addition to the benefits listed above, high school students gain insight into a number of industries, as well as consider potential university major/minor options.

Guests who have an interest in the fine and performing arts enjoy hearing from any of the special speakers slated to speak at this event.





# Learning to sign at LRSC

The American Sign Language and Interpreting Studies program at Lake Region State College



is the only program of its kind in North Dakota. Students in the program have access to the sign language environment and the North Dakota School for the Deaf (NDSD). Located one block from NDSD, Lake Region State College is ideally situated to offer this program.

The American Sign Language and Interpreting Studies program offers two levels of training. The Associate in Applied Science (AAS) Degree allows students to acquire entry-level skills as an American Sign Language (ASL) Interpreter. The services of interpreters are needed in a variety of settings. The AAS degree includes an internship with professional interpreters.

The two semester Certificate program gives students the opportunity to increase your understanding of deaf culture while developing fluency in American Sign Language. It can also be beneficial for students enrolled in related programs such as Early Childhood Education and Nursing.



# Strong options in Minot

At Minot State University, a whole range of options exists at the College of Arts and Sciences and its Division of Humanities.



**Minot State  
UNIVERSITY**

Here, English Literature, Humanities, Foreign

Language, and Art, Theatre Arts, Broadcasting and Communication Arts keep students discovering new things every day.

At MiSU's Division of Humanities, students will find some of the best qualified faculty in the state and in the nation, dedicated both to sharing their knowledge of the Liberal Arts, and encouraging students' passions for a life understood through our fields of study.

The college's faculty can help students learn a language, write an essay, analyze and create a work of art, and collaborate with fellow artists.

Likewise, faculty will join students in discussions and activities stressing the links between skills and ideas, traditions and innovations, knowledge and imagination, words and truths.

The Division of Humanities fosters critical and creative engagement in the study of diverse literatures and languages, cultures and societies, visual and performing arts, and print and broadcast communications.

Humanities students at Minot State study the expression of the human spirit in words and images. This includes studying basic communication skills in speech and writing, learning about the ways different cultures and historical periods express their unique spirit in words and images, becoming educated on the ways individuals express their unique vision and spirit in words and images, and discovering the relationships among technique, meaning, and

## **Programs available:**

Art Program  
Communication Arts Department  
Broadcasting Program  
Communication Program  
Theatre Program

English Program  
Film  
Foreign Language Program  
Gender/Women's Studies  
Humanities

# More options at NDSU

At North Dakota State University, the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences inspires its students to think critically, act creatively, grow professionally, and change the world.

The college offers an array of engaging and transformative learning opportunities, both locally and globally. Through a variety of endeavors, including directing government agencies, responding to community emergencies, designing public spaces, performing in plays and concerts, and winning Emmys, our graduates are making a notable impact on the world. I hope you will join us in contributing to the betterment of communities across the region, nation and globe.

For students interested in crafting built environments, engaging in community art projects, becoming a writer or web designer, going on an archaeological dig in Samoa, or playing in the NDSU marching band, then this is the path for them. If those topics sound appealing, students will want to become a part of this college. They will have opportunities to study in areas that allow them to broaden their perspectives, understand themselves and their everyday interactions, and realize their fullest potential.

The diversity of courses offered within the college permits students to explore various fields to aid them in career decisions.

The College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences has approximately 125 faculty and lecturers, 15 staff members, 1,500 undergraduate and 200 graduate students from the departments of Communication; Criminal Justice and Political Science; Emergency Management; English; History, Philosophy, and Religious Studies; Modern Languages; Music; Sociology and Anthropology; Theatre Arts; and Visual Arts. Master's and doctoral degrees are offered in most departments. See the Faculty and Staff List for the names of AHSS department professors, lecturers, and administrative staff.  
College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Curriculum Guide

In addition to preparing students for a livelihood in a highly competitive society, our academic majors provide skills that generalize to the world in which our graduates will live. Critical thinking, an ability to communicate in all media, an appreciation of the diversity of ideas that constitute the intellectual marketplace, and a recognition of the importance of all traditions to creating our present cultural and international tapestry, will hold our students in good stead across their professional and personal lives.

# Strong history at UND

As one of the oldest colleges in the state, University of North Dakota's College of Arts and Sciences has a strong history... with history.

There is simply no other place where students can study anything -- from plutonium to poetry, the College of Arts & Sciences is a great place to continue a lifelong love affair with your favorite subject!

The College of Arts and Sciences was established in 1883--the first college established--is the largest, and arguably one of the more interesting of nine colleges at the University of North Dakota. The College of Arts and Sciences dates from the founding of the University in 1883, and has had organic continuity from that date, in spite of some temporary changes in name and structure.

The college is for all undergraduates who wish to complete studies for the Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Fine Arts, Bachelor of Music or Bachelor of Science degree with concentration in some substantive or applicative field of study within the traditionally broad spectrum of the liberal arts. There are currently about 3,000 students enrolled in the college's 31 undergraduate majors, 15 master's programs, and 11 doctoral programs. The college's 19 departments are organized into four divisions: fine arts, social sciences, humanities, and math-natural sciences.

UND graduates are entering a new global economy where technological literacy is required, but these workers will need much more than up-to-date technology skills during the decades their careers span. Tomorrow's workers need to be able to communicate, interpret, and analyze the world they find, often working with others in highly interdisciplinary environments.

In a survey of more than 300 employers, 91 percent reported they plan to assign a higher level of responsibility to employees and ask them to use more extensive skill sets than in the past. These workers will be asked to do more by their employers, and will likely themselves changes jobs, and careers, several times during their working years. A degree in the liberal arts prepares graduates to meet the world as they find it, and adapt as it changes.



# KickstART(ing) liberal arts education at DSU

Throughout the North Dakota University System, the 11 public colleges and universities all seek to provide their students the opportunity to discover the world around them through liberal arts and humanities education and events.

At Dickinson State University, it's become kind of a big deal thanks to the university's regular KickstART event.

Held now for the past two years, the KickstART event gives DSU the chance to area high school students and members of the community to a collection of discussions on the impact of the arts on careers and businesses.

For the first two events, numerous panels and presentations were designed to increase awareness about the economic and social impact of fine and performing arts on a thriving community and its inhabitants. These discussions will be led by entrepreneurs familiar to the community as well as leaders within the community.

Students and community members alike will have the chance to learn how involvement in the arts translates to unique career opportunities in our region. Students will also gain insight into a number of educational paths available to them and the industries looking for employees with the unique skills relevant to their education.

“Our goal is to build awareness about the importance of a liberal arts education, no matter which career you choose,” said Josh Nichols, organizer of the event. “My experiences with acting and directing have provided me with the confidence needed to make bold decisions in my entrepreneurial ventures, the creativity to excel in my career in technology, and an outlet for artistic expression that I wouldn’t trade for anything.”

“After the success of the first KickstART conference, DSU is excited to continue to lead the discussion on the importance of the



arts in our communities,” Nichols added. “The skills acquired from a liberal arts education are critical to the marketability of an individual in today’s competitive job market.”

Chancellor Mark Hagerott noted that an education in the arts is incredibly useful to those seeking a career in a competitive market.

“Throughout the public and private sector, leaders are looking for the types of critical thinkers and communicators that come from strong liberal arts backgrounds,” Hagerott said. “An education in the Liberal Arts and Humanities doesn’t only provide facts to students, it provides them with a well-rounded and versatile education that is nearly limitless in application.”

Among last year’s open discussion topics were

- How My Minor Helped My Career
- Side Gig in the Arts
- The Accidental Artist
- Q & A with a local artist/gallery owner
- Art Opportunities in Dickinson
- And more!

This event is free and open to the public. To learn more, visit [www.dsukickstart.com](http://www.dsukickstart.com).



# Entrepreneurial Spirit at BSC

*The Liberal Arts & Humanities focus on discovery, critical thinking and communications doesn't always take place in a typical arts or language classroom. Sometimes, like at Bismarck State College, those skills are found through entrepreneurship.*

Kevin Cavanagh's popular entrepreneurship courses at Bismarck State College typically have 20-30 students in them both Spring and Fall semesters. He finds that he's often teaching to already-established entrepreneurs.

"It surprises me how many students coming in already have a business. Right now I can think of students who are DJs, have a t-shirt company, and a fireworks stand. We have a lot of hair stylists and crafters selling goods online, too," he says.

He sees a greater fearlessness in today's students. "Maybe it is the culture they've

grown up in. [They're] exposed to so much more. Anything is possible and failure is not a big fear for them."

"As we get older, we get fearful. We aren't willing to risk it all. For them, the risk level isn't there. It's a prime time to do it, to take that risk."

It's a risk that's paying off for several current students and recent BSC graduates.

## A Flare for Business

While Alex Braun is committed to learning the family business (Braun Distributing in Dickinson) and working his way up there, he wants to flex his own business muscles, too.

So two years ago, at age 19, he established Fireworks by Braun.

"I did it out of my own pocket, and it's gotten bigger and bigger."

While his dad has given him a few tips, Braun does the work. "I work with a wholesaler down

south and import fireworks from China. I was the first in North Dakota to offer the ASW brand."

He handles the permitting, sales, set up, marketing and inspections at his fireworks stand. "I do it all alone.

In the summer I work 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the family business and then from 6-10 p.m. at the fireworks stand."

Braun doubled his sales last summer, and hopes to see them double again this summer. He's expanding sales to New Year's this year, too. He advises budding entrepreneurs to do plenty of research, and listen to those who know more than you.

"You see businesses that don't do the research fail. Take some caution, look at the numbers and figure out what you can actually do. Find someone with experience and get tips from them. I wouldn't be here without my dad,

grandpa and Kevin [Cavanagh]. Take advice.”

## Diversification Drives Success

Exposure Boutique and Photography (home of the Burleigh Beard Company) in downtown Bismarck smells like cedar and leather - it's small and eclectically appointed with displays of the popular line of beard oils near men's flannel shirts and denim goods. A gold painted bicycle overlooks a display of women's blouses, plus-size dresses and Frye leather boots. Jewelry sourced from artists in Minnesota is displayed alongside chunky knit beanies.

“Most boutique owners go to market in larger cities, but I've been going to the Unglued Show in Fargo and finding jewelry makers and other products that are made closer to home,” says owner and BSC graduate Ryanne Marie.

The Burleigh Beard Oil in the store is her invention - a product she launched in order to have lower price-point items for walk-in traffic. It ended up being the biggest part of the business.

“It's evolved into its own thing and it's what we're most popular for. More sales happen local than online, but we do sell all over the U.S.”

Marie graduated from Northwest College in Powell, Wyo., with a degree in photography, and then enrolled at BSC to study business

planning to open a photo studio.

While developing her business plan in Kevin Cavanagh's entrepreneurship class she discovered that opening a photo studio would “drive me insane.”

“It would have been a constant battle to attract the clientele that would allow me to be profitable, so I changed my game plan.”

Exposure is one of several downtown boutiques run by women. Rather than compete, the business owners have made a conscientious effort to work collaboratively. They plan sales at the same time, point customers toward other stores and pool their marketing efforts. “We're focused on creating more community and less competition.”

BSC's professors have been part of Marie's network of support. “I like that the business professors at BSC are business owners too. They've been more than happy to help me. They're great resources.”



**BISMARCK**  
STATE COLLEGE



# For more information about any of the 11 campuses that make up the North Dakota University System, contact the college or university at:

**Bismarck State College**  
Bismarck, ND 58506  
701.224.5429  
800.445.5073  
[www.bismarckstate.edu](http://www.bismarckstate.edu)

**Dakota College at Bottineau**  
Bottineau, ND 58318  
701.228.5488  
800.542.6866  
[www.dakotacollege.edu](http://www.dakotacollege.edu)

**Dickinson State University**  
Dickinson, ND 58601  
701.483.2175  
800.279.4295  
[www.dickinsonstate.edu](http://www.dickinsonstate.edu)

**Lake Region State College**  
Devils Lake, ND 58301  
701.662.1514  
800.443.1313  
[www.lrsc.edu](http://www.lrsc.edu)

**Mayville State University**  
Mayville, ND 58257  
701.788.4842  
800.437.4104 ext. 34842  
[www.mayvillestate.edu](http://www.mayvillestate.edu)

**Minot State University**  
Minot, ND 58707  
701.858.3350  
800.777.0750  
[www.minotstateu.edu](http://www.minotstateu.edu)

**North Dakota State College of Science**  
Wahpeton, ND 58076  
701.671.2521  
800.342.4325  
[www.ndscs.edu](http://www.ndscs.edu)


**North Dakota State University**  
Fargo, ND 58108-6050  
701.231.8643  
800.488.6378  
[www.ndsu.edu](http://www.ndsu.edu)

**University of North Dakota**  
Grand Forks, ND 58202  
701.777.3000  
800.CALL UND (225.5863)  
[www.und.edu](http://www.und.edu)

**Valley City State University**  
Valley City, ND 58072  
701.845.7101  
800.532.8641 ext. 7101  
[www.vcsu.edu](http://www.vcsu.edu)

**Williston State College**  
Williston, ND 58802  
701.774.4200  
888.863.9455 ext. 4220  
[www.willistonstate.edu](http://www.willistonstate.edu)



  
NORTH DAKOTA  
UNIVERSITY SYSTEM