Bachelor of Arts, 4-Year
Major in Liberal Studies

Program Planning Guide 2026/2027

Program Overview
The 120-credit (4-year) Bachelor of Arts, Major in Liberal Studies is the first degree of its kind in Alberta. The program has been designed specifically for the 21st century student and job market. Students entering university today are often interested in a number of subject areas or have yet to make a decision on their chosen field. This program allows students the maximum flexibility to discover and pursue their interests while completing a 4-year (120-credit) degree.

We also know that young people today are unlikely to have one job for their entire work histories. Instead they are more likely to pursue a career path that will require the application of job skills in a number of positions. The Liberal Studies program emphasizes the development and refinement of the most portable and marketable skills: the ability to think critically and analytically and to communicate effectively orally and in writing.

Research has demonstrated that that there is good economic demand for students with the essential workplace skills and credentials facilitated by completing the Liberal Studies program. Students could pursue many career paths including journalism, management, marketing, public relations, human resources, education, social services, research and analysis, government and industry. The program also provides an excellent foundation for further studies at the graduate level in a number of fields and for professional programs including law.

Program Features
The degree program emphasizes both the breadth and depth of post-secondary studies. First, following the Liberal Arts tradition of St Mary's University, students will acquire broad interdisciplinary knowledge by taking courses in Fine Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences and the Natural and Mathematical Sciences. Second, they will complete a specific concentration in one of the following subject areas: Business and Management Studies, Canadian Studies, Catholic Studies, Drama, English, Family Studies, History, Philosophy, Psychology, Science Studies or Sociology.

In the final year of the program, students will work with fellow students and faculty to complete a year-long research project similar to an honours thesis at other universities.

The program includes:
1. Liberal Arts Core
2. Special Requirements (courses in a language other than English, Fine Arts, Humanities, Natural and Mathematical Sciences, Social Sciences and Human Kinetics,)
3. Liberal Studies Requirements (LBST 201, 301, 401 and 403)
4. Completion of a Subject Area Concentration
5. Electives.

Admission
New students may apply directly to the program when they apply for admission. Current students may be admitted to the program by submitting a *Change of Program Form* to the Enrolment Services Office for processing.

Program Requirements
Students are strongly recommended to meet with an academic advisor on a regular basis throughout the program. It is the student's responsibility to ensure they have met the requirements for graduation.

This planning guide is designed to help students keep track of their progress in meeting degree requirements. Course descriptions may be found in the St. Mary's University calendar.

A. Liberal Arts Core (18 credits)

_____ ENGL 200A: Studies in Literature: Middle Ages to 1660 (3 credits)

_____ ENGL 200B: Studies in Literature: 1660 to the Present (3 credits)

_____ HIST 200A: History of Ideas: Antiquity to the Reformation (3 credits)

_____ HIST 200B: History of Ideas: Scientific Revolution to 20th Century (3 credits)

_____ PHIL 351: Ethics (3 credits)

_____ RLGS 205: Reading Biblical Texts (3 credits)

B. Special Requirements (39 credits)

___/___ 6 credits in a language other than English (may include LING 301)

___/___ 6 credits in Fine Arts (ART, DRAM, MUSI)
(Courses in ENGL or CLAS may not be used to fulfill this requirement)

___/___ 6 credits in Humanities (ART, CLAS, DRAM, ENGL, FREN, GREK, INST, ITAL, LATI, LING, MUSI, PHIL, RLGS, SPAN)

___/___ 9 credits in Natural and Mathematical Sciences (ASTR, BCEM, BIOL, CHEM, CPSC 215, HMKN 205, MATH, PHYS, SCIE, STAT)

___/___ 9 credits in Social Sciences (ACCT, ECON, FMST, GEOG, HIST, MGST, POLI, PSYC, SOCI)

_____ HMKN 201 or HMKN 203 or HMKN 205 (3 credits)

C. Liberal Studies Requirements (12 credits)

_____ LBST 201 (3 credits)

_____ LBST 301 (3 credits)
(to be taken before final year of program)

_____ LBST 401 (3 credits)
(to be taken in Fall semester of final year of program)

_____ LBST 403 (3 credits)
(to be taken in Winter semester of final year of program)

120-Credit Degree

Junior /Senior Requirements

72 credits must be taken at the **300- or 400-level**.

Directed Studies

Students are allowed a **maximum of 9.0 credits hours** of directed studies in their degree program.

Program Standing

In order to remain in the program, you must maintain a cumulative **GPA of 2.0**, a cumulative **GPA of 2.3** in senior Concentration courses and senior Liberal Studies Requirement courses (LBST 301, LBST 401 and LBST 403).

You may have no more than one D or D+ in these categories. Students who do not meet these requirements may not graduate.

Residence Requirement

All students must complete at least **60 credits** at St. Mary's University. **LBST 401** and **LBST 403 must be completed at StMU.** At least 12 credits in the concentration must be completed at StMU.

Graduation

In final year of study, an *Application to Graduate* must be submitted by October 1.

This guide is for your convenience only and should not replace the St. Mary's University Calendar, which is the final authority regarding degree program requirements and academic regulations.

D. Subject Area Concentration Requirement (24 credits)

- Completion of at least 12 credits at the 300 or 400 level
- Completion of at least 12 credits at St. Mary's University

Concentration: _____

_____ _____ (3 credits)
_____ _____ (3 credits)
_____ _____ (3 credits)
_____ _____ (3 credits)
_____ _____ (3 credits)
_____ _____ (3 credits)
_____ _____ (3 credits)
_____ _____ (3 credits)

E. Electives (27 credits) **be attentive to Jr./Sr. requirements*

_____ elective:_____ (3 credits)
_____ elective:_____ (3 credits)
_____ elective:_____ (3 credits)
_____ elective:_____ (3 credits)
_____ elective:_____ (3 credits)
_____ elective:_____ (3 credits)
_____ elective:_____ (3 credits)
_____ elective:_____ (3 credits)
_____ elective:_____ (3 credits)

Concentration Requirements

Students must complete at least 24 credits, including at least 12 credits at the senior (300 or 400 level).

Biology

BIOL 231
BIOL 233
And a minimum of 18 other credits from other Biology courses which ***may include ANPH 301 and ANPH 303***, and ***excluding BIOL 205, BIOL 305, and BIOL 307***.

Business and Management Studies

Must complete:
ACCT 317
MGST 305

At least **one** of the following courses:
ECON 201
ECON 203

At least **one** of the following courses:
MATH 211
MATH 249
STAT 213

And **four courses** (**12 credits)** from any of the courses mentioned above not taken to fulfill the Economics and Math requirement, or any of the following courses:

ACCT 319	MGST 303
ECON 301	MGST 307
ECON 303	MGST 309
ECON 337	MGST 321
ECON 373	MGST 331
MGST 291	PHIL 353
MGST 301.0	POLI 353
MGST 301.1	SOCI 343
MGST 301.2	STAT 217

Canadian Studies

At least **one** of the following courses:
ENGL 329
ENGL 341
ENGL 343
ENGL 347
ENGL 349
ENGL 379
ENGL 381.6
ENGL 381.8
ENGL 381.10

At least **one** of the following courses:
FREN 219
GEOG 381
HIST 371
HIST 373
IDST 303
PHIL 313

At least **two** of the following courses:
GEOG 381 (if not already used above)
POLI 315
POLI 365
POLI 369
SOCI 327
SOCI 343
SOCI 371
SOCI 393

And a minimum of **four courses (12 credits)** from any of the courses mentioned above not used to fulfil that category, or any of the following courses:
FREN 221
HIST 347
HIST 441
HIST 443
HIST 445
HIST 449
HIST 453
HIST 455
HIST 457
INST 201

Catholic Studies

Must complete:
RLGS 301

At least **one** of the following courses:
RLGS 321
RLGS 323

At least **one** of the following courses:
RLGS 311
RLGS 313
RLGS 315

And a minimum of **5 courses (15 credits)** from any of the courses mentioned above not used to fulfill that category, or any of the following courses:

ART 201	RLGS 203
ART 203	RLGS 317
ART 325	RLGS 319
ART 405	RLGS 331
ENGL 303	RLGS 333
ENGL 305	RLGS 339
ENGL 355	RLGS 341
HIST 449	RLGS 343
PHIL 345	RLGS 363
PHIL 395	SOCI 377
RLGS 201	

Drama

Must complete:
DRAM 201
DRAM 203

And least **two** of the following courses:
CLAS 323
ENGL 313
ENGL 315
ENGL 327
ENGL 371
ENGL 379

And at least **two** of the following courses:
DRAM 205
DRAM 301
DRAM 303
DRAM 305
DRAM 401
DRAM 403
DRAM 405 (Any decimalized course)

And **two courses (6 credits)** from any of the other courses mentioned above not used to fulfill that category, or any from the following courses:
MUSI 205
MUSI 305
MUSI 405

English
A minimum of 24 credits (including at least 12 senior credits) from any English courses or the following:

CLAS 321
CLAS 323
LING 301

Family Studies
A minimum of **24 credits** (including at least 12 senior credits) from the following courses:

ENGL 391	PSYC 353
ENGL 392	PSYC 355
FMST 301	PSYC 361
FMST 303	PSYC 461
FMST 401	RLGS 345
FMST 411	SOCI 303
HIST 453	SOCI 327
PSYC 329	SOCI 371
PSYC 333	

History
A minimum of **24 credits** (including at least 12 senior credits) from any History courses (except HIST 200, HIST 200A, HIST 200B, HIST 401 and HIST 403) or the following:

CLAS 315
IDST 333

Philosophy
A minimum of **24 credits** (including at least 12 senior credits) from any Philosophy courses.

Political Studies
Must complete:
POLI 201
And a minimum of **21 credits** (including at least 12 senior credits) from all Political Studies courses.

Psychology

Must complete:
PSYC 201
PSYC 203
And a minimum of **18 credits** (including at least 12 senior credits**)** from other Psychology courses.

Science Studies

A minimum of **24 credits** (including at least 12 senior credits**)** from the following courses:

BCEM 393	BIOL 411	HMKN 205
BIOL 231	BIOL 413	MATH 211
BIOL 233	BIOL 415	MATH 249
BIOL 311	BIOL 417	MATH 253
BIOL 313	BIOL 431	PHYS 211
BIOL 315	BIOL 433	PHYS 223
BIOL 317	BIOL 441	PSYC 375
BIOL 331	BIOL 451	PSYC 475
BIOL 341	CHEM 201	SCIE 201
BIOL 361	CHEM 203	SCIE 301
BIOL 375	CHEM 351	STAT 213
BIOL 377	CHEM 353	STAT 217
BIOL 381	CPSC 215	

Social Enterprise and Entrepreneurship

Must complete:
MGST 291
MGST 303

And at least ***two*** of the following courses:
MGST 305
MGST 309
MGST 321
MGST 331

And at least ***three*** of the following courses:

ECON 33	POLI 361
ECON 373	PSYC 331
ENGL 397.6	PSYC 337
HIST 441	PSYC 357
HIST 457	SOCI 303
PHIL 353	SOCI 327
POLI 315	SOCI 375
POLI 353	

Sociology

Must complete:
SOCI 201
SOCI 313
And a minimum of **18 credits** (including at least 12 senior credits) from other Sociology courses.