School of Arts and Humanities

The School of Arts and Humanities offers baccalaureate degrees in Visual and Performing Arts, Historical Studies, Literature, and Philosophy. These four majors include courses of study in the studio arts, art history, vocal and instrumental music, communication, film studies, dance and theatre; history and philosophy; and American, English, Spanish, and other literatures.

Students who complete the major in Visual and Performing Arts pursue an interdisciplinary study of the arts by selecting among courses in historical context, studio practice, performance ensemble, creative writing, communication, and ideas and interpretation of the arts. Students may also choose to enroll in courses associated with concentrations in art history, communication, dance, theatre, film, music, or visual arts. Encompassing coursework in history and philosophy, Historical Studies majors design a distinctive program of study around their interests, such as themes, topics, time periods, and historical or philosophical approaches to subject matter. Students may also choose to enroll in courses associated with the philosophy concentration. The Literature program, which brings together writers and scholars dedicated to the study of literature and culture in an international and interdisciplinary context, offers students the opportunity to explore a wide range of literary traditions, critical approaches, and theoretical debates.

Students in the School of Arts and Humanities are encouraged to explore the boundaries and the interrelationships of the major fields of study within the school. Consistent with this focus on the integration of the arts and humanities and a commitment to interdisciplinary education, the School has no conventional departments. Rather, its curriculum is designed to allow study that crosses and transforms traditional disciplinary lines.

Each student in the School consults regularly with an advisor, who helps the student design an integrated program of coursework. At least 42 semester credit hours of upper-division coursework of the total of 51 upper-division semester credit hours required to complete the BA are completed within the major and related fields. All students who major in Visual and Performing Arts, Historical Studies, or Literature complete a 3-semester credit hour core course, ARHM 3342, "Advanced Interdisciplinary Studies in the Arts and Humanities", that introduces the methods, strategies, and theories of inquiry and interpretation that are elaborated in subsequent arts and humanities courses. In addition, all students are required to enroll in an upper-division writing course associated with their major. Students also complete either 3, 6, or 12 semester credit hours of major core coursework (depending on the major selected). Students will additionally complete a series of major requirements and electives, and the remaining semester credit hours in related coursework from within the School of Arts and Humanities.

Teacher Certification

Students interested in teaching in secondary schools can achieve Texas Teacher Certification in English and/or History and/or Composite Social Studies as part of their majors in either Literature or Historical Studies. Immediately after being admitted to the University, interested students should meet with an advisor in the Teacher Development Center to receive a certification plan and
with an Arts and Humanities advisor in Literature or Historical Studies to receive a degree plan. Further details may be found in the Teacher Certification section of the catalog.

Fast Track Baccalaureate/Master's Degrees

The Fast Track program is designed to permit exceptional undergraduate students in Arts and Humanities majors to begin work on the master's degree before graduation.

Qualified seniors may take up to 12 semester credit hours of approved graduate courses in Arts and Humanities during their senior year and apply these semester credit hours to their undergraduate degree plans as either major and related courses or electives. The Fast Track courses will also be used to satisfy up to 12 graduate semester credit hours towards the Master's degree.

For further information on the Fast Track program, see the undergraduate academic advisors.

Minors

To minor in the Arts and Humanities, students must take a minimum of 18 semester credit hours for the minor, 12 of which must be upper-division semester credit hours. Students who take a minor will be expected to meet the normal prerequisites in courses making up the minor, and should maintain a minimum GPA of 2.000 on a 4.00 scale (C average). Core courses offered by the school may count as lower-division semester credit hours toward the minor. Students may choose to minor in any of the following fields of study:

- Art History
- Asian Studies
- Communication
- Creative Writing
- Dance
- Film Studies
- History
- Latin American Studies
- Medical and Scientific Humanities
- Music
- Performing Arts
- Philosophy
- Spanish
- Theatre
- Visual Arts
Related Minor Areas:

Minor in Gender Studies (18 semester credit hours)

The Gender Studies minor is 18 semester credit hours. The courses consist of GST 2300, two other Gender Studies core courses, and nine semester credit hours of approved Gender Studies electives.