The Bachelor of Individualized Studies (B.I.S.) provides you flexibility in your degree program by allowing you to focus coursework on three areas, one of which may consist of courses outside of the College of Liberal Arts. With this program, you’re able to design your own educational path and choose areas of study that you’re passionate about and work closely with a B.I.S. adviser. The areas do not have to be related to each other, but you’ll write a program proposal that explains how the areas of study connect to your overall educational goals.

The College of Liberal Arts Advantage: More Than a Major
When you study for a B.I.S. degree in individualized studies at the University of Minnesota, you gain the added advantage of a College of Liberal Arts education. At CLA, the liberal arts mean you get more than just a degree in one major or another; it means you will be exposed to different areas of study, to different ways of thinking and learning. In fact, the liberal arts teach you how to learn—how to ask the right questions, how to problem solve, and how to innovate. The liberal arts prepare students for the complexities of our world, because here at CLA you will study not just, say, politics or art but also where politics and art intersect, where science and ethics intersect, where economics and the environment intersect.

Student Experiences

Learning Abroad: Prepare to Lead in a Global Economy
Learn more about study abroad options for CLA majors.

Internships: Gain Valuable Experience in the Twin Cities and Beyond

Did you know? CLA Career Services has its very own internship reflection course! Students taking an internship can use this course to reflect on ways that their work experience is preparing them for successful careers - and receive credit for the work.

Undergraduate Research: Shape Your Curiosity into New Knowledge

The University has funding opportunities available for undergraduates who wish to gain research experience. Programs such as the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP) gives undergraduate students the chance to work closely with faculty members on research projects. Full information about this can be found in Undergraduate Research Opportunities.

Student Organizations: Find Friends and Grow as a Leader

With more than 900 student groups on campus, you will have lots of opportunities to find friends and grow as a leader within an organization! Search for organizations via Gopher Link.

Meet Our Alumni

CLA Graduates: Successful Careers and Purposeful Lives

CLA graduates succeed in many different careers — law, health care, medicine, business, government, teaching, advertising, arts and entertainment, international relations, and more — precisely because they understand how to navigate a complex and interconnected world. As our alumni explain below, “Being a good employee means being curious, and continuing to evolve, and learn, and educate yourself, and I can think of no stronger foundation for doing that than a liberal arts education.”

“An education in the liberal arts is a springboard to lifelong career success”
-- Dean John Coleman
You might also explore

Individually Designed Interdepartmental Inter-College Program

Admission Information

FRESHMAN: Admission information

TRANSFER STUDENTS: Requirements for the College of Liberal Arts

Beyond admission, if you have questions about transferring, the College of Liberal Arts (CLA) has transfer advisors to help. Please feel free to contact them about any of the topics below:

- Course plans before transferring
- Estimated time to graduation
- Career preparation in CLA
- Getting ready for orientation, if admitted
- Connecting with major/minor departments