Global Studies majors study the interrelated processes shaping today's increasingly interdependent world. Students examine political, economic, cultural, and social processes of local communities, nation-states, transnational businesses, and social movements around the globe. The program requires students to integrate theoretical knowledge about broad global processes with regionally focused detailed knowledge of social and cultural systems and language. Students complete a common set of core courses providing a broad overview of issues and approaches to global studies. Each student then chooses a thematic and regional concentration. Coursework is completed by selecting from relevant courses offered by a broad range of departments.

The College of Liberal Arts Advantage: More Than a Major

When you study Global 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.
Meet Our Students

Senior Mariam Salama had the opportunity to speak at CLA's Bright Lights celebration, where she offered insights from her experiences as an undergraduate. Her journey through college brought challenges, rewards, and wisdom to share with others. Mariam reflects on her travel to Uganda and the impact that serving as a CLA ambassador has had on her life.

Read more about Mariam's story, and learn more about our undergraduate program.

Student Experiences

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.

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.

Learning Abroad in Global Studies: Prepare to Lead in a Global Economy

“Study abroad is the best way for you to indulge your curiosity about the world
beyond our borders. Whether you are examining a thematic issue from a new perspective, immersing yourself in a particular region of concentration, or honing your language skills, your experiences abroad will force you to understand global studies in exciting new ways. There is simply no substitute for such an experience.”

—Evelyn Davidheiser, Director, Institute for Global Studies

Learn more about study abroad for Global Studies majors.

Undergraduate Research: Turn Curiosity into New Knowledge

Students in Global studies are encouraged to partner with faculty to pursue independent research on global issues at home and abroad. Funding for undergraduate research is available through the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP) and the International Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (International UROP).

Each spring, students in global studies have the opportunity to present their research at the Undergraduate Interdisciplinary Conference. This conference, co-sponsored by the Institute for Global Studies and the Departments of Spanish and Portuguese studies, Asian languages and literatures, French and Italian, and German, Scandinavian & Dutch, features student panels in a variety of target languages and on a range of interdisciplinary topics in the liberal arts.

Meet Our Faculty

How can the social sciences learn from the humanities? Global studies and anthropology professor, Stuart McLean, bridges the gap between the two in his
book *Fictionalizing Anthropology*. McLean argues that art is entwined with human culture, and because of this, an interdisciplinary approach is necessary.

Read more about Stuart's story.

**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

- African American and African Studies
- American Studies
- Asian Languages and Literatures
Cultural Studies and Comparative Literature  
History

Associated Careers

Foreign Service Officers; Government Executives and Legislators; News Analysts, Reporters, and Correspondents; Postsecondary Teachers; Public Interest Advocates; Public Interest Lawyers

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