



COLLEGE OF  
**Liberal Arts &  
Human Sciences**

**D**O you dream of writing a best-seller? Or being a legislator? Maybe you'd like to anchor the evening news, work in the fashion industry, or serve as a school administrator. Whether your dream is to be a diplomat or a pilot, Virginia Tech's College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences can prepare you to realize it.

Hot specialties may come and go, but a broad education lasts a lifetime. It is important to master not only job skills, but also the intellectual skills a liberal arts education develops. The College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences encourages students to apply knowledge from one field to another and to think creatively. Our alumni are making their marks in the worlds of business, industry, entertainment, education, government, and research. You can join them. Explore your options in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences.

**Majors:**

- apparel, housing, and resource management
- classical studies
- communication
- English
- French
- German
- history
- human development
- humanities, science, and environment
- interdisciplinary studies
- international studies
- music
- philosophy
- political science
- sociology
- Spanish
- theatre arts

**HIGH SCHOOL PREPARATION & ADMISSION TO THE COLLEGE**

A challenging college preparatory curriculum is your foundation for success in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences (CLAHS). Specifically, you must present a minimum of 18 units, including four units of English, three of math (including algebra II and geometry), two units of social science (including history), and two units of lab science (chosen from biology, chemistry, or physics). Three additional college preparatory units are required, and the balance

of the credits is your choice. CLAHS majors who have completed three years of the same foreign language in high school will meet the foreign language requirement for graduating from Virginia Tech. Some majors require that students complete additional college-level foreign language courses as a part of their major requirements. Students should keep in mind that these are just the minimum requirements. Additional college preparatory classes make

students more competitive for admission to certain programs.

In addition to your high school transcript, SAT or ACT (plus writing) scores are required of freshman applicants.

Involvement in extracurricular activities related to a student's field of interest also is beneficial. Music majors, please be advised that an audition is required of prospective music students.

**CURRICULUM & OPPORTUNITIES**

The College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences offers baccalaureate degrees encompassing the humanities, performing arts, and human and social sciences. Many of our programs allow students to choose both required and elective courses that support their career goals. Students are encouraged to explore the curriculum for their major and elective courses so that they allow themselves both a broad education and a depth of study that prepares them for the

many careers possible with a major from the CLAHS.

In addition, we are committed to undergraduate research by providing students with opportunities to engage in research activities through the college's Undergraduate Research Institute and the opportunity to publish their research through *Philologia*, the CLAHS undergraduate research journal.

A common emphasis throughout the CLAHS is student involvement in extracurricular activities.

You'll find numerous opportunities to develop your talents. For example, we have student-run radio and TV stations, an undergraduate research journal, associations, clubs, recitals, exhibits, student newspapers, magazines, and more. CLAHS also offers first-year programs to help you explore your major and the many opportunities available both on campus and around the world.

**AT A GLANCE:**

**Programs of Study**

**APPAREL, HOUSING, & RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**

The department includes three areas of program concentration – apparel, housing, and resource management.

**Apparel** focuses on the concerns of consumers in relation to apparel and textiles of manufacturers and retailers. Basic to these concerns are social, cultural, political, and economic factors affecting consumer satisfaction.

**Housing** focuses on the residential environment, especially planning, design, marketing and management. Required courses emphasize human, technological, and business factors, including current issues and practices. The program includes options in housing and residential property management.

**Resource management** focuses on

the principles and processes involved in recognition, creation, and allocation of human and material resources.

The program includes an option in consumer studies. Consumer studies courses build students' knowledge and analysis of households in the dual roles of consumers and producers in a global market.

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# Programs of Study (continued)



## COMMUNICATION

Communication majors can take courses in both mass communication and public communication.

Students choose from two major areas of study with more specific options available in each area. All students take a core of common courses in their

freshman and sophomore years and then concentrate on one or more of the specific emphases, including broadcasting, communication theory, media studies, print journalism, and public relations.

Communication majors are active in campus media, including the Collegiate

Times, WUVT campus radio, VTTV, The Bugle yearbook, the photo staff, and several professional organizations.

The department has strong internship and co-op programs providing excellent opportunities for earning academic credit while gaining firsthand job experience.

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## ENGLISH

The English program offers a broad foundation of liberal learning designed to foster the development of critical reasoning, reading, and writing skills – a combination of talents much sought after in today's job market. English majors find jobs wherever the written word is valued.

English is a strong liberal arts major,

double major, or minor. While the English major provides a broad educational foundation, students may focus their studies in literature, professional writing, creative writing, or cultural studies, or in preparation for application to schools of law or education.

Other opportunities include writ-

ing for a student literary magazine and other publications, as well as participating in the department's undergraduate research conference, its internship program, and participation in the English Club. Membership in the international honorary organization Sigma Tau Delta is extended to qualified students.

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## FOREIGN LANGUAGES & LITERATURES

The Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures offers majors in classical studies (ancient Greek & Latin), French, German, and Spanish. The department offers minors in classical studies, French, French for business, German, Greek

(classical & New Testament), Latin, Russian, and Spanish. The department also offers courses in Arabic, Mandarin Chinese, Japanese, Hebrew, modern Greek, and Italian. The department strongly encourages students to work

and/or study abroad, and sponsors a variety of faculty-led programs. Other opportunities include cultural events, student clubs, and language tables.

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## HISTORY

History is the study of people and events of the past. The curriculum provides students with factual knowledge across a broad range of historical eras, cultures, and geographical regions, as well as the skills they need to pose his-

torical questions, analyze sources, assess conflicting interpretations, synthesize data, communicate findings, and connect past events with present situations.

Courses are available at all levels, including introductory surveys, national

history surveys, one-semester topical courses, intensive courses on American and European history, sequences on the non-western world and important historical themes, and advanced courses in specialized fields.

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## HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Today's human services professionals work in various settings, with many client populations, working to improve the lives of individuals, families and communities. Our human services curriculum prepares students by building competencies in a

broad array of conceptual and theoretical fields, while allowing them flexibility to specialize in family gerontology, child and adolescent services or professional helping skills. Courses include human development across the lifespan,

family relationships, helping skills, research, human sexuality, family law and public policy, and include field study onsite in a human services agency.

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## HUMANITIES, SCIENCE, & ENVIRONMENT

The degree program in humanities, science, and environment (HSE) provides an interdisciplinary approach to environmental issues. It integrates cultural, scientific, and political approaches to understand the relationship between

people and the natural world, in historical and contemporary contexts.

The degree is housed in the Department of Science and Technology in Society, but includes courses from many other departments. There is a wide

range of postgraduate opportunities for HSE majors. If knowledge about the environment is inviting to you, and you are concerned about today's vital environmental challenges, consider looking into this major.

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## INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

Students in the interdisciplinary studies (IDST) program complete two minors from more than 70 university-wide options, plus 18 credits from programs in the department including humanities, Judaic studies, leadership, and religious studies. Students may configure their plans of study to gain knowledge across diverse fields for a broad liberal arts edu-

cation or focus on related areas across traditional disciplinary boundaries for a specific area of study.

IDST also offers degree options in religious studies and in educational and social change, the preferred option for students seeking graduate study in early childhood elementary education. Students who major in interdisciplinary

studies often pursue careers with non-profit agencies and associations, as well as organizations whose purpose is to advance social justice. Other IDST majors attend graduate school to pursue professional studies in the legal and medical fields and in elementary education

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## INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

International Studies majors study the intersection of politics, economics, history, culture, and foreign languages. It is an attractive major for students interested in international business, government service, or international development.

The curriculum includes courses in international and comparative politics, international law and organizations, economic systems, and foreign languages. Students also select courses from history, religious studies, philosophy, geography,

urban affairs and planning, and business. The department offers four degree options: world politics and policy; international business; environmental affairs; and global development. Students are required to reach proficiency in a foreign language.

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## MUSIC

Music at Virginia Tech offers a competitive, individualized curriculum with a focus on quality instruction and practical experience in music education, performance, technology and composition. Music faculty members are active

worldwide as performers, scholars and clinicians. Students reap the benefits of a selective department with a strong sense of community, while studying at a major research university with its breadth of cultural, educational and social oppor-

tunities. The Department of Music welcomes students with a broad aesthetic and intellectual curiosity—we encourage those with interdisciplinary interests to pursue double majors.

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## PHILOSOPHY

The philosophy program covers all areas of the discipline including logic, ethics, metaphysics, epistemology, aesthetics, philosophy of religion, philosophy of science, and social and political

philosophy. Philosophy courses cultivate students' skills in analysis, critical understanding, rigorous evaluation, and articulate expression of ideas.

The department encourages students to pursue a double major. The structure of the curriculum enables students to complete a double major in four years.

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## POLITICAL SCIENCE

Political science is the study of how authoritative decisions are made in a society and how social conflicts are resolved through the governmental process. It is also the examination of how states of the world interact with one another.

Students who wish to attend law school may find the department's option in legal studies of interest. The option is not intended to be a pre-law program, but it does include courses that have a legal approach to the study of politics.

The department has an active internship program and access to education abroad programs in which students earn academic credit and gain experience.

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## SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Undergraduate students major in the subject area most closely related to what they would like to teach. In addition to completing the major requirements

specified in their subject area, students obtain teacher licensure through Virginia Tech's School of Education at the graduate level. Teacher licensure is a require-

ment for all those who enter the teaching profession in public schools. See the School of Education's website for licensure and course requirements.

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## SCHOOL OF THE PERFORMING ARTS AND CINEMA

The School of the Performing Arts and Cinema draws on the faculty and programs in the departments of theater and music, as well as film studies in the communication department. The school's mission is to utilize the perform-

ing arts and cinema to generate and disseminate knowledge and artistic expressions through instruction, research, and service with performances, educational outreach, and active involvement with a wide range of citizens, arts organizations,

governmental entities, and businesses. Students may participate in the many opportunities for creative expression offered through the school.

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## SOCIOLOGY

Sociology is the study of social life, social change, and the causes and consequences of human social behavior. Sociologists investigate how group memberships such as family, religion, gender, race, and socio-economic status influence our attitudes and behaviors. Another major focus is on social problems, such as crime,

poverty, and ethnic relations. In addition to completing requirements for the major, students may opt to complete a concentration in crime/deviance or social inequality. Students may also earn academic credit and gain practical experience from internship placements in various agencies related

to their course work. The Department of Sociology is the administrative home of the African Studies Program and the Women's and Gender Studies Program. Students may pursue major or minor opportunities in each of these programs.

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## THEATRE ARTS & CINEMA

The theatre arts and cinema program provides a comprehensive education in theatre within the context of a broad liberal arts course of study. It is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Theatre. The curriculum emphasizes the theoretical, the historical, and the practical.

The program provides a foundation in dramatic literature, theatre and film history, play-writing, and production. Advanced courses are available in acting, scene and costume design, lighting, stage makeup, and film studies and production theatre.

The department produces between 12 and 18 theatre pieces annually, led by practicing artists/teachers. Students are encouraged to become involved in all areas of production. Auditions and crew assignments are open to all university students.

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LIBERAL ARTS & HUMAN SCIENCES

# College & Career Opportunities

## FRESHMAN CURRICULUM

Courses of study will vary. There are certain university core requirements all students must fulfill, usually during the first year. A typical first-year schedule would resemble the following example, with electives being determined by each student's particular major.

### 1<sup>ST</sup> SEMESTER

English  
Math  
Science  
Department-specific requirement  
Elective

### 2<sup>ND</sup> SEMESTER

English  
Math  
Science  
Department-specific requirement  
Elective

## FACULTY & FACILITIES

The College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences' outstanding facilities enhance the overall educational environment, including the most advanced digital music facilities on the East Coast, a 250-seat recital salon, a 220-seat theatre with a thrust stage, a complete television studio, and a

computer graphics laboratory.

A superb faculty, including internationally renowned poet Nikki Giovanni and award-winning author and nationally recognized Civil War historian James Robertson, Jr., offers students a multi-dimensional and diverse education.

Students interested in participating in or attending cultural events will find frequent opportunities to attend plays, poetry readings, concerts, and art exhibits.

A complete list of facilities is available from each department.

## HONORS, INTERNSHIPS, & EDUCATION ABROAD

**University Honors** is available to students who have either a cumulative GPA of 3.70 (as reported on the high school transcript) and a minimum SAT score of 1350 (critical reading and mathematics) or a minimum ACT composite score of 30. Current college students who have a 3.5 or higher GPA are also eligible for University Honors.

Students are encouraged to enhance their CLAHS educational experience through internships and field studies. A database of previous internships completed by

CLAHS students is provided by the college at [www.uaaa.clahs.vt.edu/OpportunitiesAndServices/Internships](http://www.uaaa.clahs.vt.edu/OpportunitiesAndServices/Internships). Qualified students may wish to participate in the **Cooperative Education Program**. Students can learn more about co-op opportunities at [www.career.vt.edu](http://www.career.vt.edu).

Qualified CLAHS students can participate in either a faculty-led education abroad program or choose from the thousands of opportunities around the world. Find out more at [www.oired.vt.edu](http://www.oired.vt.edu).

## STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

In addition to the wide variety of clubs and special-interest groups available at Virginia Tech, the following are examples of curricular organizations open to liberal arts and human sciences students:

- » Association for Early Childhood Education
  - » Association of Residential Property Managers
  - » CLAHS College Ambassador Program
  - » Classics Club
  - » Consumer Interest Organization
  - » Delta Omicron Professional Music Fraternity
  - » Fashion Merchandising and Design Society
  - » International Relations Organization
  - » National Kitchen and Bath Association
  - » Philologia Undergraduate Research Journal
  - » Philosophy Club
  - » Political Science Club
  - » Public Relations Student Society of America
  - » Sociology Club
- Honor societies include:
- » Kappa Omicron Nu
  - » Phi Alpha Delta
  - » Phi Alpha Theta – History
  - » Pi Sigma Alpha – Political Science
  - » Sigma Delta Pi – Foreign Languages
  - » Sigma Tau Delta – English

## Contact Us

For more information about the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, please contact:

College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences  
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Web: [www.clahs.vt.edu](http://www.clahs.vt.edu)

If you have questions about admission to Virginia Tech, please contact:

Office of Undergraduate Admissions  
201 Burruss Hall  
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Web: [www.vt.edu](http://www.vt.edu)

### INSIDE LOOK:

## Career Opportunities

There is an increasing demand for graduates who have a liberal arts background from a university with a solid academic reputation. Employers find this background attractive because it is often an indicator of an individual with strong interpersonal skills, effective written and oral communication skills, and the ability to analyze situations and solve problems effectively. The college's human sciences majors benefit from the liberal arts background and receive a solid education in major-specific areas needed to enter careers in their chosen fields.

The flexibility of the programs allows students to pursue specific career goals within the context of a broad education. In addition, CLAHS graduates are highly competitive for graduate school. A partial list of career opportunities follows. More information is available from Career Services at [www.career.vt.edu](http://www.career.vt.edu).

- » Actor
- » Author
- » Business manager
- » Child life specialist
- » Cinema specialist
- » Consumer relations representative
- » Director (stage or screen)
- » Editor
- » Environmental consultant
- » Fashion designer
- » Foreign language translator
- » Foreign service officer
- » Gerontologist
- » Historian
- » Intelligence agent
- » Kitchen and bath designer
- » Labor negotiator
- » Lawyer (requires professional school)
- » Legislative assistant
- » Museum director
- » Musician
- » Personnel manager
- » Playwright
- » Police officer
- » Producer – television/radio
- » Property manager
- » Public relations specialist
- » Publisher
- » Physician (requires professional school)
- » Real estate broker
- » Record producer
- » Religious counselor
- » Reporter
- » Sales representative
- » Social worker
- » Speech writer
- » Teacher (requires graduate school)
- » Technical writer
- » Theatre manager