NYSED’S 1 Definition of liberal arts and sciences
This guidance is intended to assist institutions of higher education in New York State in meeting the requirements of the Rules of the Board of Regents, Section 3.47 (c), Requirements for Earned Degrees, Undergraduate degrees: “Undergraduate degrees shall be distinguished, as follows, by the minimum amount of liberal arts content required for each degree. The required liberal arts core shall not be directed toward specific occupational or professional objectives.”

Minimum Amount of Liberal Arts Content Required for Each Degree

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Minimum Proportion</th>
<th>Minimum Numb</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Associate in Arts (AA)</td>
<td>3/4</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate in Science (AS)</td>
<td>1/2</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate in Applied Science (AAS)</td>
<td>1/3</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor of Arts (BA)</td>
<td>3/4</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor of Science (BS)</td>
<td>1/2</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All other undergraduate baccalaureate degrees (BBA, BE, BFA, BPS, BTech)</td>
<td>1/4</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The liberal arts and sciences comprise the disciplines of the humanities, natural sciences and mathematics, and social sciences.

Examples of course types that are generally considered within the liberal arts and sciences:

**Humanities**

**English:** Composition, creative writing, history of language, journalism, linguistics, literature, literature in translation, playwriting

**Fine arts:** Art appreciation, history or theory

**Foreign languages:** Composition, conversation, grammar, history of the language, literature of the language, reading, translation studies

**Music:** Music appreciation, history or theory

**Philosophy:** Comparative philosophy, history of philosophy, logic, schools of philosophy

**Religion:** Comparative religion, history of religion

**Theater:** Dramatic interpretation, dramatic literature, dramaturgy, history of drama, playwriting

**Natural sciences and mathematics**

**Natural sciences:** Anatomy and physiology, biology, chemistry, earth science, geology, physics, zoology

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Mathematics: Calculus, mathematical theory, statistics

Computer Science: Broad survey/theory courses

Social sciences
Anthropology, cultural studies, economics, geography, government, history, political science, psychology, sociology

Criminal justice: Introductory and broad survey courses

Communications: Interpersonal communication, mass communication, public speaking, speech and rhetoric

Examples of course types that are generally not considered within the liberal arts and sciences:

Agriculture

Business: Administration, finance, human resources, management, marketing, production

Computer applications: Word processing, database, spreadsheet, programming (e.g., specific languages)

Health and physical education

Home economics

Education and teaching methods

Library science

Music: Studio, performance, practice courses—voice, instrument, direction, conducting

Office technologies and practice

Performing and related art: Acting, costume design, dance, direction, lighting, production, scene construction, sound production

Specialized professional courses: Accounting, architecture, dental hygiene, dentistry, engineering, law, medicine, nursing, nutrition, pharmacy, podiatry, veterinary medicine

Studio art: Drawing, painting, ceramics, sculpture

Technology/technician fields: Construction, data processing, electrical, electronics, graphic arts, mechanical, medical, refrigeration repair

Television: Television and radio production

Theology: Pastoral counseling, ministry

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