

# LIBERAL STUDIES

The Liberal Studies Major (LSM) gives Bentley students the opportunity to stand out in a crowd and sharpen their competitive edge by demonstrating their ability to think analytically, critically and creatively.

The LSM is an optional double major. Unlike traditional liberal arts majors, however, it doesn't stand alone. Instead, the LSM is an interdisciplinary second major that can be paired with any Bachelor of Science Degree.

In this way, the LSM helps Bentley students increase the value of their liberal arts education by combining some required courses in the general education curriculum with arts and science and business electives under specific themes or concentrations.

## GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- Students pursuing an LSM will be able to make connections relevant to the particular concentration's theme across courses and disciplines.
- Students will be able to analytically reflect on and meaningfully discuss choices and insights within the LSM.
- Students will be able to write coherently about their choices and insights within the LSM and/or between the LSM and their primary major or their co-curricular activities.

## SUCCESSFUL LSM GRADUATES WILL:

- Choose a coherent course of study within a particular LSM concentration, making a case for those choices each semester.
- Demonstrate — through an iterative process over time — their reflections, insights and connections across disciplines through discussion with their adviser and periodic narrative reflections that map where they have been and where they intend to go in order to expand their current understanding.
- Produce a culminating project that demonstrates their transdisciplinary insights, connections and understandings as a consequence of their work within the concentration.

## CONCENTRATIONS

Students opting to complete an LSM will do so in one of the following areas of concentration:

- American Studies
- Diversity and Society
- Earth, Environment and Global Sustainability
- Ethics and Social Responsibility
- Global Perspectives
- Health and Industry
- Media Arts and Society
- Quantitative Perspectives

For more information on LSM concentrations, please see the reverse side of this flyer.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

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## LSM CONCENTRATIONS

### AMERICAN STUDIES

The field of American Studies engages students in considering and critiquing major themes in the history and culture of the United States. It emphasizes the successes as well as the contradictions and problems in our development as a nation (such as the presence of slavery in a nation devoted to “liberty and the pursuit of happiness,” the fate of Native Americans after the arrival of European settlers, and the “the American Dream” past and present). A student enrolled in this concentration might explore and analyze various ideas prominent in any discussion of the story of America, such as “The Melting Pot,” and “The Myth of the Frontier.”

### DIVERSITY AND SOCIETY

Diversity is a fundamental aspect of modern society and our everyday lives. This diversity offers the opportunity to enrich our lives through exposure to people with diverse backgrounds and experiences. At the same time, diversity can be a challenge as we meet others unlike us, and work out issues of accommodation, acceptance and equality for diverse groups. One of the great challenges of our time is to achieve a society that is integrative of diversity and provides for equal opportunity such that diversity enriches rather than divides. The Diversity and Society LSM will provide students with an understanding of this challenge through exposure to a broad range of topics and disciplines, all of which are united by a concern regarding diversity and equality. This can allow the student to extend an understanding of diversity beyond society and into the organization, as well as an appreciation and understanding of how diversity can productively and positively contribute to our everyday lives.

### EARTH, ENVIRONMENT AND GLOBAL SUSTAINABILITY

Our Earth’s environmental issues and the sustainability of its resources will provide humanity with one of its biggest challenges for the foreseeable future. Scientific and technological solutions to environmental problems will be dependent on economic, political and social constructs that will require global cooperation. This concentration provides students with a background in Earth or environmental systems together with global perspectives on the challenges of sustainable development.

### ETHICS AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

As future leaders in the world of business, Bentley graduates will have to understand and be prepared to deal with many issues concerning ethics and social responsibility in both work and life. The Ethics and Social Responsibility LSM is grounded in philosophy and designed to give students the opportunity for in-depth study of these issues from theoretical, practical and cross disciplinary perspectives.

### GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES

Business majors must also understand the global economy as well as distinct regions and cultures of the world; students and business leaders must further understand diverse ways of thinking, communicating, acting, doing business and governing. This concentration gives students a foundation in global perspectives that has the potential to cut across an array of disciplines and/or geographic areas.

### HEALTH AND INDUSTRY

This concentration allows students to explore the broad implications of health, from a core course in human biology through its multifaceted applications to individuals, industry and society. This program exposes students to both scientific and humanistic aspects of human biology, psychology, health and disease that have applications in personal development, health and wellness. Students also have the opportunity to develop interdisciplinary skills that can advance health care-related careers, such as biopharmaceutical development, health-care marketing, benefits administration and biopharmaceutical finance.

### MEDIA ARTS AND SOCIETY

Grounded in the discipline of English with a cultural studies approach, the Media Arts and Society LSM aims to engage students in critical discourse about the uses and effects of modern media, increase knowledge about media technology, and encourage creative thinking through the use of such media. This concentration has a hands-on component in which students work directly with video, graphic design, digital photography, and sound design in creative ways.

### QUANTITATIVE PERSPECTIVES

To take a quantitative perspective on the world means that the questions we form can be best be answered with some analytical thinking about real data or theoretical models. When discussing a current issue like the large number of people without adequate health care, the quantitative thinker might ask, “How many people have this problem? How do we know? Is lack of health care highly associated with level of education? How much does it vary between countries of similar development?” A quantitative perspective provides a useful, and often beautifully enlightening, way to engage questions. The LSM in Quantitative Perspectives is different than a traditional math major or minor in that it does not focus on a large set of skills and techniques, but rather on considering how to make the connections between quantitative analysis and other disciplines.

Please visit <http://www.bentley.edu/academics/liberal-studies-major> for complete information about LSM requirements.