

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN LIBERAL STUDIES

The Bachelor of Arts degree in Liberal Studies program is an innovative alternative degree program designed to provide subject matter preparation for prospective elementary school and special education teachers. The program offers a major in liberal studies. It accommodates experienced adult students, many of whom are working in classrooms as para-educators, and draws upon their rich experiences in school settings.

Many adult students have developed skills or expertise at the workplace, at home, or in other venues. Some of those experiences may translate into prior learning credit (PLA). A maximum of 30 credits may be earned through Prior Learning Assessment (PLA).

Organized to capture the essence of an integrated curriculum and capitalize on the students' work/classroom experiences, the LIBS program aims to give students a secure background in the liberal arts and sciences that is firmly fixed in the concepts of human behavior and social issues. As part of the preparation of elementary school and special education teachers, the program utilizes the California State Curriculum Frameworks and Model Standards, providing integrated courses in language arts, math, science, art, music, and social science that focus on K–8 content while demonstrating exemplary teaching methods.

The program has the potential to meet the following explicit needs:

- The need for qualified, credentialed elementary school and special education teachers in California
- The need for minority teachers and minority role models in area schools
- The need for stability in the classrooms of the local community
- The need to encourage qualified interested members of other professions to consider the teaching profession a viable career change

Program Learning Outcomes (PLO) for the B.A. Degree in Liberal Studies

Graduates of the Bachelor of Arts degree in Liberal Studies program will be able to:

- **PLO 1:** Demonstrate subject matter competency in major subject areas (Language Arts, Math, Science, Art, Physical Education, Human Development, History) in educational contexts.
- **PLO 2:** Demonstrate a commitment to professional development, research, and life-long learning.
- **PLO 3:** Analyze problems representing a variety of perspectives through skillful written communication.
- **PLO 4:** Demonstrate effective oral communication skills.
- **PLO 5:** Demonstrate the ability to integrate biblical concepts and principles in the role of teacher, including the ethical implications of working with children in a classroom setting.
- **PLO 6:** Create unit and lesson plans aligned to content standards and objectives, and scaffolded to reflect student learning needs and background characteristics.

