

## **COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS PROGRAM GOALS AND STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

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## Our Mission

The College of Liberal Arts encourages the creation, development, dissemination, and application of human knowledge in the arts, humanities, and social sciences by promoting innovative teaching, scholarship, and research, thus providing a comprehensive education for all RIT students.

We strive to prepare students for a lifetime of personal growth and responsible citizenship in an increasingly technological and rapidly changing society by maintaining and promoting the intellectual climate on campus, contributing to students' awareness and understanding of diversity, and enhancing students' abilities to reason critically and communicate effectively.

We value a rigorous liberal arts education that encourages innovative experiential learning and active scholarship, the highest ethical standards, the educational and social benefits of diversity and global awareness, an interdisciplinary and collaborative environment of openness and academic freedom, a working environment in which all staff and faculty enjoy respect and recognition, and the active and meaningful participation of all members of the College community.

**Advertising and Public Relations (BS)**

**Program Goal #1: To understand the role of advertising and public relations in the marketing process**

- Distinguish between advertising, public relations, and marketing

**Program Goal #2: To conduct research effectively**

- Apply theory and methods appropriately in completing a research project

**Program Goal #3: To speak publicly with a high level of proficiency**

- Present and publicly defend research and/or present compelling speeches, pitches, or presentations

**Program Goal #4: To write proficiently**

- Prepare comprehensive professional written materials, including public relations content, a strategic plan, advertising copy, a thesis, and/or portfolio

**Program Goal #5: To use visual communication and design effectively**

- Design a series of visual publications

**Program Goal #6: Actively engage in professional work experience opportunities**

- Perform successfully as a communication specialist in a professional office

**Applied Modern Language and Culture (BS)**

**Program Goal #1: Demonstrate knowledge of language, people, and cultures**

- Analyze cultural, social, and linguistic differences and similarities of multiple worldviews
- Interpret and analyze authentic cultural production such as film, literature, or media

**Program Goal #2: Demonstrate effective cross-cultural knowledge and communication**

- Apply linguistic and cultural knowledge for successful functionality in other cultures

**Program Goal #3: Integrate professional skills in international and cross-cultural settings**

- Integrate and adapt professional skills for reading, writing, listening, and speaking in international and cross-cultural settings

**Program Goal #4: Apply knowledge of technical language to professional careers**

- Utilize technical vocabulary in professional contexts

**Program Goal #5: Communicate effectively in target language**

- Demonstrate linguistic proficiency in written and spoken language

**Communication (BS)**

**Program Goal #1: Develop a depth and breadth of knowledge of communication theory and concepts**

- Demonstrate knowledge of communication theory and apply it to various communication channels

**Program Goal #2: Develop communication competencies through engagement in practical experiences**

- Creating communication content, delivering to an audience, and engaging in critical feedback

**Program Goal #3: Develop proficiency in quantitative and qualitative research**

- Employ quantitative and/or qualitative methods to design, conduct, and record an original, scholarly research project

**Program Goal #4: Develop a critical framework for making ethical and responsible communication choices**

- Summarize and apply a critical framework for making ethical and responsible communication choices

**Program Goal #5: Provide opportunities for professional work experience**

- Perform successfully as a communication specialist in a professional office

**Criminal Justice (BS)**

**Program Goal #1: Acquire historical and contemporary perspectives on the nature and extent of crime and policies related to crime and justice, with emphasis on implications for policy, race, class, and gender both domestically and globally**

- Demonstrate knowledge of key concepts, policy issues, and legal and ethical issues surrounding crime and justice

**Program Goal #2: Develop foundational knowledge of history, philosophy, theory, processes and reform of police agencies, courts, corrections, and criminal justice policies**

- Analyze organizational structures and functions of police agencies, courts, correctional institutions, and criminal justice policies

**Program Goal #3: Develop practical skills to research, integrate, and apply analytic skills and knowledge to specific criminal justice issues**

- Identify, locate, and apply social, legal, and other professional resources and materials
- Utilize critical thinking skills in order to apply existing knowledge to existing social issues surrounding crime and criminal justice policies

**Program Goal #4: Develop an understanding of research methods and statistical applications to promote understanding of criminal justice policies and behaviors**

- Examine ethical issues surrounding criminal justice research, human subjects, methods, sampling, and research design

**Program Goal #5: Develop an understanding of and the ability to apply criminological theories in explaining the social, legal, and political processes by which behaviors are criminalized and the responses that arise to address such behaviors**

- Apply theories of deviant and criminal behavior and their relevance to contemporary policy in the United States and globally

**Program Goal #6: Identify ethical issues surrounding crime & crime policies**

- Evaluate ethical issues surrounding criminal justice research, crime, and crime policies

**Economics (BS)**

**Program Goal #1: Provide a basic understanding of microeconomic and macroeconomic theory**

- Demonstrate knowledge of principles and terminology of microeconomics and macroeconomics

**Program Goal #2: Introduce students to economic statistics and their applications**

- Evaluate and interpret general economic information

**Program Goal #3: Provide a basic understanding of quantitative methods used by economists**

- Apply quantitative techniques in the analysis of economic problems

**Program Goal #4: Introduce students to a range of contemporary global economic issues**

- Analyze the economics of globalization and other global economic issues

**Program Goal #5: Provide an understanding of how economic models are developed and applied in a policy/decision making setting**

- Use economic models to analyze decision making and formulate economic policy

**English (BS)****Program Goal #1: Demonstrate understanding of a broad range of critical, expository, and literary texts within and across their intellectual communities**

- Identify traditions, genres, and techniques, and compare and contrast theoretical approaches
- Employ communicative skills, including clear, persuasive, and research-based critical and creative writing

**Program Goal #2: Construct comparative, critical, and persuasive arguments in a variety of media**

- Examine and interpret a diverse range of texts, for example, literature, film, digital media, and popular culture
- Utilize electronic environments to draft, review, revise, edit, and share texts

**Program Goal #3: Articulate how power relations are shaped by language, particularly in the case of social justice issues concerning race, gender, class, ability, religion, and nationality**

- Identify differences and similarities in communication, values, practices, and beliefs between one's own culture and other cultures

**Program Goal #4: Determine digital modes of textual analysis to approach traditional humanities**

- Identify and differentiate new research methods and software tools used to interpret diverse forms of text/media/language production

**Program Goal #5: Enable students to become active researchers who can foster alternative methods of inquiry for problem solving**

- Apply literary criticism to a variety of academic disciplines
- Apply creative writing to a variety of academic disciplines
- Apply linguistic analysis to a variety of academic disciplines

**Program Goal #6: Participate in experiential learning through global education opportunities, capstone projects, or co-ops**

- Identify a critical question in a specialized field and design and implement independent research
- Gain and apply diverse perspectives which contribute to a broader ongoing intellectual dialogue



**History (BS)**

**Program Goal #1: Demonstrate expertise in methodologies of historical research using a variety of evidence and data (primary and secondary sources)**

- Examine, analyze, and synthesize primary and secondary historical sources to construct historical interpretations and arguments

**Program Goal #2: Acquire historical knowledge, including specific regions and global comparative perspectives, reflecting the multiple dimensions of human experience**

- Critically investigate salient historical material in non-Western history, U.S. history, global history, or history of the environment, science, and technology, to interpret the multiple dimensions of human experience

**Program Goal #3: Recognize multiple fields of historiography**

- Compare and contrast various fields of historiography

**Program Goal #4: Attain technological expertise in the field of digital history, in both research and a variety of forms of public presentation and media**

- Utilize various digital technologies and media to research, analyze, and present a historical event or relevant context

**Program Goal #5: Conduct original historical research**

- Design, conduct, and present original historical research in written and spoken formats

**Program Goal #6: Engage in experiential learning (internship or co-op) to broaden knowledge and develop twenty-first century competencies**

- Demonstrate problem-solving and communication skills in an experiential learning environment

**Humanities, Computing, and Design (BS)****Program Goal #1: Determine the broad social, legal, and ethical questions and concerns surrounding digital media and contemporary culture**

- Analyze the value of digital methods to the cultural record by thinking critically about tools, their uses, and limitations
- Interrogate digital information and evidence for validity, relevance, and best practices for attribution and transparency

**Program Goal #2: Employ a range of computational tools for humanities or social science scholarship**

- Use computational approaches including information visualization, web design, markup, and social networking software
- Apply computational tools and methodologies for use in humanities or social-based inquiry

**Program Goal #3: Produce multi-authored media using interdisciplinary methodologies**

- Identify the development stages of a media project and meet the needs and priorities in each stage of the project life-cycle

**Program Goal #4: Integrate data from multiple sources with humanities or social science research to invent new expression, creation, engagement**

- Formulate a humanities-based inquiry and determine a digital platform or tool that will address the line of inquiry
- Explore notions of production, reception, circulation, and preservation of digital scholarship

**International and Global Studies (BS)**

**Program Goal #1: Provide historical, ethnographic, and theoretical perspectives on globalization**

- Demonstrate knowledge of the key perspectives, concepts, and terminologies of globalization
- Demonstrate use of analytical tools and fundamental models and methods of analysis for assessing global change and local consequences

**Program Goal #2: Provide practical and effective communication and intercultural skills for a globalizing world**

- Demonstrate multicultural communication skills and foreign language proficiency

**Program Goal #3: Provide opportunities for experiential learning and cross-cultural competence in a global context**

- Demonstrate applied knowledge of critical thinking, ethical reasoning, problem-solving, and communicative skills through an international experience

**Program Goal #4: Develop grounding in the methods for the empirical and scientific analyses of international and global processes**

- Identify and determine appropriate application of quantitative methods for the analysis of global processes
- Develop appropriate qualitative research skills for the analysis of concrete social or political situations in a global context

**Program Goal #5: Develop knowledge of ethical principles in theory & practice that incorporate respect for persons, human rights, & cultural value systems**

- Demonstrate knowledge of the relative rights of peoples, cultures, and societies in a global context

**Program Goal #6: Identify and analyze the impacts of global and international processes on world regions, populations, & societal systems**

- Correlate the dynamic relationships between the mandates of globalization, political interests, local traditions, & cultural transformations

**Museum Studies (BS)**

**Program Goal #1: Provide historical and theoretical perspectives on the museum as a cultural and social institution with emphasis on histories, functions, and theoretical approaches of museums historically and today**

- Demonstrate knowledge of museums institutionally, ideologically, and experientially as a reflection of museum histories, functions, and theoretical approaches

**Program Goal #2: Provide historical and theoretical perspectives on how museums carry out their primary mission of education through exhibitions and educational programs**

- Demonstrate knowledge of the history and theory of exhibitions, exhibition design, educational theory, and interpretation

**Program Goal #3: Provide perspectives on digital practices in museums including history, theory, and application**

- Demonstrate expertise in how museums can adapt their practices to the digital age, and expand beyond their physical site

**Program Goal #4: Provide knowledge, skills, and strategies for professional practice in museums, archives, libraries**

- Illustrate research, problem solving, and practical skills in collections management

**Program Goal #5 Provide opportunities for experiential learning in museums, historical societies, or other institutions in the service of society that research, interpret, and exhibit tangible and/or intangible heritage**

- Demonstrate knowledge of museum, archive, or library work through personal experience

**Program Goal #6 Provide perspectives on the role and responsibility of museums and museum professionals in the service of society to foster diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging**

- Identify examples where museums have addressed inequities in society to foster belonging through experiences that center education, enjoyment, reflection, and knowledge sharing that are accessible, diverse, and inclusive
- Apply knowledge of inequities to professional practice and identify opportunities for change

**Philosophy (BS)**

**Program Goal #1: Develop foundational knowledge of the major thinkers and traditions in the history of philosophy**

- Categorize, critique, assess and compare major figures and movements in the history of philosophy

**Program Goal #2: Analyze value-oriented issues and questions**

- Compare different ethical theories
- Apply different theoretical approaches to value-oriented issues

**Program Goal #3: Develop critical skills characteristic of philosophic analysis, including the ability to assess, critically yet fairly, arguments from multiple perspectives**

- Examine, reconstruct, and fairly assess various and opposing arguments on a subject
- Present cogent arguments in support of their own philosophical positions

**Program Goal #4: Develop scholarly research skills**

- Formulate a thesis, conduct literature review, perform necessary research, and present and defend a defined philosophical position. Students will be able to formulate a thesis, conduct a literature review, perform the necessary research, and present and defend a cogent, sustained argument in support of a defined philosophical position

**Program Goal #5: Promote opportunities for integrating philosophy with a professional/technical discipline**

- Students will successfully complete a Professional/Technical Core, equivalent to an RIT minor, in a related area outside philosophy

**Program Goal #6: Provide students with the opportunity to specialize in a particular subfield of philosophy**

- Students will categorize, critique, and assess positions within a particular subfield of philosophy

**Political Science (BS)**

**Program Goal #1: American Government: To prepare students for careers in government and the private sector that requires an understanding of American government and politics, as well as the impact of globalization on the democratic process and the political community**

- Critically assess moral/constitutional/political principles
- Describe function & development of US political institutions
- Evaluate strengths/weaknesses of American political order
- Describe American federalism & division of political power

**Program Goal #2: International Relations: To prepare students for careers in a world that is increasingly globalized and where the demarcation of international and domestic politics is blurred**

- Critically assess theory/practice of international relations
- Critically assess development & impact of American foreign policy
- Comprehend the competing views of human rights

**Program Goal #3: Digital Democracy: To understand the impact and influence of social computing on the political process and on social and political life**

- Critically assess effects of info tech & social computing
- Extrapolate from current trends the politics of cutting edge technology

**Program Goal #4: Politics & the Life Sciences: To prepare students, through a rigorous interdisciplinary politics and the life sciences program, to consider political questions in creative and innovative ways**

- Apply/evaluate biological reasoning to political questions
- Critically assess political impact of the biotech revolution
- Critically evaluate the evolutionary explanations of law

**Program Goal #5: Economics & Public Policy: To prepare students through a cluster of social science programs to consider political questions in comprehensive ways of combining power, money, and policies, as well as in creative and innovative ways to understand policy institutions to be embedded in political and economic history/culture, domestic and international**

- Critically assess perspectives on political economy
- Comprehend the competing views of economic development
- Critically assess the integrated process of politics and policy-making

**Program Goal #6: Life-long Learning: To prepare students through a rigorous interdisciplinary program that includes the study of politics, the life sciences and information technology, for a life of learning and future graduate work. Communicate clearly, orally, visually, and in writing, about political and policy matters, both domestic and international**

- Communicate clearly, orally, visually, and in writing
- Connect & integrate knowledge, principles & methods

**Psychology (BS)**

**Program Goal #1: Provide historical & theoretical perspectives on psychology with an overview of the central subfields, an emphasis on the scientific approach and identification of ethical questions**

- Demonstrates knowledge of key historical material, central theories, and empirical practice, with sensitivity to ethical concerns

**Program Goal #2: Demonstrate the ability to think critically about theories and results in Psychology**

- Integrate and contrast ideas from different topics in Psychology

**Program Goal #3: Be able to conduct a literature search, and succinctly summarize literature related to a topic in Psychology**

- Complete a hypothesis driven research project including a thorough review of relevant literature

**Program Goal #4: Demonstrate effective written communication skills**

- Write both short papers and in-depth research reports

**Program Goal #5: Demonstrate effective oral, or signed (as appropriate), communication skills**

- Give presentations explaining topics in Psychology

**Program Goal #6: Demonstrate an understanding of the behavior of individuals and small groups**

- Examine individual behavior, and how group or organization membership can affect behavior

**Program Goal #7: Able to use appropriate quantitative tools to explore and understand behavioral data**

- Describe basic quantitative methods to measure group and individual differences, and a sample population

**Program Goal #8: Demonstrate the ability to define a research problem, apply appropriate research methods and analysis, and communicate the results to a broad audience**

- Present the results of research succinctly in verbal/signed, visual, and written form to a general audience

**Program Goal #9: Provide opportunities for professional work experience and career exploration**

- Student will obtain real-world experience in a psychology-related field

**Sociology and Anthropology (BS)**

**Program Goal #1: Analyze regional and cultural diversity in the organization of human societies**

- Analyze regional and cultural diversity in the organization of human societies

**Program Goal #2: Analyze the roots of and mechanisms for the perpetuation of social inequalities**

- Analyze the roots of and mechanisms for the perpetuation of social inequalities

**Program Goal #3: Appraise classical and contemporary theories about society and culture**

- Assess classical and contemporary theories about society and culture

**Program Goal #4: Assess and appropriately use qualitative methods in the study of social and cultural phenomena**

- Assess and appropriately use qualitative methods in the study of social and cultural phenomena

**Program Goal #5: Assess and appropriately use quantitative methods in the study of social and cultural phenomena**

- Assess and appropriately use quantitative methods in the study of social and cultural phenomena



**Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (BS)****Program Goal #1: Understand WGSS as an academic field of study and recognize its major concepts, theories, history, and diverse methodological and epistemological approaches**

- Analyze and evaluate the ways in which gender and sexuality intersect with other social and cultural variables such as economic status, race, ethnicity, nationality, age, disability
- Analyze and assess sexism and other gendered forms of power structures, inequalities, privilege, and oppression across a variety of human experiences

**Program Goal #2: Articulate connections between local, regional, & global & their current or historical relation to women & other gendered/sexed identities**

- Analyze how gender issues inform specific areas of academic, social, personal, and professional practices and experiences including area of study/research, career, profession, workplace, community
- Relate feminist and gender studies topics to multiple locations and environments inside and outside the United States while recognizing their roots

**Program Goal #3: Develop critical thinking skills necessary to succeed in 21st-century diverse workplaces and communities**

- Detect, analyze, and appraise gendered challenges and opportunities
- Apply feminist theoretical perspectives in problem solving and research methodologies in specific area of study or career path

**Program Goal #4: Prepare to be visionary and transformative leaders in the promotion of inclusive and responsible social change**

- Engage in field work, internship, community, non-profit or advocacy work that applies feminist and inclusive social justice theories
- Design collaborative strategies and projects of transformation that advance gender equity and inclusive social justice

**Communication (MS)**

**Program Goal #1: Develop critical, problem-solving, and application skills**

- Describe current communication environment and identify problems (or challenges) to solve
- Distinguish/Apply appropriate theory(ies) to explain and/or predict a particular communication phenomenon
- Analyze previous communication research and/or cases
- Develop persuasive and targeted messaging

**Program Goal #2: Acquire written and verbal communication skills**

- Demonstrate graduate level written and verbal communication skills
- Properly document references and citations in APA style

**Program Goal #3: Conduct original communication research**

- Develop original research question(s) or hypotheses that build on an existing body of knowledge
- Select method(s) appropriate for particular research questions or hypotheses
- Apply ethical principles in using human subjects in research

**Program Goal #4: Prepare graduate students for pursuing additional graduate work at the doctoral level**

- Design and publicly defend a thesis

**Criminal Justice (MS)**

**Program Goal #1: Critically analyze historical and contemporary perspectives on the major crime and crime prevention policies, including global, domestic and local initiatives and strategies**

- Differentiate and summarize key concepts, policy issues, and legal and ethical issues surrounding crime and justice
- Demonstrate proficient written communication skills at the graduate level

**Program Goal #2: Utilize research methods, statistical applications, and evaluation to promote understanding of criminal justice policies and behaviors**

- Synthesize, contrast and critique ethical issues surrounding criminal justice research, human subjects, methods, sampling, and research design

**Program Goal #3: Apply criminological theories in explaining the social, legal, and political processes by which behaviors are criminalized and the responses that arise to address such behaviors**

- Determine and assess theories of deviant and criminal behavior and their relevance to contemporary policy in the United States and globally

**Program Goal #4 Develop pre-doctoral research skills required to pursue a doctoral degree**

- Demonstrate pre-doctoral skills in the creation, design and public thesis defense

**Experimental Psychology (MS)**

**Program Goal #1: Be able to think critically at a graduate level about theories and results in Psychology**

- Integrate and contrast ideas from research in Experimental Psychology

**Program Goal #2: Be able to conduct a literature search, and succinctly summarize literature related to a topic in Psychology**

- Conduct and present a thorough review of relevant literature

**Program Goal #3: Demonstrate effective written and oral/signed communication skills**

- Write and present on graduate level topics in Psychology

**Program Goal #4: Be able to use appropriate quantitative tools to explore and understand behavioral data**

- Demonstrate competence in statistical analysis and reporting results

**Program Goal #5: Demonstrate the ability to define a research problem, apply appropriate research methods and analysis, and communicate the results to a broad audience**

- Produce an APA-format, original research project in written format and defend it in public, or satisfactory completion of all components of the Capstone course

**Science, Technology & Public Policy (MS)**

**Program Goal #1: Demonstrate knowledge of the fundamental aspects including: process, use, approaches, and analysis of policy**

- Explain key elements of public policy and the policy analysis field

**Program Goal #2: Apply a variety of quantitative techniques for analyzing public policy**

- Utilize quantitative methods including cost-benefit analysis, decision analysis, systems thinking, and forecasting to analyze public policies

**Program Goal #3: Apply a variety of qualitative techniques for analyzing public policy**

- Utilize qualitative methods including surveying, stakeholder analysis, and observational studies to analyze public policies

**Program Goal #4: Demonstrate high level of oral and written communication skills**

- Construct written documents, research papers; and oral presentations explaining policy positions, evaluation methods, and/or analytical results of policy analysis

**Program Goal #5: Explain how public policy affects scientific and technological endeavors and how science and technology create the need for various public policies**

- Evaluate a science and technology issue and identify potential policy responses to that problem

**Program Goal #6: Demonstrate an ability to apply policy analysis methods to a particular "policy domain" area**

- Select and apply methods in particular domains (e.g., environmental policy, information and communications policy, energy policy, etc.)

**Program Goal #7: Demonstrate the ability to define a public policy research problem and communicate results to a broad audience**

- Identify a problem, conduct analysis, and present results through a thesis or other research project

**Cognitive Science (PhD)**

**Program Goal #1: Students master ethical concepts and processes in conducting research**

- Apply philosophical, including ethical, principles in research and assess societal impact
- Responsibly formulate and carry out research with human subjects

**Program Goal #2: Students demonstrate various advanced research methodologies, skills & experimentation techniques for developing original, independent research**

- Utilize principles of experimental laboratory methodology
- Design and implement statistical analysis and data visualization techniques
- Design and implement principles of scientific programming in the analysis and modeling of cognitive or perceptual processes or to inspire new computational models

**Program Goal #3: Students creatively build on prior research and communicate their own work effectively to their external research community and others**

- Write and disseminate original scientific research to experts and other audiences
- Present and communicate original scientific research to experts and other audiences

**Program Goal #4: Students demonstrate doctoral-level skills for research careers, including in the professoriate**

- Apply skills in higher education pedagogy within a cognitive science area
- Develop and submit or co-submit a research grant proposal /project for internal/external funding consideration