

College-Wide Programs

Liberal Learning

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The Liberal Learning program at The College of New Jersey has three major goals:

I. Intellectual and Scholarly Growth

• **First Seminar (FSP)**

1 course unit

Co-requisite: IDS 102

All first-year TCNJ students take a seminar in their fall semester introducing them to serious scholarship and the life of the mind. A list of seminars for academic year 2005-2006 can be found online at <http://www.tcnj.edu/~liberal/firstselection.html>. Although a seminar cannot count toward fulfilling the major, it can satisfy a Broad Sectors of Human Inquiry (Option C) requirement (see below). In some cases, it also can satisfy a Civic Responsibilities requirement.

• **IDS 102/Information Literacy Proficiency**

0 course unit

Co-requisite: First Seminar

An online, non-credit course satisfying the information literacy component of the Liberal Learning program. A co-requisite to First Seminar, it must be completed by all students prior to graduation.

• **Academic Writing (WRI 102)**

1 course unit

Academic Writing offers students the opportunity to develop, advance, and practice skills in the production of academic prose. Within a framework of sophisticated readings, highly coordinated writing workshops, and instructor feedback, students practice the modes of writing necessary to succeed in college. Students read critically, cultivate habits of effective and ethical research, practice conventions of documentation, and use information technologies. Topical readings may vary among sections. Students may earn exemption from WRI 102 through AP scores, SAT scores, or an exemption test offered only prior to matriculation; for more information, see <http://www.tcnj.edu/~writing/>.

• **Second Language Proficiency**

Proficiency at the third-semester level in a second language is required for all programs in the School of Culture and Society and in selected programs in the School of Art, Media, and Music and the School of Business. Proficiency at either the second-or third-semester level (depending on program) is required in the School of Science. Consult an advisor for information about specific program requirements.

II. Civic Responsibilities

The four areas of civic responsibility are:

- understanding the nature of race and ethnicity
- understanding the nature and impact of gender
- achieving global awareness
- community-engaged learning

A civic responsibilities requirement is fulfilled by completing designated courses in the major or liberal learning, through approved programs, or equivalent sustained experiences. No single course, program, or sustained experience may satisfy more than two of the four civic responsibilities categories. A list of courses meeting the civic responsibilities requirement can be found online at:

<http://www.tcnj.edu/~recreg/documents/liberallearningforpdf032604.pdf>

III. Broad Sectors of Human Inquiry

(Arts and Humanities, Social Sciences and History, Natural Sciences and Quantitative Reasoning)

There are three possible paths to meeting this goal.

- Option A: Designated Interdisciplinary Concentrations or Second Majors

Interdisciplinary concentrations consist of six or seven courses addressing a common theme. Courses comprising a concentration must include at least two of the three broad sectors of human inquiry, with no more than four courses from the same broad sector. When an interdisciplinary concentration does not include two courses from each broad sector, additional courses, as necessary, from the appropriate sectors must be completed. Every student must also complete at least one course each in quantitative reasoning and natural science with laboratory. When two additional courses are required from the same sector, students must select courses with different prefixes. Interdisciplinary majors and second majors also may serve as interdisciplinary concentrations, provided they meet the standards described above. A list of approved interdisciplinary concentrations can be found at : <http://www.tcnj.edu/~liberal/concentrations.html>

- Option B: Self-designed Interdisciplinary Concentrations

Students are invited to create their own concentrations that address the same three broad sectors. A student must secure the sponsorship of at least two faculty members who teach in disciplines included in the proposed concentration. The student must then submit a formal proposal and plan of studies for approval to the Office of Liberal Learning. Proposals need to include provisions for advising, assessment, and scholarly resources, as well as course work. All other provisions related to sector requirements as described in Option A, above, apply.

- Option C: Breadth Distribution

Each of the three broad sectors of human inquiry is sub-divided into two domains as follows:

1. Arts and Humanities
 - a. Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts
 - b. World Views and Ways of Knowing
2. Social Sciences and History
 - a. Behavioral, Social, or Cultural Perspectives
 - b. Social Change in Historical Perspective
3. Natural Science and Quantitative Reasoning
 - a. Natural Science

b. Quantitative Reasoning

Students must take at least one laboratory science course. When two natural science courses are taken, they may be in either one or two disciplines (unless otherwise specified by major requirements).

Courses taken for major or minor requirements may be used to fulfill Option C. Also, courses taken to meet the broad sectors of human inquiry requirements, including First Seminar, may also fulfill civic responsibilities requirements. A list of courses meeting the breadth distribution requirement can be <http://www.tcnj.edu/~recreg/documents/liberallearningforpdf032604.pdf>

See also section on Interdisciplinary Courses (IDS)

For additional information, consult the Liberal Learning homepage: <http://www.tcnj.edu/~liberal>