

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

A Message from the Dean

Welcome to the College of Arts and Sciences at Fairfield University. As a student in the College you will join a community of engaged, student-focused faculty, students, and staff dedicated to invention, discovery, and the prospect of producing knowledge in the service of others. In addition to being the oldest of the University's five schools, we are also the home to Fairfield's Core Curriculum, the Magis Core, which is the intellectual foundation of a Fairfield education, anchored in the liberal arts and deeply informed by the Jesuit values of academic excellence and service. We create authentic learning opportunities for students that allow for "exploring the complexities of the human condition, experiencing the wonders of artistic creation, investigating the intricacies of the universe, and reflecting on the mysteries of the sacred – so that we may all do our part to promote a just and peaceful world."

With 14 departments and over 20 interdisciplinary programs, the College values inspired teaching and innovative faculty research that makes Fairfield unique. With majors, minors, and interdisciplinary programs spanning a wide variety of subjects and areas of academic inquiry, the opportunities to explore are limitless and uniquely position our students for success in an increasingly competitive job market where key skills such as critical thinking and clear communication are highly valued. From taking the stage in a theatre production to studying the impact of pollution on marine life, the College of Arts and Sciences provides our students the space to explore their passions. Within easy reach of major metropolitan centers and countless companies and service organizations, the College's Office of Career and Professional Development will work with you to find an internship program that further allows you to put theory into practice in the real world as part of their studies in the College.

We are confident that your time with us will not only prepare you for a rewarding career but an inspired life of service. As the philosopher John Dewey observed, "education is not preparation for life; education is life itself." It is our desire that you live and learn fully during your time at the College, that you are fully engaged. But always remember your responsibility to lead by sharing what you have learned with others. In the immortal words of Ignatius of Loyola, "Go forth and set the world on fire."

Richard Greenwald, PhD
Dean, College of Arts and Sciences

College Overview

The oldest and largest of Fairfield's five schools, the College of Arts and Sciences offers the bachelor of arts and the bachelor of science degree, as well as master's degrees in American studies, communication, creative writing, mathematics and public administration. In recent years, the College has won numerous grants to support new and continuing programs. Examples include funding to enhance the core science curriculum, to broaden access to science education, to add courses in critical languages, to enhance diversity at the University, to bring geographic information systems technology to area high school classrooms, and to promote family literacy. Through various scholarships, grants, and internship programs, students in the College have had the opportunity to study and conduct research in Brazil, China, Nicaragua, Russia, and Tanzania, among other locations.

Students are encouraged to select a major by the end of their first year (essential in sciences) but no later than the end of the sophomore year. Pre-major students who are still exploring should consult with their faculty advisor, any of their professors, or the Academic and Career Development Center to help them choose a program of study. Selecting a major is not an irrevocable decision; the academic program at Fairfield is flexible enough to allow students to discover new interests or identify new goals. Any of the academic programs in arts and sciences will provide the broad foundations for success and flexibility in any career path.

Within each major field of study, courses range from introductory to highly specialized, with multiple opportunities for independent study and research. Students may also opt, with faculty advice and agreement, to design their own major. Double-majors and minors can also be arranged for students who want to combine the skills and perspectives of two or more disciplines. The core curriculum provides many opportunities to explore the vast territory of the liberal arts and to discover individual intellectual passions.

Degrees

Bachelor of Arts

The bachelor of arts is a liberal arts degree with emphasis in the arts, humanities, or social and behavioral sciences.

Major concentrations in the BA degree program include:

- American Studies
- Communication
 - Public Relations
- Economics
- English
 - Digital Journalism
- Environmental Studies
- History
- International Studies
- Individually Designed Major
- Modern Languages and Literatures (French, German, Italian, and Spanish)
- Philosophy
- Politics
- Religious Studies
- Sociology and Anthropology
- Sports Media
- Visual and Performing Arts
 - Art History and Visual Culture
 - Film, Television, and Media Arts
 - Music
 - Studio Art
 - Theatre

Bachelor of Science

The bachelor of science is a liberal arts degree with an emphasis in the sciences.

Major concentrations in the BS degree program include:

- Behavioral Neuroscience
- Biology
- Biochemistry
- Chemistry
- Economics
- Mathematics
- Physics
- Psychology

Interdisciplinary Programs

The Fairfield curriculum includes a number of majors and minors that are interdisciplinary in nature. Such programs permit students to combine coursework from more than one academic department, thereby examining a broad subject from a multiplicity of disciplinary perspectives. There are eight interdisciplinary majors currently available to students in the College of Arts and Sciences:

- American Studies
- Digital Journalism
- Environmental Studies
- International Studies
- Individually Designed Major
- Liberal and Professional Studies
- Sports Media
- Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

The College also offers the following interdisciplinary minors:

- American Studies
- Asian Studies
- Black Studies
- Catholic Studies
- Classical Studies
- Digital Journalism
- Educational Studies
- Environmental Studies
- Graphic Design
- Health Studies
- Humanitarian Action
- International Studies
- Irish Studies
- Islamic World Studies
- Italian Studies
- Judaic Studies
- Latinx, Latin American and Caribbean Studies
- Peace and Justice Studies
- Public Administration
- Russian, East European, and Central Asian Studies
- Sports Media
- Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

Honors Program

The College of Arts and Sciences participates in the University Honors Program, a highly selective interdisciplinary course of study open to invited first-years and sophomores and devoted to intellectual history, interdisciplinary studies, and advanced work in the student's major field.

The Honors curriculum challenges students to identify major intellectual questions about the past and present, write coherently about the history and methods of research into those questions, design a research project on a major question in their field of study, and implement and report on the results of that research project.

Liberal and Professional Studies

The bachelor of arts or bachelor of science in Liberal and Professional Studies is a flexible, individualized, and interdisciplinary degree designed for non-traditional part time undergraduates (for example, students returning to college after a long hiatus, working professionals who seek career advancement with a respected university degree, etc.). This major consists of nine courses from at least two areas (humanities, social and behavioral science, mathematics and science, liberal and professional studies) as well as a capstone course. The degree offers many attractive features to returning students including a more liberal credit transfer policy and the ability to receive credit through CLEP and portfolio review. More information is available under the Liberal and Professional Studies section of this catalog.

Specialized Programs in Arts and Sciences

In addition to the traditional major concentrations, the College of Arts and Sciences offers specialized programs and academic services. A partial list follows:

Education

The College of Arts and Sciences, in collaboration with the School of Education and Human Development, offers a Five-Year Integrated Bachelor and Master of Arts Teacher Certification Program in Elementary Education, Secondary Education, or Special Education. Secondary education tracks include English, science, math, social studies, and world language education. Students earn a BA or BS in their major. They minor in Educational Studies and take two to four additional teacher preparation courses as undergraduates, depending on the certification area. Students continue teacher preparation as graduate students, completing a 30-credit MA in Elementary or Secondary Education and eligibility for Connecticut teaching certifications.

Health Professions Program

Fairfield offers a challenging, competitive, and highly successful pre-medical/pre-dental/pre-health professional program. Students in this program pursue studies in a field or major of their personal interest while taking those courses necessary for admission to medical, dental, and veterinary school, as well as any of the professional schools for allied health careers, such as physician assistant, physical and occupational therapy, and pharmacy.

All students who are considering the health professions as a career and were not registered for the program as admitted students should identify themselves and meet with the Director of the Health Professions Program as early as possible. A great deal of careful planning must be done in order to prepare a strong application for advanced study.

Students who apply to health professions schools need to have foundational knowledge in science. These foundations can be taken within a science major or added to a non-science major. Many pre-medical students elect to pursue a degree in biology that provides expertise well beyond the minimum requirements recommended by the Association of American Medical Colleges for admission to medical school (similar to requirements for other health professions

schools). However, students should also recognize that other majors - in the natural sciences and in non-science fields - are acceptable alternatives as long as the major is supplemented by a combination of courses that represent preparation for medical, dental, and allied health schools. The best preparation for medicine and a number of other health professions usually includes early completion of the following basic course sequences: MATH 1121 and MATH 2217; BIOL 1171 and BIOL 1172; CHEM 1171 and CHEM 1172; CHEM 2271 and CHEM 2272; PHYS 1171 and PHYS 1172. The choice and sequence of courses depend on the student's personal and academic priorities; these should be discussed with the Health Professions Advisor and other academic advisors.

Internship opportunities are of special interest to students preparing for careers in medicine. Options available to Fairfield students include the Emergency Medicine Research Associates Program at St. Vincent's Medical Center in Bridgeport and a wide variety of local, national, and international opportunities. Contact Director Geoffrey Church, x2485, for more information.

Pre-Law Program

Fairfield's pre-law program has been consistently successful during the past decade. No particular major is recommended for law school candidates. Pre-law students should elect courses that examine the social, economic, and political systems of which the law is a part. They should also select courses that help them develop competencies to read analytically, reason logically, write clearly, speak precisely, and think critically. Finally, students may wish to pursue coursework that examines the law from the perspective of disciplines such as politics, philosophy, psychology, sociology, and business. The program is closely supervised by faculty who serve as special advisors to pre-law students; supplementary advising is available through the Academic and Career Development Center. Contact advisor Aaron Weinstein by email (aweinstein@fairfield.edu) for more information.

Internships

Internships provide the opportunity for practical experience in a career field related to a student's major. Most departments of the College of Arts and Sciences offer credit for internships in appropriate agencies and business firms in Fairfield, nearby communities, as well as in New York City and New Haven. Majors who wish to take advantage of these opportunities should consult their department chair or program internship coordinator about eligibility requirements and other details.

Minors

In addition to the major, a number of departments and interdisciplinary programs in the college offer optional minor concentrations. These concentrations are developed under faculty supervision within the context of departmental requirements and offerings. For further information, contact the department chair or program director.

Departmental Requirements and Options

Each department or program in the College of Arts and Sciences has specific academic requirements and options for earning a degree in its academic field. Those requirements and options are found in the departmental and program sections that are presented in alphabetical order on subsequent pages of this catalog.

Additional majors, concentrations, and programs housed in academic departments:

- Anthropology: see Sociology and Anthropology
- Applied Statistics: see Mathematics
- Art History and Visual Culture: see Visual and Performing Arts
- Arts Administration: see Visual and Performing Arts
- Behavioral Neuroscience: see Psychological and Brain Sciences
- Campaigns and Elections: see Politics
- Creative Writing: see English
- Digital Journalism: see English
- Editing and Publishing: see English
- Evolution, Ecology, and Biodiversity: see Biology
- Film: see Visual and Performing Arts
- French: see Modern Languages and Literatures
- German: see Modern Languages and Literatures
- Graphic Design: see Visual and Performing Arts
- Classical (Greek or Roman) Studies: see Classical Studies
- Health and Human Biology: see Biology
- Hebrew: see Modern Languages and Literatures
- Italian: see Modern Languages and Literatures
- Leadership Ethics: see Philosophy
- Marine Science: see Biology
- Mathematical Statistics: see Mathematics
- Molecular Biology: see Biology
- Film, Television, and Media Arts: see Visual and Performing Arts
- Music: see Visual and Performing Arts
- Professional Writing: see English
- Public Relations: see Communication
- Russian: see Modern Languages and Literatures
- Spanish: see Modern Languages and Literatures
- Studio Art: see Visual and Performing Arts
- Theatre: see Visual and Performing Arts
- U.S. Government: see Politics