
FREEDOM EDUCATION PROJECT PUGET SOUND

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About the Program

Faculty from the University of Puget Sound and students in the Washington Corrections Center for Women (WCCW) founded the Freedom Education Project Puget Sound (FEPPS) in 2011. It has been a Signature Initiative of the university since 2015. Our mission is to offer a rigorous college program to incarcerated women in WCCW, build pathways to further education upon release, and create institutional connections between the university and WCCW. The Bachelor's degree program in Liberal Studies is one of six serving incarcerated women nationally. The program builds upon the existing FEPPS Associate of Arts degree. The Puget Sound-FEPPS BA program furthers Puget Sound's strategic goals around inclusion and access, diversity, connections with the community, and high impact engagement.

The Liberal Studies program leads to a major that allows students to explore broad themes essential to a liberal arts education. The central question of the major is "How do we know what we know?" This question allows students to address the following: Who counts as experts? What is a valid question? What is evidence, and what counts as evidence for different fields? How do we know things from different disciplinary perspectives? Why do people believe what they believe? How does knowledge become codified?

Each course in the major addresses these questions through 3-4 broader themes:

1. Politics, Justice and Power
2. Technology and Society
3. Creativity, Myth-Making and Resistance
4. Communications and Language

These themes allow students to consider fundamental questions about knowledge production, to understand how others answer those questions, and to develop their own answers. Students take classes across each of three disciplinary areas—social sciences, humanities and fine arts, and natural sciences and mathematics. Additionally, students work to understand how the tools of the disciplinary areas assist in the exploration of the thematic areas. All students take the Liberal Arts and the Construction of Knowledge class, in which students develop the writing, analytic, and research skills necessary to be successful in the major and beyond. This class also introduces students to some of the themes. Students then take the Bridge class that will allow them to explore how the different disciplinary approaches offer ways of understanding and building knowledge, as well as to choose the themes they wish to explore in their major. The Liberal Studies major culminates in the Capstone class that is designed to build on students' coursework and requires a major research project exploring their selected themes from multiple disciplinary perspectives.

General Requirements for the Major

General university degree requirements stipulate that 1) at least four units of the major be taken in residence at Puget Sound; 2) students earn a GPA of 2.0 in courses taken for the major; and 3) all courses taken for a major must be taken for graded credit. Any exceptions to these stipulations are indicated in the major degree requirements listed below.

Requirements for the Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies Major

Students admitted to the Puget Sound-FEPPS BA program will have an AA degree from Tacoma Community College; their 96 credits will

transfer, as is customary, as 15 units towards the Puget Sound degree. Students in the Puget Sound-FEPPS BA program will complete all Puget Sound graduation and core requirements. The University of Puget Sound admits a BA cohort of 10 to 12 students in prison, every 2-3 years. The time to degree is 3 years to complete 17 courses (2 to 3 courses per semester). The Liberal Studies major will use a "scaffold" to create cohesiveness, intellectual coherence, and structure.

A Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies Degree consists of the following:

1. 15 transfer units
2. 3 units to fulfill Puget Sound Core courses (Seminar in Scholarly Inquiry 2, Artistic Approaches, and Connections)
3. Foreign Language and Knowledge, Identity, and Power graduation requirements, to be fulfilled through AA coursework and overlay with other classes.
4. 10.5 units for the Liberal Studies Major
5. 3.5 units of electives
6. 3 units of upper-division coursework outside of the Liberal Studies major requirements. These units may be courses satisfying core or elective requirements, provided the courses are not applied to major requirements.

A Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies Major consists of the following 10.5 units:

1. LBST 310
2. Two courses in the Social Sciences
3. Two courses in the Humanities
4. Two courses in the Natural Sciences or Mathematics
5. Two courses in ONE of the above areas
6. LBST 390 (.5 units)
7. LBST 490

Course Offerings

Unless otherwise specified, each course carries 1 unit of credit and is offered at least once each academic year. Please see "Frequency of Course Offerings" on page 18.

Liberal Studies (LBST)

310 Liberal Arts and the Construction of Knowledge The Liberal Arts and the Construction of Knowledge course is the introductory course for the Liberal Studies Major. It introduces students to a liberal arts education as well as to the questions, processes, and tools of interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary inquiry. The course helps students to be able to define the differences and overlaps between epistemological frameworks in the natural sciences and mathematics, the social sciences, and the humanities and arts and see how those frameworks get translated into specific methodological tools in various disciplines. *Prerequisite: Admission to the Puget Sound-FEPPS BA program. Cannot be audited.*

390 Bridge Course 0.50 units. This course allows students, in consultation with the professor, to complete a contract for their major. The class revisits some ideas about the core of various disciplines and allows students to engage in cross-disciplinary research. Students identify themes, as well as particular questions and/or methodological comparisons, that create connections between their course work. They reflect on their intellectual trajectories through discussion and class assignments—including the development of a possible proposal for their capstone project. *Prerequisite: Admission to the Puget Sound-FEPPS BA program. Cannot be audited.*

490 Liberal Studies Capstone The purpose of this seminar is to provide students with guidance and a supportive environment in which to pursue an independent research project that will serve as the culmination of their BA in Liberal Studies. The culmination of the seminar is a 25-30 page research essay in which students identify a research topic drawing on issues that have emerged in a constellation of their courses, design a research question, research the topic, and advance an independent argument about it. Students present their projects orally to a public audience. *Prerequisite: Admission to the Puget Sound-FEPPS BA program. Cannot be audited.*