

Think. Communicate. Lead. Engage: Liberal Arts at Stephens

Since 1833, the Stephens College curriculum has been grounded in the liberal arts. Today, while we emphasize hands-on experiential learning, we continue to celebrate the power of a liberal arts education to complete that experience—and to graduate young women who offer a well-rounded foundation for success in any field.

Goals

The goals of our programs are simple but powerful. We prepare students to:

- Think critically
- Communicate powerfully
- Lead responsibly
- Engage for change

Values

Our curriculum is thoughtful and reflects our values. We believe in:

- The power of a liberal arts foundation to inspire responsible citizens motivated to improve the world around them
- Lifelong learning; we seek to cultivate a love of learning throughout all stages of life
- The inherent advantages we can provide as a women's college; we value our tradition of educating young women in a supportive environment focused on their unique experience
- Developing curriculum that supports the many paths, majors and goals our students pursue in the modern world



Curriculum

In addition to pursuing classes in a school and program, students enroll in liberal arts or “general education” courses. These courses are designed to promote critical thinking, develop strong writing skills and encourage a deeper understanding of social and personal responsibility.

Highlights of the program include:

- 1 First-Year Experience, a one-semester seminar that provides an introduction to collegiate success, as well as service learning opportunities
- 2 Courses aimed to develop writing skills to a mastery level
- 3 Global Studies, a research and documentation module focused on a particular global theme
- 4 Senior Ethics, a lecture/discussion course exploring foundational ethics through case studies

Learning Outcomes

Through the Liberal Arts program at Stephens, students develop skills in reasoning, logic, communication and critical thinking across a spectrum of disciplines, each with its own set of learning outcomes.

CORE OUTCOMES

Through the Liberal Arts program, students learn to:

- Analyze the world of creative imagination
- Engage with literary texts
- Describe and analyze how the past has shaped the contemporary world
- Understand and apply the methods and language of scientific inquiry
- Apply mathematical solutions to solve problems
- Understand the principles fundamental to the study of girls and women
- Gain a comparative knowledge of the world's peoples and culture

ARTS

Analyze the world of the creative imagination by:

- Displaying an understanding of the arts in terms of historical, cultural and political contexts
- Demonstrating a familiarity with a wide range of styles, forms, techniques and conventions from Western and non-Western traditions
- Developing powers of description and criticism, as applied to creative work

LITERATURE

Show your power as a reader to engage with the worlds created in literary texts by:

- Demonstrating an awareness of a variety of methods for reading and appreciating literary texts
- Displaying an understanding of a range of conventions of literary production
- Developing an awareness of the ways literary texts emerge from the social and political conditions of their times and how those conditions may differ from their own

HISTORY

Describe and analyze how the past has shaped the contemporary world by:

- Identifying and analyzing the historical diversity of women's experiences and how their contributions have shaped the contemporary status of women
- Using investigative techniques and approaches to the past, common to the discipline of history
- Demonstrating an awareness of the diversity of the global historical experience along the lines of gender, class, race and geography

GLOBAL FOCUS

Understand human behavior in a social and global context by:

- Developing the competency to see the world from multiple perspectives
- Identifying theories of human behavior and motivation
- Analyzing how globalization affects contemporary societies
- Applying investigative techniques common to the social sciences

ETHICS

Use your knowledge of consequences of globalization to think and act ethically by:

- Identifying and critiquing ethical theories
- Analyzing ethical issues raised by globalization
- Applying ethical thinking in the context of various career fields

QUANTITATIVE

Apply mathematical methods to solve problems by:

- Interpreting and drawing inferences from mathematical models such as formulas, graphs, tables and schematics
- Applying quantitative methods to solve real world problems
- Representing mathematical information symbolically, visually, numerically and verbally
- Demonstrating an understanding of the limits of mathematical and statistical methods.

WOMEN CENTERED

Get an understanding of the principles fundamental to the study of girls and women by:

- Analyzing the strategies women engage to challenge the inequalities and exclusions in their lives
- Demonstrating an understanding of the cultural construction of gender and sexuality
- Identifying women's leadership and contributions to culture and society

SCIENCE

Understand and apply the methods and language of scientific inquiry by:

- Applying the scientific method and scientific terminology
- Understanding the uses of scientific knowledge, including its ethical implications

INTERCULTURAL

Gain a comparative knowledge of the world's peoples and cultures by:

- Identifying and explaining the differences between one's own cultural, theoretical and historical standpoints and those of others
- Demonstrating knowledge of historical, social and geopolitical factors that shape human diversity

COMMUNICATION

Communicate effectively by:

- Organizing and delivering presentation material effectively;
- Developing and organizing written work effectively
- Conducting research using appropriately documented primary and secondary sources
- Demonstrating a command of standard written English

REASONING

Learn to reason effectively by:

- Investigating and assessing alternatives
- Identifying and critiquing arguments and supporting evidence
- Synthesizing information to present valid arguments or solve problems



For more information on
Stephens College curriculum, contact
inquiry@stephens.edu or (800) 876-7207