Western Michigan University College of Arts and Sciences Curriculum Guide

This program guide is for students who have narrowed their choice of programs down to the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS), but are undecided about which major in this college. Please visit the CAS website for a list of the college’s majors:

All students choosing a major in the College of Arts and Sciences must complete the Liberal Education Curriculum (LEC) requirements. The WSCC general education program transfer guide is where you should start selecting courses that will apply toward requirements for the LEC. The LEC requirements follow the WMU general education requirements except that LEC requires that CAS students make the choices directed below:

- CAS requires a world language which may be met in one of three ways:
  - Take two years of one high school language, with a B- or higher in the last semester, or at any point after that if more than two years are completed;
  - Take two semesters of one language in college;
  - Or through passing a language proficiency test. Please contact the WMU World Languages and Literatures department for languages other than Spanish, and the Spanish department for that language. Neither the MACRAO Agreement nor the MTA satisfy the world language requirement;
  - American Sign Language may also be used for this requirement;

- Students in the International and Comparative Politics or History Liberal Education majors should take note that they will be required to complete four semesters of a world language (through WMU’s 2010 level), which is two more semesters than the LEC language requirement. American Sign Language may not be used for these majors;

- Students in the Global and International Studies major are required to complete two courses, in the same language, beyond WMU’s 2010 level;

- CAS requires a critical thinking course, to be chosen from Proficiency 4c (see general education guide mentioned above). Transfer students who meet the MACRAO agreement or MTA guidelines are considered to have met this requirement;

- If you are uncertain whether you meet the MACRAO Agreement or MTA guidelines, talk with an advisor at your community college about this question.
Choosing a major:

- You can explore information about the various majors in CAS by clicking on any one of the majors. You will find the following information if you do so:
  - What can I do with this major;
  - What does the entire major look like;
  - How to make an appointment with the major advisor to learn more;
- Taking courses in areas in which you have an interest, is also a good way to explore majors. Even if you don’t decide on the major represented by these courses, they count toward electives in your overall college requirements;
- Some programs have more math requirements than others so it is a good idea to pay particular attention to those requirements. Where required, students can often take up to Calculus III at the community college;
- Students who graduate from the CAS are required to complete both a major and a minor:
  - Having a major and a minor can help make the career choice a little easier, if the student is undecided between 2 choices. Being able to choose BOTH takes the pressure off in the career choice process;
  - Double majors, or majors in Global and International Studies, Community and Regional Planning, Public History, Geophysics, Geochemistry, and a Student Planned Major are exceptions to needing a minor;
- We encourage you to utilize any resources that West Shore offers to help students in the career decision-making process. WMU also offers a career class, career testing, and other helpful resources.

How can WMU help?

- For help with LEC questions, contact any CAS advisor at the address listed below;
- Prospective students should apply to WMU at least 9 months before starting classes. Fall priority registration opens in March. Spring (January) registration opens in early October, and Summer I and II open in February. If your plans change, the entry date can be deferred, but if you put off the application date until you “know for sure” that you are coming to WMU, then you may miss the priority registration dates;
- Transfer students are required to meet with an advisor before they register for their first semester of classes at WMU.

Approved by:
Kevin Knutson - Director of Advising
College of Arts and Sciences

Contact information:
coas-advising@wmich.edu
(269) 387-4366