

# College of Arts and Sciences

## College Administration

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**Website:** <http://cas.okstate.edu/>

The College of Arts and Sciences not only offers a wide variety of programs in teaching, research and outreach, but also supports and reinforces all the other programs of the University. Apart from strong programs in the natural and social sciences and in the liberal and fine arts, the College provides a number of more specialized and interdisciplinary strengths and a variety of professional and pre-professional training.

The Department of Economics and Legal Studies in Business in the Spears School of Business offers BA and BS degrees through the College of Arts and Sciences. The Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources also offers the BS through the College of Arts and Sciences.

The College of Arts and Sciences provides academic preparation for a wide variety of professions and graduate programs including: law, medicine, nursing, optometry, veterinary medicine, graphic arts, teaching, writing, foreign service, urban and regional planning, journalism, public service, radio/TV, advertising, public relations, medical technology, military science, public affairs, corrections, social services, and fine and performing arts.

## Accreditation

Refer to departmental listings that follow for information on accreditation of specific programs.

## High School Preparation

In addition to the curricular requirements for admission specified by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, The College of Arts and Sciences strongly recommends that high school students have a fourth year of mathematics; a third year of laboratory science; at least two years of a single foreign language; one year of arts such as music, theatre, or studio art, and computer literacy.

## Scholarships

A number of undergraduate scholarships are available through the College and through the departments and schools within the College. Interested students should inquire in the Office of Student Academic Services or access the OSU Internet site for a list of available scholarships. Arts and Sciences students are also encouraged to apply for the variety of scholarships available through the University's Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid.

## Student Success Center

The Arts and Sciences Student Success Center is comprised of four units listed below. University-wide coordination of pre-professional advising is provided through the Center, so regardless of major, pre-law students may consult with an advisor in Student Academic Services, and pre-health students may consult with an advisor in Pre-Health Advising.

**Student Academic Services.** The academic advising process in Arts and Sciences is coordinated by Student Academic Services. The advising staff in Student Academic Services advises freshmen and undecided students. Departmental advisors provide advising for students who have declared their majors. The general education program in the College of Arts and Sciences allows undecided freshmen to make progress toward most degrees for up to three semesters, while exploring possible fields of study with an academic advisor. The responsibility for satisfying all requirements for a degree and for ensuring that a degree plan has been submitted rests with the student. Advisors assist students in curriculum planning, and students are encouraged to consult fully with their advisors.

The Student Academic Services staff represents the College in the University's recruiting activities and represents the dean in such matters as petitions for excessive hours, change of major or college, and student withdrawals. Services also include graduation certification, information about college programs and requirements, and referral of A&S students to campus support services.

**Career Services.** The primary goal of A&S Career Services is to promote academic excellence to enhance career planning and lifelong success. Services offered include career counseling, job and internship search strategies, and assistance with preparation of resumes and cover letters. Presentations on a wide-range of career-related topics are offered to classes and clubs.

**Outreach.** The mission of A&S Outreach is to extend intellectual resources, disseminate knowledge to learners at any time and any place, and provide lifelong learning opportunities. This is accomplished through offering high school and collegiate distance learning courses, international credit courses, and field trip courses. Outreach also coordinates academic conferences, industry workshops and seminars, and cultural outreach opportunities.

## Academic Programs

**Undergraduate Programs.** Requirements for all degree programs and options are detailed in Undergraduate Programs and Requirements publication available online at [registrar.okstate.edu](http://registrar.okstate.edu). Separate sheets, stating the requirements for any particular degree, may be obtained on request from the department or college in which the degree is offered.

### *Bachelor of Arts (BA):*

American studies  
 art and art history  
 economics  
 English  
 French  
 geography  
 German  
 history  
 liberal studies  
 mathematics  
 multimedia journalism  
 music  
 philosophy  
 political science  
 psychology  
 sociology  
 Spanish  
 sports media  
 strategic communication  
 theatre

### *Bachelor of Science (BS):*

biochemistry  
 biological science  
 chemistry  
 communication sciences and disorders  
 computer science  
 economics  
 geography  
 geospatial information science  
 geology  
 liberal studies  
 mathematics  
 microbiology/cell and molecular biology  
 multimedia journalism  
 physics  
 physiology  
 plant biology  
 political science  
 psychology  
 sociology  
 sports media  
 statistics  
 strategic communication  
 zoology

### *Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA):*

art (graphic design and studio)

### *Bachelor of Music (BM):*

elective studies in business  
 music education (instrumental/vocal certification)  
 performance

**Second Bachelor's Degree.** To secure a second bachelor's degree, a student must complete a minimum of 30 semester credit hours in addition to those required for the first degree. The number could be higher depending on what a student must do to satisfy all the requirements for the second degree.

A student seeking a second degree in the College of Arts and Sciences at OSU should ask his or her second advisor to submit a degree plan for the second degree, clearly headed "second degree," and showing how all the requirements of the second degree are to be satisfied. The second degree plan should be sent to the College of Arts and Sciences Office of Student Academic Services no later than two weeks after the student's last enrollment.

Students wishing to complete degrees in two different colleges at OSU should consult with each office of student academic services. Concurrent enrollment in two colleges is possible.

**Second Majors and Minors.** A student majoring in one field may also complete the specified requirements for a "major" or a "minor" in other fields. The additional majors or minors may be noted on the student's transcript. Such specified requirements may be obtained from the department in which the second major or minor is sought, or from the Office of Student Academic Services. The student must formally declare each major and minor by completing a declaration form with each respective college. During the semester in which the student is enrolled in courses that will complete the second major or minor the student should ask the advisor in the second major or minor to submit certification of completion of the required courses to the Office of Student Academic Services in the College of Arts and Sciences.

**Graduate Programs.** Twenty-five master's degrees are offered in the College along with 15 doctoral degrees. For details, see the departmental entries that follow or consult the "Graduate College" section in the *Catalog*.

### Special Academic Programs

**The Honors College.** The College of Arts and Sciences has offered honors courses since the 1960s and has the greatest number of students and faculty participating in The Honors College at Oklahoma State University. The Honors College provides outstanding students with the opportunity to study, conduct research and interact with faculty and other honors students in a variety of settings designed to assist talented students who seek to make the most of their educational opportunities. Honors sections of many general education courses allow participating students the benefits of small classes taught by experienced members of the faculty, thus combining the extensive resources of a major comprehensive university with personal faculty attention to each student. Special honors seminars provide coverage of topical issues each semester in formats that encourage the exchange of ideas through discussion and writing. Honors seniors complete the requirements of The Honors College by undertaking a senior honors thesis (or similar creative activity), and honors seniors also may earn honors credit by enrollment in graduate seminars.

Three Honors College awards are available to A&S students—the General Honors award, the Departmental Honors award in the student's major field, and The Honors College degree. These awards are reflected on the student's transcript and a special honors diploma is awarded to students completing the requirements for The Honors College degree.

Priority enrollment is provided for students who are active in The Honors College. This allows honors students to select honors courses and other courses taught by outstanding faculty at the earliest possible date each semester and facilitates the development of class schedules tailored to the special needs of honors students. For eligibility requirements, visit The Honors College website at [honors.okstate.edu](http://honors.okstate.edu).

**Bachelor of University Studies (BUS).** The BUS in the College of Arts and Sciences allows students with unique educational objectives that cannot be fulfilled by any of the existing degree programs to design an individual plan of study fitted to the student's particular needs. BUS plans must be approved by the Assistant Dean for A&S Student Academic Services, and the Office of the Provost and Senior Vice-President.

**Geographic Information Systems Certificate.** The Geographic Information Systems (GIS) certificate provides a specialized course of study for interested students. The flexible program provides students with a theoretical and applied foundation concerning the rapidly growing field of GIS. The program is open to any student at Oklahoma State University. For more information, contact the GIS Certificate coordinator in the Department of Geography, 337 Murray Hall.

**High School Teaching Preparation.** Students earning degrees in the College of Arts and Sciences may, by completing certain courses, receive state licensure for teaching in the secondary schools. Full details may be obtained from the OSU Professional Education Unit in the College of Education, 325 Willard.

It is possible to qualify for teaching licensure and the bachelor's degree within the minimum semester credit hours required for graduation. If not possible, students may meet the requirements for the degree and then complete the licensure requirements by taking additional courses.

Students who wish to qualify for teaching licensure should consult as early as possible with the advisor in their fields of interest, and apply for admission to professional education as soon as possible, preferably before the end of their sophomore year. Full teaching certification is awarded by the State Department of Education when the licensed candidate has successfully completed a period of teaching in a school system.

**OSU Teach and Secondary Teacher Certification (grades 6-12).** Students earning a degree in Biological Science, Chemistry, Geology, Mathematics, or Physics may participate in the OSU Teach program by selecting a degree option in secondary teacher certification. OSU Teach offers four-year degrees which lead to a B.S. in the selected discipline and teacher certification at the secondary level. OSU Teach is a collaboration between the College of Education and the College of Arts and Sciences. OSU Teach students begin supervised teaching in K-12 classrooms during their first semester in the program and continue these field experiences throughout their coursework, which culminates with apprentice teaching.

Students earning degrees in other majors in the College of Arts and Sciences can also satisfy the requirements for secondary teacher certification by completing certain courses and other requirements. Interested students should see their Arts and Sciences advisor and the OSU Professional Education Unit in the College of Education in room 325 Willard as soon as possible for more information. Students who plan to complete the requirements for certification should apply for admission to professional education immediately in order to incorporate certification requirements into their plan of study. OSU Professional Education recommends a candidate for certification to the State Department of Education when the candidate has successfully completed all requirements. See the Professional Education section of the catalog for more information.

**Pre-professional Programs in the Health Professions.** Pre-medicine, Pre-dentistry, Pre-optometry, Pre-pharmacy, Pre-chiropractic and Pre-veterinary Medicine.

The pre-professional curricula for physicians, dentists, podiatrists, optometrists, pharmacists, chiropractors and veterinarians have the same basic core because they must prepare students for professional schools whose admission requirements are almost identical. These include a strong foundation in math, chemistry, physics and biology, the disciplines on which major advances in the health field depend. Included also are courses to develop written and spoken communication skills, which are highly important for a good relationship with patients, the public and other professionals.

Beyond this required core, pre-professional students may choose courses and a major as freely as any other students in the College of Arts and Sciences. Medical schools encourage study in the social sciences and humanities that contributes to the understanding of human beings in their entirety—their history and environment, their attitudes and values, their emotions, motivations, interpersonal relationships and cultural heritage. All of these may affect sickness and health.

Some professional schools do not state a firm minimum grade-point average for admission, but a student should maintain better than a 3.00 grade-point average to be competitive. The specific admission requirements of medical, dental and veterinary schools are available at [prehealth.okstate.edu](http://prehealth.okstate.edu) and in the Pre-health Advising office. The OSU pre-medical and pre-veterinary course requirements are listed in the "Center for Veterinary Health Sciences" and the "Center for Health Sciences" sections of the *Catalog*. Students whose goal is admission to medical, dental, podiatry, optometry, pharmacy or veterinary programs should consult with a pre-health advisor in the Arts & Sciences Student Success Center, 213 Life Sciences East for information regarding specific requirements of these programs.

**Allied Health Professions.** The allied health professions for which one can prepare at Oklahoma State University include dental hygiene, nursing, occupational therapy, physical therapy, physician's associate and medical imaging and radiation sciences. The College of Arts and Sciences offers the general education and basic science courses that a student must complete before he or she can be accepted into a professional program. Competitive students may be accepted into these programs after completing 60-90 hours of course work, depending on the health profession. Students whose goal is admission to a professional program in the allied health professions should consult with Pre-health Advising, located in room 213 Life Sciences East for information regarding the specific requirements of particular programs and schools.

**Medical Laboratory Science.** See "Department of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics."

**Pre-Law Preparation.** Law schools have no single preference for a specific undergraduate major. Admission to law school is primarily based on a strong record achieved in a rigorous undergraduate program and a competitive score on the Law School Admission Test (LSAT). Other admission considerations include course of study and difficulty of curriculum; letters of recommendation; work and leadership experiences; and applicant's background and motivation as revealed in an application essay.

Law school admissions officers most frequently recommend students include in their undergraduate programs courses which develop strong reading, writing and critical thinking skills as these verbal and analytical abilities are particularly critical for success in law school.

Personal assistance in selecting an academic major, planning a solid pre-law curriculum, preparing and registering for the Law School Admissions Test and applying to law school is available through the pre-law advisor in Student Academic Services.