**UNDERGRADUATE INFORMATION**

**Undergraduate degree programs**
The College of Humanities and Sciences offers baccalaureate degrees in the following areas (selected concentrations are indicated):

- African American Studies – B.A.
- Anthropology – B.S.
- Biology – B.S.
- Chemistry – B.S.
- Economics – B.S.
- English – B.A.
- Foreign Language – B.A.
  - dual languages
  - French
  - German
  - Spanish
- Forensic Science – B.S.
- Gender, Sexuality and Women’s Studies – B.A.
- Health, Physical Education and Exercise Science – B.S.
- History – B.A.
- International Studies – B.A.
- Mass Communications – B.S.
  - advertising
    - creative
    - strategic
  - journalism
    - broadcast
    - digital
  - media production
  - public relations
- Mathematical Sciences – B.S.
  - applied mathematics
  - biomathematics
  - general mathematics
  - mathematics
  - operations research
  - secondary teacher preparation
  - statistics
- Philosophy – B.A.
  - ethics and public policy
  - philosophy and law
  - philosophy and science
- Physics – B.S.
- Political Science – B.A.
- Psychology – B.S.
- Religious Studies – B.A.
- Science – B.S.
  - biology
  - chemistry
  - physics
  - professional science
- Sociology – B.S.

Information concerning curricula is given in the individual program descriptions.

**Minors and certificate programs**
In addition to a major, a student may elect a minor area of study in any program or department offering such a program. The minor can be used to fulfill career needs or serve as a means for the student to study a discipline of secondary interest.

Students interested in pursuing a minor should discuss their intentions with their advisers or the chair of the major department. When the student decides on a minor, a change of major/minor form must be completed in the Office of Records and Registration. When the student files for graduation, the student must complete the minor application along with the graduation application.

Courses for the minor should be chosen from courses approved by departments offering minors in their areas. Generally, students cannot minor in the same area as their major.

A minor designation on the transcript requires a minimum of 18 credit hours and a minimum 2.0 GPA must be achieved in the minor. Prerequisites for courses are stated under course descriptions.

Detailed descriptions of each minor and certificate program appear in this bulletin.

Minors are offered in the following areas:

- African American studies
- American studies
- anthropology
- Asian and Chinese studies
- biology
- British studies
- chemistry
- creative writing
- economics
- English
- European studies
- French
- gender, sexuality and women’s studies
- German
- history
- history of science, technology and medicine
- international social justice studies
- Italian studies
- Latin American studies
- LGBT+ and queer studies
- mathematics
- media studies
- Middle Eastern and Islamic studies
- nonprofit management and administration
- philosophy
- philosophy of law
- physics
- political science
- professional writing and editing
To achieve this goal, the faculty of the College of Humanities and Sciences require students to complete a minimum of 120 credits. No more than four of those credits can be physical education/activity courses. See program descriptions for exact number of major credits (30 credit minimum) and elective courses to complete the total required 120 credits. For students majoring in a four-year bachelor's degree program within the College of Humanities and Sciences (including students in the pre-dental, pre-medical, pre-optometry, pre-veterinary and extended teacher preparation program classifications), there are three areas of requirements that must be completed for graduation:

- a. University general education requirements (see departmental major sections for any additional ancillary requirements)$^1$
- b. Departmental major requirements
- c. Electives to complete the total of a minimum of 120 credits

$^1$ Each degree program within the College of Humanities and Sciences includes the ancillary requirements listed below. (Note: The fine arts and HUMS 202 requirements are waived if a previous degree or general education certificate has been completed, following the same guidelines for waiving general education requirements that are stated in the transfer policies section of this bulletin; and all three of these requirements are waived if a student is completing a primary degree program in an academic unit outside of the College of Humanities and Sciences or is pursuing a second bachelor's degree in the college.)

- Students should have knowledge of American heritage and those of other cultures, along with an introduction to a foreign language.
- Students should have a basic knowledge of human behavior and social, political and cultural institutions.

**Academic advising**

All freshmen majoring in areas offered within the College of Humanities and Sciences are advised through University Academic Advising. Please refer to the “Undergraduate study” section of this bulletin for further information on the first-year advising program (http://bulletin.vcu.edu/undergraduate/undergraduate-study/academic-advising/first-year-students/). After attaining sophomore standing, students within the College of Humanities and Sciences receive academic advising from within the department or school of their majors. The advising system for each department and school varies somewhat; however, each student is assigned an adviser according to their program of study. Students are encouraged to take full advantage of the educational and career-planning assistance provided by their assigned advisers. Ultimately, students are responsible for understanding all university and college requirements needed to earn a degree and for seeking out academic advising on a regular basis. The academic advisers provide assistance with interpreting policies, requirements and regulations, maximizing academic success, and enriching the overall undergraduate educational experience.

**Graduation requirements**

All baccalaureate degree programs in the College of Humanities and Sciences require students to complete a minimum of 120 credits. No more than four of those credits can be physical education/activity courses. See program descriptions for exact number of major credits (30 credit minimum) and elective courses to complete the total required 120 credits. For students majoring in a four-year bachelor's degree program within the College of Humanities and Sciences (including students in the pre-dental, pre-medical, pre-optometry, pre-veterinary and extended teacher preparation program classifications), there are three areas of requirements that must be completed for graduation:

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requirement by the completion of one course offered by the School of the Arts.

- HUMS 202 (http://bulletin.vcu.edu/search/?P=HUMS%20202) (1 credit): An online personal finance course focusing on participatory, application-based exercises designed to arm students with the ability to make educated decisions in relation to future financial choices such as payment of student loans, understanding credit card statements, applying for mortgages, credit rating and planning for retirement.