Letters
(Standard and Constitutional Studies)

Interested in Letters?

The Major
Letters is the original multidisciplinary degree. Based on the centuries-old tradition of liberal arts education, the Letters program covers the major areas of the humanities: history, language, literature, and philosophy. For this reason, the Letters major, more than any other major in the College of Arts and Sciences, offers students’ considerable freedom to select courses that appeal to a broad range of interests.

Mission
Through teaching, scholarly and creative activity, and service, the Department of Classics and Letters seeks to preserve and promote the study of the culture, history, languages, literature, and philosophy of Greco-Roman antiquity and the enduring influence of Classical ideals on the modern world.

The Constitutional Studies track is designed for students considering Law School, Politics, History, or anything pre-professional and related to humanities. Students complete courses in the following areas:

- The Ancient Foundation of Law, Liberty, and Justice
- The Philosophical Background of American Constitutionalism
- The American Founding
- The Constitutional Legacy in Modern America

Student Organizations and Professional Development:
- The Letters Student Association
- The Constitutional Studies Student Association
- ETA SIGMA PHI
- The Archaeological Institute of America

Special Points of Interest
- Students can elect to complete the original track or the track in constitutional studies.
- Both degree programs prepare students not just for a variety of careers, but for life itself.
- There are supplemental tracks for those specifically interested in pursuing pre-law and pre-med.

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Careers
Employers hire people who can communicate effectively, solve problems, learn from their successes and failures, and take leadership roles. A degree in Letters shows a prospective employer that you have those attributes and have developed them through a rigorous course of study. Career paths alumni of the Letters major have selected reflect the interdisciplinary nature of the program overall. Some alumni have pursued careers as lawyers, doctors, business professionals, educators, clergy, and government officials.

Letters Curriculum
The variety of courses offered by the cooperating departments and the flexibility of the program give undergraduates considerable freedom in adjusting their studies to their individual needs and interests. The Departments of Classics, English, History, History of Science, Modern Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics, Philosophy, Political Science, and Religious Studies participate in the program of Letters. Students must complete courses in one ancient and one modern language either at the secondary or collegiate level. At least one intermediate-level course in one of the languages and two intermediate-level courses in the other language must be included. The Letters program gives particular attention to the skills that will always be in demand: oral and written communication, independent and critical thinking, and the management and evaluation of information.