

A.A. in Liberal Arts

DESCRIPTION OF THE LIBERAL ARTS PROGRAM

The mission of the Liberal Arts program is to promote the intellectual, emotional, and ethical qualities that are characteristic of a well-rounded, self-governing individual.

A Liberal Arts education does not prepare you for one specific job, but for many jobs you may have throughout your life. As a community college student, you have an opportunity to learn skills like interpersonal skills, speaking, critical thinking, evaluating—all through liberal arts courses. Whether or not you choose to continue majoring in Liberal Arts once you have completed the associate of arts program, you have a great foundation for your future.

Upon successful completion of the Liberal Arts degree program requirements, graduates will:

- Think critically
- Communicate effectively
- Comprehend the methods and products of scientific inquiry
- Grasp the significance of the historical process
- Demonstrate an aesthetic sensibility
- Develop an appreciation for the traditions and practices of world cultures
- Explore diverse academic and career options

The National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) has developed a definition, based on extensive research among employers, and identified eight competencies associated with career readiness. Career readiness is the attainment and demonstration of requisite competencies that broadly prepare college graduates for a successful transition into the workplace. These career readiness competencies, gained when completing a Liberal Arts degree, are:

Critical-thinking/Problem solving. Exercise sound reasoning to analyze issues, make decisions, and overcome problems. The individual is able to obtain, interpret, and use knowledge, facts, and data in this process, and may demonstrate originality and inventiveness.

Oral/Communication skills. Articulate thoughts and ideas clearly and effectively in written and oral forms to persons inside and outside of the organization. The individual has public speaking skills; is able to express ideas to others; and can write/edit memos, letters, and complex technical reports clearly and effectively.

Teamwork/Collaboration. Build collaborative relationships with colleagues and customers representing diverse cultures, races, ages, genders, religions, lifestyles, and viewpoints. The individual is able to work within a team structure, and can negotiate and manage conflict.

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Digital Technology. Leverage existing digital technologies ethically and efficiently to solve problems, complete tasks, and accomplish goals. The individual demonstrates effective adaptability to new and emerging technologies.

Leadership. Leverage the strengths of others to achieve common goals, and use interpersonal skills to coach and develop others. The individual is able to assess and manage his/her emotions and those of others; use empathetic skills to guide and motivate; and organize, prioritize, and delegate work.

Professionalism/Work Ethic. Demonstrate personal accountability and effective work habits, e.g., punctuality, working productively with others, and time workload management, and understand the impact of non-verbal communication on professional work image. The individual demonstrates integrity and ethical behavior, acts responsibly with the interests of the larger community in mind, and is able to learn from his/her mistakes.

Career Management. Identify and articulate one's skills, strengths, knowledge, and experiences relevant to the position desired and career goals, and identify areas necessary for professional growth. The individual is able to navigate and explore job options, understands and can take the steps necessary to pursue opportunities, and understands how to self-advocate for opportunities in the workplace.

Global/Intercultural Fluency. Value, respect, and learn from diverse cultures, races, ages, genders, sexual orientations, and religions. The individual demonstrates, openness, inclusiveness, sensitivity, and the ability to interact respectfully with all people and understand individuals' differences.

CAREER INFORMATION

Liberal arts majors may go on to pursue jobs in a variety of industries. The Center for Career Development & Experiential Learning is here to assist you during your time at Kingsborough Community College. As you work toward your Liberal Arts degree, the staff is available to assist you with further preparing you for the world of work with internships and service opportunities.

Contact us at careerdevelopment@kbcc.cuny.edu or 718-368-5115 for assistance.

INFORMATION ON HOW TO APPLY: www.cuny.edu/apply or 718-368-4600

KINGSBOROUGH
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