

# The Selected Studies Program

## In the Liberal Arts Tradition

The College of Arts and Sciences strives to provide opportunities for students to become articulate, skilled, and knowledgeable women and men of insight, capable of understanding their world and functioning in it.

To achieve this goal, The College offers curricular programs that help students take advantage of the University's resources and gain knowledge of the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences and mathematics. In each of these curricular programs, students are expected to complete a balanced course of study, combining both basic skills and a knowledge of the major areas of intellectual achievement with further in-depth study of a particular subject.

The standard Arts and Sciences program is described in the *Undergraduate Course Catalog* and is constructed within a precise framework which offers alternative ways to acquire the appropriate skills, breadth of knowledge, and depth of study inherent in a liberal arts education. This program, which may lead either to an A.B. or a B.S. degree, serves the needs of most students.

Not all students who have elected a liberal arts education are best served by a traditional major. Some students elect a double major in which the requirements of two regular majors are completed. Some students elect a dual or combined degree program. Finally, through the Selected Studies Program, some students seek faculty approval through majors of their own devising.

The standard Arts and Sciences program and these alternatives have the following characteristics in common:

1. achievement of the objectives of the Liberal Arts Core;
2. reasonable spread and significant depth within a clearly articulated and coherent academic major program; and
3. the absence of vocational objectives except those which normal elective opportunities make possible.

## The Selected Studies Program

The Selected Studies Program, which also leads to either an A.B. or B.S. degree, is intended to meet individual—often highly specialized—needs. It provides considerable freedom in curriculum planning, but requires greatly increased responsibility on the part of the student.

The Selected Studies Program represents “structure freedom.” Within this program, the student is responsible for developing a four-year curriculum based on well-defined academic goals. It is the

student's task to produce the alternative ideas for curriculum and then to work them out in consultation with his/her Arts and Sciences faculty advisor. The advisor helps the student assume the added responsibilities of developing and pursuing his/her plan.

## Curricular Guidelines

Selected Studies Program proposals must adhere to the following guidelines:

1. Each student must develop a written statement of realistic, constructive, and practicable goals.
2. An acceptable plan may draw on courses from as many different departments and colleges as needed, but must be integrated and coherent. As evidence of its integration, the plan must indicate the specific courses included and the number of credits to be taken in each subject area, and then show how the courses achieve the plan's goals.
3. The individual curriculum plans should avoid over-specialization. Plans which seem to aim at narrow vocational training are likely to be rejected. Also, students whose applications indicate that they can best be served by the traditional major are likely to be referred to the appropriate department or existing plan.
4. Each Selected Studies Plan must provide for a total of at least 120 credit hours. Among the courses taken outside of Arts and Sciences, no more than 24 credit hours may be taken in any one school or college of the University.
5. A Bachelor of Arts Selected Studies Plan must include at least 90 credit hours of Arts and Sciences courses, and must include a minimum of 60 credits in courses numbered at the 300 level or higher (upper division).
6. A Bachelor of Science Selected Studies Plan must include at least 75 credit hours of Arts and Sciences courses, and must include a minimum of 50 credits in courses numbered at the 300 level or higher (upper division). It must include a minimum of 36 credit hours of courses in departments offering the B.S. degree at Syracuse University, and exhibit a concentration of no more than 60 hours justifying the title of the program.
7. Once approved, any change in this distribution must be proposed to and approved by the advisor(s) and the Director of Academic Advising and Counseling.
8. By successful petition, students may revise their plan a maximum of two times, except in the case of previously approved plan courses which become unavailable. In that case there is no limit.

## Eligibility

Any student in good academic standing (i.e., a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0) in The College of Arts and Sciences may apply for admission to the Selected Studies Program, subject to the following:

1. Students are permitted to participate in Selected Studies only after they have completed two semesters at SU, but plan proposals may be submitted for review any time before the end of the junior year.
2. To assure timely approval, the student should submit the plan proposal to the Director of Academic Advising and Counseling at least 60 days before the registration period for the plan's first semester.
3. A student cannot be admitted to the Selected Studies Program later than the second semester of the junior year.

4. Students who choose the Selected Studies Program may change to the standard Arts and Sciences program, provided they are able to meet the requirements of that program.

## Degree Requirements

The latest approved Selected Studies Program proposal constitutes the curricular requirements for the student's bachelor's degree.

Students who choose the Selected Studies Program must meet all general requirements of The College of Arts and Sciences and the University, except those specifically waived or modified by their approved plan.

## Advisors

The student must include in the Selected Studies Proposal the name of at least one faculty member from The College of Arts and Sciences who has agreed to serve as an academic advisor. Where appropriate, the student may have an additional advisor, who is a Syracuse University faculty member, outside Arts and Sciences. Students must consult frequently with their advisor(s) during the course of their studies.

Students may discuss supplemental advisory assistance with the Director of Academic Advising and Counseling. With good cause, a student may petition the Director for the assignment of a new advisor.

## Application

If you are a current student interested in participating in the Selected Studies Program, you should:

1. Present a preliminary description of the nature of your proposal and the name of the faculty advisor with whom you intend to develop your proposed plan to Shruti Viswanathan, the Director of Academic Advising and Counseling, by email: [saviswan@syr.edu](mailto:saviswan@syr.edu).
2. Secure an application from the Director's office (323 Hall of Languages), write a first draft of your plan proposal, and present it to your advisor(s).
3. In consultation with your advisor, refine and revise the proposal to ensure that it meets sound educational criteria and the Selected Studies Program curricular guidelines.
4. Observing the time limits described under "Eligibility" (above), submit two copies of the final plan proposal, signed by your advisor(s), to the Director of Academic Advising and Counseling.

## Acceptance

The Director of Academic Advising and Counseling submits your proposal to the Selected Studies Subcommittee composed of faculty, students, and staff. The Subcommittee, which meets on an as-needed basis, will consider the appropriateness of your proposal with respect to the liberal arts degree and will forward its decision to the Director of Academic Advising and Counseling who will inform you of the Subcommittee's decision.

In exceptional cases, a student who is not able to secure the advisor's endorsement may submit the proposal to the Subcommittee. In such cases, the Subcommittee acts as a board of appeals.

## Guidelines for Completing the Selected Studies Program Proposal

The Selected Studies Program Proposal is designed to permit any interested student to state in detail for committee review the objectives of the proposed Selected Studies Plan and the means by which they will be achieved. Please read through these guidelines before completing the proposal to better understand the intent of each item in the proposal:

### 1. Title

In six words or less, the title should identify the focus and capture the spirit of the proposed plan.

### 2. Rationale/Part A

Explain here the goals which the proposed plan is designed to achieve. **Identify the area of concentration and the relationship of supporting courses to this focus. It is important to show how the courses relate to the goals and together constitute an integrated liberal arts degree program not available through the Liberal Arts Core.**

Do not simply state the courses and your goals. **Make the rationale a brief, well-stated essay** justifying a four-year, individualized curricular plan. Be sure your statement is as clear, readable and grammatically correct as you can make it. In developing the rationale and selecting courses, keep in mind the guidelines stated in the Selected Studies Program brochure, and work closely with your advisor.

### 3. Rationale/Part B

In addition to focusing in some depth on a particular area of study, each liberal arts degree program must provide for breadth of study and exposure to fields of knowledge outside one's area of expertise. The Liberal Arts Core provides for this through lower division requirements. The Selected Studies Program allows you to develop your own approach to breadth of study, and imposes no specific distribution or cluster requirements.

In Part B of your rationale, please explain the provision in your plan for study outside your area of concentration. You may find the six broad subject groups identified in the Liberal Arts Core a useful frame of reference in developing your response.

### 4. Specific Courses Essential to Plan

Please list those courses that are **essential** to your proposal. These courses should constitute your area of concentration and clearly justify the title of your plan.

### 5. Courses Completed

List here all course work satisfactorily completed at the time of application, indicating department, course number, course title, and grade (e.g., ECN 201, Introductory Microeconomics, A).

## **6. Distribution of Total Selected Studies Program Credits**

This chart provides a summary of all course work constituting your Selected Studies Plan. It must provide for a total of at least 120 credit hours. Among the courses taken outside of Arts and Sciences, no more than 24 credit hours may be taken in any one school or college of the University.

A Bachelor of Arts Selected Studies Plan must include at least 90 credit hours of Arts and Sciences courses, and must include a minimum of 60 credits in courses numbered at the 300 level or higher (upper division).

A Bachelor of Science Selected Studies Plan must contain at least 75 credit hours of Arts and Sciences courses, and must include a minimum of 50 credits in courses numbered at the 300 level or higher (upper division). It must include a minimum of 36 credit hours of courses in departments offering the B.S. degree at Syracuse University, and exhibit a concentration of no more than 60 hours justifying the title of the plan.

The following academic departments are not included in the list of Arts and Sciences departments due to space limitations; courses offered in these departments do constitute Arts and Sciences credit and may be included in blank spaces provided directly beneath OTHER on the grid: College Honors Program (CHP), Non-departmental Arts and Sciences (NAS), and Science Teaching (SCI). If such courses are taken as electives not central to your plan, they may be included as a part of the total in Arts and Sciences electives.

Once approved, any change in this distribution must be proposed and approved by your advisor and the Director of Academic Advising and Counseling. You may wish to array courses differently, to highlight their relationship or to present a semester-by-semester schedule. If so, this should be done on a separate sheet in addition to completing the plan distribution.

## **7. Advisor Endorsement**

This should be completed and signed by your faculty advisor(s), AT LEAST ONE OF WHOM—YOUR PRIMARY ADVISOR—MUST BE ON THE COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES FACULTY. A separate endorsement should be completed by each advisor.

## Selected Studies Program Application

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ SUID: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS (for next 3 months): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE (for next 3 months): \_\_\_\_\_

PERMANENT ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PERMANENT TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

GRADUATION DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE APPLICATION FILED: \_\_\_\_\_

DEGREE (A.B. OR B.S.): \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete this form **IN DUPLICATE** and return it, with the endorsement of your faculty advisor or advisors, to the Director of Academic Advising and Counseling, 323 Hall of Languages. Keep an extra working copy for your own records.

1. TITLE

Please provide here the descriptive and brief title for your concentration agreed to by your advisor. This title will appear on your transcript, and should not exceed six words.

2. RATIONALE

Please explain here, using additional sheets if required, the academic and post-academic reasons for the degree program you are proposing. State as clearly as possible the focus of your concentration, and show how the courses it includes support your educational goals. If the proposal is similar to an existing Arts and Sciences major, indicate why your Selected Studies proposal is more appropriate for you. If your plan does not fulfill the Liberal Arts Core requirements, discuss the alternative means by which you propose to secure an integrated Arts and Sciences education.

3. SPECIFIC COURSES ESSENTIAL TO PLAN  
(Include department/course number, and title of each course.)


4. COURSES COMPLETED  
(Include department/course number, title and grade of each course)


## Distribution of Total Selected Studies Program Credits

DEPARTMENT	Offers B.S.	Lower Division Credits	Upper Division Credits	Total Credits	Credits Completed
ARTS & SCIENCES COURSES <b>Humanities</b> African American Studies (AAS)					
Classics (CLA)					
English (ENG)					
Fine Arts (FIA)					
Foreign Languages *					
Linguistics (LIN)					
Philosophy (PHI)					
Religion (REL)					
<b>Mathematics &amp; Natural Sciences</b> Astronomy (AST)					
Biology (BIO)	x				
Chemistry (CHE)	x				
Earth Sciences (GOL)	x				
Mathematics (MAT)	x				
Physics (PHY)	x				
<b>Social Sciences</b> Anthropology (ANT)					
Economics (ECN)					
History (HIS)					
Political Science (PSC)					
Psychology (PSY)					
Policy Studies (PAF)					
Sociology (SOC)					
<b>Other:</b>					
*					
*					
*					
<b>ARTS &amp; SCIENCES ELECTIVES</b>					
<b>TOTAL ARTS &amp; SCIENCES CREDIT</b>					



