WELCOME TO CLA

At the College of Liberal Arts, you’ll enjoy a liberal arts college experience with all the resources (and fun!) of everything the University of Minnesota offers.

You’ll benefit from classes in the arts and STEM, in the humanities and the social sciences.

You’ll learn from world-renowned faculty and grow through unique, big-city internships.

Come seize your Liberal Arts Advantage

Only CLA can offer you this range of experiences and access: a broad and diverse liberal arts education at the only Big10 public university in a major city.
You’ll find it here

As the largest college at the University of Minnesota, CLA has 94 different majors and minors. (See the back cover for a list!) Our CLA degrees lead to success across many career fields — including business, healthcare & science, technology, communications & media, education, government & law, arts, and nonprofit & advocacy.

“My CLA family is so different, and it’s so interesting. Who we are as people, our experiences, but also our disciplines and what we’re studying. I’ve had the best conversations in CLA, because we’re not all just coming from the same place.”

— Anjini, an economics major with minors in creative writing and statistics

Hub for Creativity

CLA is home to actors and photographers, dancers and painters, musicians and illustrators, writers and sculptors — all the creative arts! But you’ll see that innovation and creativity lie at the core of all our CLA majors. It’s just who we are.
Making an impact

CLA spans the arts, humanities, social sciences, and STEM. What do all our academic areas have in common? They’re always relevant — teaching you to thrive in these constantly-changing times.

Analysts and Problem Solvers

Some of CLA’s most popular majors
- Psychology
- Economics
- Political Science
- English
- Biology, Society & Environment
- History
- Computer Science
- Journalism
- Philosophy
- Communication Studies

“The work we’re doing shapes the lives of people.”
— Dr. Rich Lee, Distinguished McKnight University Professor in Psychology

Doing What Matters

At CLA, we’re addressing the most pressing issues facing the world today. That’s because we ask the big questions. It’s also because our students, faculty, and staff are driven to do good for others, through our service, research, and careers.

Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion

We strive to create a community where every member is regarded with respect and feels a sense of belonging.

Home of the MLK Program

One of the first of its kind in the country, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Program offers culturally-relevant academic advising, plus social justice events and cultural celebrations.
Leverage Your Liberal Arts Advantage

As a CLA student, you will develop, reflect on, and articulate **these ten competencies** that employers and alumni tell us matter most.

**No matter which major** you choose in CLA, your liberal arts courses combine so you can demonstrate gains in all ten of these areas.

These competencies give you a competitive edge that makes you **stand out** as a candidate for jobs and graduate programs.

The **adaptability** these competencies provide will position you for lasting success in your personal, public, and professional life.

“Employers today are looking for people who can solve problems, think inventively, communicate well, consider multiple and diverse perspectives, work nimbly, conduct research, analyze the past, understand the present, and imagine the future.”

— John Coleman, Dean of the College
Many Paths, Your Way

Your personal support team

We’re here to help you explore opportunities, navigate your path, and make the most of the career advantage your liberal arts education gives you. You’ll have faculty and CLA-dedicated career counselors by your side, and your CLA Advisor will stay with you from Orientation to Graduation to make sure you reach your goals.

“CLA, for me, is like my little safe space at such a big university. Being able to have that one-on-one interaction is very important.”

— Rachel, a global studies major with minors in sociology and Spanish studies

Your First Year

In our First Year Experience and Transfer Semester Experience programs, we introduce you to life at the “U.” You meet faculty and staff, learn about our many advising offices, connect with our student groups, explore Minneapolis and St. Paul, and just as importantly, make long-lasting friendships.
This is how you do it

At CLA, learning doesn’t stop at the classroom — not with the Twin Cities at our doorstep! We’re in the heart of it all. With the State Capitol, the Federal Reserve Bank, the Guthrie Theater, and 18 Fortune-500s as neighbors, we can help you find the best internships in town and far beyond.

Recent CLA Internships
Google (Menlo Park, CA)
U.S. Senate (Washington, DC)
Mayo Clinic (Rochester, MN)
Westminster Archives Centre (London)
First Avenue (Minneapolis)
Banco de Desarrollo del Ecuador (Quito)
3M (St. Paul)
China Pacific Insurance Company (Shanghai)
Minnesota Vikings (Eagan, MN)
Guggenheim Museum (New York City)

Global Connections. We bring the world to Minnesota, and Minnesota to the world. With 27 languages taught on campus and more than 200 study abroad programs available in 60 countries, you’ll graduate prepared to live and work in an interconnected world.

Research and Creative Projects. Our Dean’s First-Year Research and Creative Scholars program and the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program let you work side-by-side on a research or creative project with a CLA professor.

Community Immersion. Community-engaged learning lets you tackle issues that matter, from income inequality to racial justice, environmental sustainability to media access.
Your career readiness

CLA has its own specialized Career Services office, where counselors will work closely with you to land the job you want by telling the story of how your liberal arts education has made you career-ready. We’re here to help you connect what you do across CLA and translate its value into the language of employers. As you finish your CLA journey, you’ll be ready for what’s next.

“What I’ve learned through both my classes and my applied research has prepared me. Graduating from CLA, I feel ready to take on whatever comes my way.”

— Rodrigo, a pre-law political science major with a minor in Asian & Middle Eastern studies

Made to Fit Your Needs

CLA has developed innovative career planning tools and resources specifically for liberal arts students:

- MyCareerManagement planning tool
- CLA Internship & Career Fair
- Career courses
- RATE™ reflection and self-assessment tool
- Employer Engagement Office
- CLA Career Readiness Guide
CLA MAJORS & MINORS

Acting (BFA)
African American & African Studies (BA)
American Indian Studies (BA)
American Studies (BA)
Anthropology (BA)
Art (BA)
Art (BFA)
Art History (BA)
Asian & Middle Eastern Studies (BA)
Asian American Studies Program (Minor)
Astrophysics (BA)
Austrian & Central European Studies (Minor)
Biblical Studies & Classics (BA)
Biology, Society & Environment (BA)
Chemistry (BA)
Chicano-Latino Studies (BA)
Classical Civilization (Minor)
Classics (BA)
Communication Studies (BA)
Comparative U.S. Race and Ethnicity (Minor)
Computer Science (BA)
Creative Writing (Minor)
Cultural Studies & Comparative Literature (BA)
Dance (BA)
Dance (BFA)

Developmental Psychology (BA)
Developmental Psychology (BS)
Digital Studies (Minor)
Dutch (Minor)
Earth Sciences (BA)
Economics - Quantitative Emphasis (BA)
Economics (BA)
Economics (BS)
English (BA)
Environmental Geoscience (BA)
Finnish (Minor)
French & Italian Studies (BA)
French Studies (BA)
Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Studies (Minor)
Gender, Women & Sexuality Studies (BA)
Geographic Information Science (Minor)
Geography (BA)
Geography (BS)
German (Minor)
German, Scandinavian, Dutch (BA)
Global Studies (BA)
Greek (Minor)
Hebrew (Minor)
History (BA)
History of Science, Technology, and Medicine (Minor)
Human Physiology (BA)
Individualized Studies (BIS)
Individually Designed Degrees (BA)

Italian Studies (BA)
Jewish Studies (BA)
Journalism (BA)
Latin (Minor)
Linguistics (BA)
Mass Communication (BA)
Mathematics (BA)
Medieval Studies (Minor)
Museum and Curatorial Studies (Minor)
Music (BA)
Music (BMus)
Music Education (BMus)
Music Therapy (BMus)
Norwegian (Minor)
Ojibwe Language (BA)
Philosophy (BA)
Physics (BA)
Political Science (BA)
Population Studies (Minor)
Psychology (BA)
Psychology (BS)
Public Health (Minor)
Religious Studies (BA)
Russian (BA)
Sociology (BA)
Sociology of Law, Criminology, and Justice (BA)
Sociology of Law, Criminology, and Justice (BS)
Spanish & Portuguese Studies (BA)
Spanish Studies (BA)
Speech-Language-Hearing Sciences (BA)
Statistical Practice (BA)
Statistical Science (BS)
Strategic Communication: Advertising & Public Relations (BA)
Studies in Cinema & Media Culture (BA)
Swedish (Minor)
Technical Writing & Communication (BS)
Theatre Arts (BA)
Urban Studies (BA)
Urban Studies (BS)
World Music (Minor)

Note: Most BA programs also offer the discipline as a minor.

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