

LIBERAL ARTS CORE AND CAREERS

A liberal arts education helps students succeed in an increasingly complex and diverse 21st century.

According to a 2013 study conducted by the Hart Research Association, "93% of employers believe that a demonstrated capacity to think critically, communicate clearly and solve complex problems is more important than a candidate's undergraduate major."

When evaluating the skills of potential new hires, business executives place greatest emphasis on the candidates' demonstrated ability to

- work well in teams-especially with those who are different from yourself
- communicate well
- solve complex problems in a rapidly changing and diverse world
- engage in innovative and ethical problem-solving

The knowledge and skills provided by the Liberal Arts Core are critical for today's graduates, who can be expected to change jobs five to 10 times during their lifetime.

"It's in Apple's DNA that technology alone is not enough. That it's technology married with liberal arts, married with the humanities that yields us the result that makes our hearts sing."

– Steve Jobs at the iPad 2 launch, March 2nd, 2011

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Liberal Arts Core

at the
University of Northern Iowa

Education's purpose is to replace an empty mind with an open one.

– Malcolm Forbes



WHAT IS A 21ST CENTURY LIBERAL EDUCATION?

- An approach to learning that empowers individuals and prepares them to deal with complexity, diversity and change.
- A broad knowledge of the wider world (e.g. science, culture and society) as well as in-depth study in a specific area of interest.
- A sense of social responsibility, as well as strong and transferable intellectual and practical skills such as communication, analytical and problem-solving skills and a demonstrated ability to apply knowledge and skills in real-world settings.

LIBERAL ARTS CORE PURPOSE

Liberal arts education at the University of Northern Iowa prepares students for lives that are thoughtful, meaningful, creative and productive. Study of the liberal arts provides students with opportunities to extend their strategies for learning and problem solving and gain new perspectives on cultures and the world around them. A liberal arts education helps students strengthen a variety of skills and proficiencies that can be applied to all areas of study, their personal interests and future career opportunities.



LIBERAL ARTS CORE AND MAJORS

Liberal Arts Core courses allow students to explore majors and fields of study. Many Liberal Arts Core courses also fulfill major and minor degree requirements. All UNI students complete the same Liberal Arts Core.

The broad goals of liberal education have been enduring even as the courses and requirements that comprise a liberal education have changed over the years. Today, a liberal education usually includes a general education curriculum that provides broad learning in multiple disciplines and ways of knowing, along with more in-depth study in a major.

– From the Association of American Colleges and Universities

