Liberal Arts Division

General Information

The Division of Liberal Arts is one of three academic divisions at Potomac State College of WVU. It includes eighteen majors in the humanities, social sciences, education, physical activity and sport sciences, journalism and strategic communication. These majors are designed to transfer into bachelor degree programs on the Morgantown campus of West Virginia University, though many of our courses are also transferable to other institutions.

The division also offers courses necessary for five of the seven General Education Foundation (GEF) areas across twenty-nine academic disciplines. These programs and courses make important contributions to the broad purposes of the college’s mission and philosophy (http://catalog.wvu.edu/potomacstatecollegeofwvu/#missionandphilosophytext).

College Requirements

Individual department requirements may be more directive than the College’s core A.A. requirements, so long as those requirements are met.

GRADE POINT AVERAGE

A cumulative GPA of 2.0 is required for graduation. All departments and degree programs in the College require a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.0 (C) for graduation; some departments or programs require a higher grade point average (overall or in the discipline). See specific departments for requirements.

WRITING AND COMMUNICATION SKILLS

The Division of Liberal Arts is committed to fostering students’ abilities in writing, speaking, visual presentations, and multimedia communication. The SpeakWrite initiative helps students approach writing and speaking situations they encounter in their classes, in their work, and in their community by assessing:

1. Purpose: What exactly do I want to happen?
2. Audience: Who is reading, listening, or viewing?
3. Conventions: What is expected in this context?
4. Trouble spots: What could get in the way of my goals?

SPEAKWRITE PRINCIPLES:

• Engagement. When students speak and write purposefully and thoughtfully in their classes, they're engaged. They are ready to enter conversations in their fields and in their communities. They are developing a critical skill, valued by employers and society, that is a hallmark of an Arts and Sciences education.

• Practice. Effective communication is a complex activity that cannot be mastered in a single course. It is the responsibility of the entire academic community. Students need practice conveying the knowledge they gain as they complete their majors.

• Discipline-Specific Knowledge and Abilities. People write and speak with a particular purpose, to a particular audience, in a particular context defined by particular conventions. Speaking and writing in the majors is most effectively guided by those with discipline-specific expertise.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Most majors require completion of level 204 (fourth semester). Students with no prior instruction in a language will satisfy this requirement by successful completion of courses 101, 102, 203, and 204 (or other approved courses) in that language. Students with prior instruction in a language must take the placement test in that language and begin at the level they are placed and complete 204.

FINE ARTS

Students must satisfactorily complete a minimum of three semester hours focused on the fine arts. Completion of a course that meets GEF Area 6 (The Arts and Creativity) will fulfill this requirement.

GLOBAL CULTURES AND DIVERSITY

Students must satisfactorily complete three semester hours of study of global issues and/or the role of diverse perspectives within contemporary society. Completion of a course that meets GEF Area 7 (Global Studies & Diversity) will fulfill this requirement.

ADMINISTRATION

DIVISION CO-CHAIR

• Deanna Armentrout - M.A. (University of South Dakota)  
  English
• Tom Sydow - M.F.A. (California State University - Long Beach)
  Creative Writing