The Liberal Studies Major

Bentley always has been committed to producing liberally educated business students; and Bentley arts and sciences departments have long developed their curricula to offer perspectives particularly geared to business students while maintaining the content and rigor of individual disciplines. However, all too often in higher education today, students feel they are forced to choose between a professional education that prepares them for their careers and a liberal arts education that prepares them for life. This is not the case for Bentley students. The Liberal Studies Major (LSM) is significantly different from the traditional Liberal Arts Major — like philosophy or history or political science — that drills deep within a particular field of study. Rather, it explores important themes that may cut across many disciplines of the arts and sciences and business, such as ethics and social responsibility, global perspectives, media arts and society, and issues related to the environment; the major offers breadth with coherence.

The LSM is an optional double major. It does not stand alone, but is an interdisciplinary second major for students whose primary major is a bachelor of science. The LSM is designed to help students increase the value and meaning of their liberal arts education at Bentley by combining some required courses in the general education curriculum with arts and sciences electives and some business electives under specific themes or concentrations.

Successful LSM graduates will:

- Choose a coherent course of study within a particular LSM theme: Students select courses as required for their particular concentration (see below). No more than four of the eight courses can be in the same department and no more than two courses can be from a Business department. These courses also count toward General Education requirements and restricted/unrestricted electives.
- Demonstrate — through an iterative process over time — their reflections, insights and connections across disciplines. As part of this process, LSM students are required to meet with their assigned advisers, post annual narrative reflections in an electronic portfolio, and produce a culminating project that demonstrates their trans-disciplinary insights, connections and understanding as a consequence of their work within the concentration.

Students opting to complete an LSM will do so in one particular concentration. Current choices include:

- American Studies (catalog.bentley.edu/undergraduate/programs/optional-second-majors/liberal-studies-major/american-studies)
- Diversity and Society (catalog.bentley.edu/undergraduate/programs/optional-second-majors/liberal-studies-major/diversity-society)
- Earth, Environment, and Global Sustainability (catalog.bentley.edu/undergraduate/programs/optional-second-majors/liberal-studies-major/earth-environment-global-sustainability)
- Ethics and Social Responsibility (catalog.bentley.edu/undergraduate/programs/optional-second-majors/liberal-studies-major/ethics-social-responsibility)
- Global Perspectives (catalog.bentley.edu/undergraduate/programs/optional-second-majors/liberal-studies-major/global-perspectives)
- Health and Industry (catalog.bentley.edu/undergraduate/programs/optional-second-majors/liberal-studies-major/health-industry)
- Media Arts and Society (catalog.bentley.edu/undergraduate/programs/optional-second-majors/liberal-studies-major/media-arts-society)
- Quantitative Perspectives (catalog.bentley.edu/undergraduate/programs/optional-second-majors/liberal-studies-major/quantitative-perspectives)