
COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

Academic Administration

<i>Dean</i>	Shirley A. Scritchfield, Ph.D.
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<i>Assistant Dean</i>	Koleen Kolenc, Ph.D.
<i>Director of Academic Advising</i>	Robert Hamilton, M.A.
<i>Assistant to the Dean/Director of Government Relations</i>	Ruth E. Cain, M.A.
<i>Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences</i>	Steven W. Brown, Ph.D.
<i>Division of Humanities and Fine Arts</i>	Timothy McDonald, Ph.D.
<i>Division of Natural, Applied and Quantitative Sciences</i>	D. Philip Colombo, Ph.D.
<i>Division of Philosophy, Theology and Religious Studies</i>	Rev. W. L. LaCroix, S.J., M.A.

The College of Arts and Sciences grants the Bachelor of Arts, the Bachelor of Science, and (in cooperation with Research College of Nursing) the Bachelor of Science in Nursing degrees. Students may choose one of thirteen major fields of study leading to the Bachelor of Arts degree, or one of eight major fields leading to the Bachelor of Science degree. The College also offers a variety of minors, certificates, and pre-professional programs.

Tradition of the Liberal Arts

The academic programs administered by the College of Arts and Sciences comprise what are broadly recognized as the liberal arts and the pre-professional programs growing out of the liberal arts disciplines. As such, these programs relate directly to a tradition of learning stretching back to the medieval universities. The liberal arts were prized as the intellectual disciplines calculated to form social leaders and well-cultivated spirits in addition to keen intellects. In the Jesuit tradition, the liberal arts aimed to develop the whole person as a “contemplative in action” and to encourage life-long learning. This tradition continues at Rockhurst University as students are exposed to a broad range of programs in the arts and sciences and provided opportunities to train their minds, cultivate their spirits, and prepare themselves as leaders of the contemporary world.

Career Preparation in the Liberal Arts Tradition

Students often ask advisors for advice on what major they should choose. Many begin the process of declaring a major by asking themselves what sort of career various majors will prepare them for, but this may be the wrong question. Most undergraduate majors do not

provide immediate credentials that translate directly into a well-defined career track. Suppose students are interested in a law career. Does that automatically mean that they must major in political science? Or does a prospective physician have to be a biology major? Clearly not—a law school is as likely to admit an English major as it is to admit a political science major; medical schools take undergraduate chemists as readily as they take biologists. Professional schools are often surprisingly liberal in the undergraduate majors they accept.

Students who plan to begin their careers as soon as they finish college will often find that an undergraduate major has not prepared them for a specific job. Rather, their education has provided skills and knowledge which can be applied to a wide variety of careers. Many corporations and organizations are interested in hiring people who have completed a solid undergraduate degree regardless of their major.

Students should avoid imposing unnecessary and misguided restrictions on both their studies and their prospective careers. They should consider the world of work when declaring a major, but they will think about that world with greater clarity if they ask other questions first: What do I enjoy doing? What are my hobbies, and why do I enjoy them? What courses have I enjoyed? What kinds of books do I like to read? What problems do I like to solve? Thinking along these lines can ease the anxiety many college students feel when they must declare a major. There is no reason to major in a field that does not develop the student's own abilities and interests.

ART (AR)

(Department of Communication and Fine Arts)

Associate Professor Peter J. Bicak, Ph.D. (Chair)

Associate Professor Will Valk, M.F.A.

The philosophy of the art program rests on the belief that art is not an ornament to education but an essential way of grounding knowledge in experience. The arts present the human rather than the theoretical implications of knowledge. In a complex and rapidly changing society the study of art introduces the student to a universal human activity and to a visual language which infuses forms with meaning and affirms our common membership in one human family. In art history and in studio Rockhurst offers courses which can provide a firm foundation for productive future study.

Minor Field of Concentration

The lower-division prerequisites for the minor in art are one of the following: AR 1110, AR 1120, or AR 1130; and three of the following: AR 1200, AR 1250, AR 1300, AR 1350, or AR 1400. The upper-division course requirements are three of the following: AR 3200, AR 3250, AR 3300, AR 3350, or AR 3400. An additional upper-division course or independent study in painting, sculpture, ceramics, or photography completes the requirements. A grade of C or better is required in each upper-division course in the minor. (A grade of C- will not fulfill the requirement.)