

Getting
Started:
Academic
Life at
Lewis & Clark
College

Portland, Oregon USA

Choosing a major or minor . . .
when, how, which one?
What is an academic
advisor? What courses
are required? What is
Exploration and Discovery?
When can I study overseas?

This brochure will help
answer these and other
important questions about
your future studies at
Lewis & Clark College.
Further explore the
College's academic life
on our website or contact us
for more information.

www.lclark.edu

What will I be studying?

Our curriculum offers students a rich spectrum of courses from the traditional disciplines of the liberal arts—including hundreds of courses in the fine arts, humanities, natural sciences, and social sciences—as well as courses in distinctive interdisciplinary programs such as environmental studies, East Asian studies, biochemistry and molecular biology, Latin American studies, political economy, ethnic studies, and gender studies. Whether you arrive at Lewis & Clark undecided or focused on a particular major, you will be encouraged to explore a variety of academic interests.

Your Lewis & Clark curriculum is divided roughly into thirds, with one-third of your credits fulfilling General Education requirements, another third used for the major, and the rest for electives.*

General Education Requirements

- Exploration and Discovery
- International Studies
- Foreign Languages
- Scientific and Quantitative Reasoning
- Creative Arts
- Physical Education/Activity

Major Requirements

- Choose from 27 academic majors.
- Double majors, student-designed majors, and major/minor combinations (choose from 25 minors) are also possible.

Elective Credits

- Use these to explore any of the more than 40 academic areas available.

*See also our catalog (mailed to you earlier), pages 12-18, "Graduation Requirements." The catalog is also on our website (www.lclark.edu).

Curriculum

Majors (■) Minors (□)

■	Anthropology, see Sociology and Anthropology
■	Art (studio)
■	Art History
□	Art and Art History
■	Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
■	Biology
■	□ Chemistry
□	Chinese
□	Classical Studies
■	□ Communication
■	□ Computer Science
■	Computer Science and Mathematics
□	Dance
■	□ East Asian Studies
■	□ Economics
■	□ English
■	□ Environmental Studies
□	Ethnic Studies
■	Foreign Languages
■	French Studies
□	Gender Studies
■	German Studies
■	Hispanic Studies
■	□ History
■	International Affairs
□	Japanese
□	Latin American Studies
■	□ Mathematics
■	□ Music
■	□ Philosophy
■	□ Physics
□	Political Economy
■	□ Political Science
■	Psychology
■	□ Religious Studies
□	Russian
■	Sociology and Anthropology
	Spanish, see Hispanic Studies
■	Student-Designed Major
■	□ Theatre

Preprofessional and Additional Offerings

Academic English Studies (ESL)	Geological Sciences
Business (4-2 B.A./M.B.A. Program)	Off-Campus Study
Education (4-1 B.A./M.A.T. Program)	Overseas Study
Engineering (3-2 and 4-2 Programs)	Physical Education
	Pre-Law Curriculum
	Pre-Med Curriculum

What is Exploration and Discovery?

All first-year Lewis & Clark students receive a common foundation through a yearlong course called Exploration and Discovery. Over its two intensive semesters, students experience the vital affinity between shared intellectual exploration and individual pathways of discovery, while also sharpening their skills in writing, reading, reasoning, and speaking. This course serves to acquaint students both with the liberal arts tradition's most enduring ideas and questions and with modern disciplinary methods of analysis and discovery.

Who will my academic advisor be? Why do I need one?

Based on information you provide the registrar and advising coordinator before you start college, we will match you with a Lewis & Clark faculty member as your premajor advisor. Once you have chosen a major, you will work with a faculty advisor from your major department. You may change advisors at any time. If you're a transfer student, typically the chair of your intended major will be your first advisor.

Faculty advisors will help you navigate your way through our curriculum and are invaluable as you explore new disciplines, plan for overseas study, plot out your academic choices at the College, and prepare for postgraduate opportunities.

When do I register for courses?

In early June you will receive registration information. If you are a first-year student, you will register in mid to late June for one course and a fall Exploration and Discovery section. You will complete the registration process on campus after you meet with your faculty advisor during New Student Orientation. If you are a transfer student, you will be able to complete your registration in late spring. You will discuss and confirm your course selections when you meet with your advisor during New Student Orientation.

What is a typical student schedule?

Most students enroll in four academic courses per semester, with each course worth four semester

credits. It is common for students to also enroll in one or two partial-credit courses, bringing the total number of credits to 17 or 18. A total of 128 semester credits are required for graduation.

When do I take the General Education courses?

Our curriculum gives you a lot of latitude in fulfilling your requirements. General Education courses can be taken throughout your time at the College. Typically, students take a range of courses during their first two years, getting introduced to possible major fields of study and, at the same time, fulfilling some General Education requirements (see page 3). You do not have to complete all of your General Education requirements before starting on major requirements.

Transfer students will receive a transcript evaluation from the registrar's office indicating which General Education requirements they have met through coursework at previous institution(s).

Can I waive any requirements through AP or IB exams?

This varies from department to department. For a detailed explanation of our policy on advanced credit, please consult the College catalog under the section "Advanced Standing" (pages 21-23 or on our website). An official score report must be received by our registrar's office for credit to be granted.

Can I waive any requirements through college coursework taken during high school?

Possibly. Contact the Office of Admissions for policy details.

When do I declare my major? Can I change it later?

Students are required to declare their major by the end of the sophomore year. However, you should probably declare earlier for some majors, particularly in the natural sciences, because they require careful planning in the first two years. Once you've officially chosen a major, you can still change it if you find an area of study that fits your goals better. Issues of

timing, credit, and requirements will all be important in your decision, and should be discussed thoroughly with your advisor.

Can I have a double major? What about a minor?

Yes, you can. Typically about 10 percent of each graduating class has chosen a double major, and 26 percent of students choose a single major and a minor. With careful planning by you and your academic advisor, a variety of academic scenarios are possible. A complete list of our majors, minors, and academic programs is opposite this page.

Can I design my own major?

Yes. Each year a handful of students choose to focus on a body of knowledge that has a definable character but extends beyond the bounds of existing majors or minors. The range of student-designed majors is as unique as those who create them. Recent examples include arts administration, third world development studies, ethnomusicology, ecological management, and cognitive studies.

How does overseas or off-campus study fit in?

Fifty-five percent of our students spend time studying off campus before they graduate. We offer roughly 25 programs annually, taking students all over the world, as well as to the Arizona/Mexico border, New York City, and Washington, D.C. Early planning with your advisor is important. You will receive full academic credit for your participation in one of our programs. Depending on the program, that credit could be applied toward general and/or major requirements, or it will help fill your electives. You are eligible for these programs beginning as early as your sophomore year, and the application process can begin during your first fall on campus.

What about preprofessional programs: pre-law, pre-med, business, education, engineering?

While you will choose an academic discipline on which to focus, you will also have the opportunity to

work with faculty members who serve as advisors for students who wish to pursue careers in business, law, health care (including medicine, dentistry, and veterinary medicine), education, and engineering. Since there is no single ideal path to these professions, you will be encouraged to take a wide variety of courses. A more detailed discussion of each of these areas can be found on our website.

How big will my classes be?

Our average class size is 19 students. Introductory-level courses average 20 students, and upper-level classes average 16. Eighty-six percent of our classes have 29 or fewer students.

We hope this introduction to academic life at Lewis & Clark has been helpful. If you still have questions, please contact us.

For more details about advising or academic support, please contact one of the following three offices:

Academic Advising

503-768-7750 or advising@lclark.edu

Student Support Services

503-768-7156 or access@lclark.edu

Registrar

503-768-7335 or reg@lclark.edu

For more details about specific academic majors, minors, or programs, please consult our website or contact us:

Office of Admissions

Lewis & Clark College

0615 S.W. Palatine Hill Road

Portland, Oregon 97219-7899

503-768-7040

800-444-4111

admissions@lclark.edu

www.lclark.edu

