
WHAT CAN I DO WITH A MAJOR IN ... LIBERAL ARTS & INTEGRATIVE STUDIES

OCCUPATIONAL OVERVIEW:

Developing your career path with a Bachelor of Liberal Arts or Bachelor of Integrated Studies degree is much like developing the degree itself – it is unique to your interests. Many students use these degrees to prepare themselves for a graduate or professional program; many use them to gain knowledge in multiple disciplines which they plan to incorporate into their career.

Bachelor of Liberal Arts: According to the [UNM Liberal Arts and Integrative Studies website \(2013\)](#), “the broad, multidisciplinary nature of the [BLA] major will prepare students for the workforce where a degree is necessary for employment or potential career development on a more advanced career track. A special feature of the BLA degree is the acceptance of technical/vocational courses (numbered 101 and above) from UNM Branch programs and approved Community Colleges towards the graduation requirements.

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO:

Bachelor of Liberal Arts: As described on the [UNM Liberal Arts and Integrative Studies website \(2013\)](#), the Bachelor of Liberal Arts degree program “provides the opportunity for students to develop a unique program of study combining courses from three or more University of New Mexico departments and/or colleges. With the help of a Liberal Arts & Integrative Studies advisor, students will structure a comprehensive plan of study, which will be thematically based and multidisciplinary in nature. The B.L.A. degree also enables students who have obtained an associate degree at an accredited community college to complete a bachelor’s degree at UNM. The B.L.A. degree is not intended for the undecided student, and it may not be part of a double major – however, it may be used as a dual or second degree. Liberal Arts is a major only, and while no official minor is required to be declared with this major, the use of an existing departmental minor is encouraged.”

Bachelor of Integrated Studies: The [UNM Liberal Arts and Integrative Studies website \(2013\)](#) states that “the focused nature of the B.I.S. degree specifically engages students who would benefit from closer collaboration with a faculty mentor(s) through experiential research and/or participation with faculty-led problem solving teams. Students are encouraged to design an individualized program that will prepare them for unique or advanced learning experiences – including international, cooperative or professional schools.”

INDUSTRIES & TARGET EMPLOYERS:

A variety of employers specifically recruit UNM students and alumni. Consult UNM’s [Lobo Career Connection](#) for a complete list of employers and current job postings. Speak with a Career Development Facilitator at the [UNM Office of Career Services](#) for help with identifying employers or additional resources for your occupation of choice.

SUGGESTED STRATEGIES:

- Consider specializing your degree with a double major or minor in another area.
- Gain professional experience in your area of interest through involvement in internships, student employment, [Co-ops](#), and/or volunteer opportunities.
- Shadow professionals in your field of interest to gain a better understanding of their occupation and to build relationships with professional mentors.
- Build your network and get involved on campus through student organizations and campus events. Find organizations and events at the [Student Activities Center website](#).
- Attend [career-related campus events](#) such as career fairs, company information sessions, and or career workshops.
- Students who are interested in graduate school should maintain a high undergraduate GPA and develop relationships with faculty and community leaders.
- Speak with mentors and faculty about career opportunities.
- Job leads can be found on your department’s website, list-serv, newsletters, and social media sites.

INFORMATIONAL WEBSITES:



<http://oneline.org>



<http://www.bls.gov/>

REFERENCES

University of New Mexico, Liberal Arts and Integrative Studies (2013). Retrieved from <http://bus.unm.edu/>