College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences

Dean: Dr. Paul Riggs

The College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences seeks to deliver programs of study within and across the broad array of liberal arts that are characterized by exceptional teaching, scholarship, and mentoring. The College is dedicated to preparing students for lifelong learning, graduate studies, and a variety of professional careers. The College provides educational and co-curricular experiences that foster effective written and oral communication skills, critical thinking capacities, research abilities, an understanding of the arts, and knowledge relevant to programs of study within and across the College. We place emphasis on ethics and aesthetics, and on promoting multicultural awareness, the celebration of diversity, civic responsibility, and community engagement.

The College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences sees its vision as advancing the Wilkes tradition of liberal arts education by offering innovative educational experiences emphasizing academic excellence, scholarship, and civic responsibility, so as to prepare students for lifelong learning, rewarding careers, and creative and meaningful lives in our multicultural world. Toward that end, the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences prepares students for life and work in a diverse and changing world. The faculty of the College conveys an understanding of the interconnections of human experience through the foundation study of communication, art, expression, culture, and society. Within the programs of study in the College, students discover challenging academic preparation for successful professional lives. They benefit from close faculty interaction and attention throughout their learning journey toward becoming intellectually resourceful and civically responsible citizens of the world. Due to the broad interdisciplinary nature of the College, all students at Wilkes University engage in some area of study within the College while fulfilling the general education core experience required of all undergraduate students.

The College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences seeks to promote the following values in our programs:

- discipline-specific and interdisciplinary knowledge and scholarship relevant to the various programs of study offered within and across the College;
- discipline-specific and interdisciplinary written communication, oral communication, and research skills that enable innovative academic inquiry, scholarship, and lifelong learning;
- discipline-specific and interdisciplinary critical thinking skills relevant to the various programs of study offered within and across the College;
- ethical reasoning, civic responsibility, and community engagement that demonstrate an appreciation of multiculturalism, diversity, and the liberal arts; and
- a culture of academic, personal, and professional mentoring that prepares students for lifelong learning, rewarding careers, and creative and meaningful lives.

The College fosters pre-professional experiences leading to postgraduate study, and many undergraduate majors offer valuable professional opportunities through field experience and internships. The College is enriched culturally, academically, and professionally through strong connections to the local and regional communities. The Wilkes Community Conservatory, the Sordoni Art Gallery, and the Wyoming Valley History Project enhance the liberal arts tradition on campus and in the community.

In addition, the College has many special programs, resources, and state-of-the-art facilities that incorporate professional and practical experiences into the student’s learning journey. The Dorothy Dickson Darte Center for the Performing Arts showcases campus performances in music, theatre, and dance. Students may gain professional experience in a variety of media at the radio station, WCLH, the campus newspaper, The Beacon, Manuscript, a literary magazine, Inkwell, a student literary publication, Zebra Communications, the student run public relations firm, at Studio 20, the student run design firm, and the professional television studio at the Shelburne Telecommunications Center. In the Writing Center, the faculty director and specially trained student writing consultants provide assistance in writing to the entire University.

The College comprises the following academic departments and divisions:

- Behavioral & Social Sciences
- Communication Studies
- Global History & Languages
- Humanities
- Integrative Media and Art
- Performing Arts

Bachelor of Arts degrees and minor programs of study offered in the College are as follows:

- Art (minor only)
- Criminology
- Communication Studies
- Dance (minor only)
- Digital Design + Media Art
- Economics (minor only)
- English
- History
- International Studies
• Music (minor only)
• Musical Theatre
• Neuroscience (minor only)
• Philosophy
• Policy Studies (minor only)
• Political Science
• Psychology
• Sociology
• Spanish
• Theatre Arts
• Women's and Gender Studies (minor only)