



CSUN[®]

CALIFORNIA
STATE UNIVERSITY
NORTHRIDGE

BACHELOR OF ARTS

LIBERAL STUDIES

Essential Knowledge for the Global Workplace



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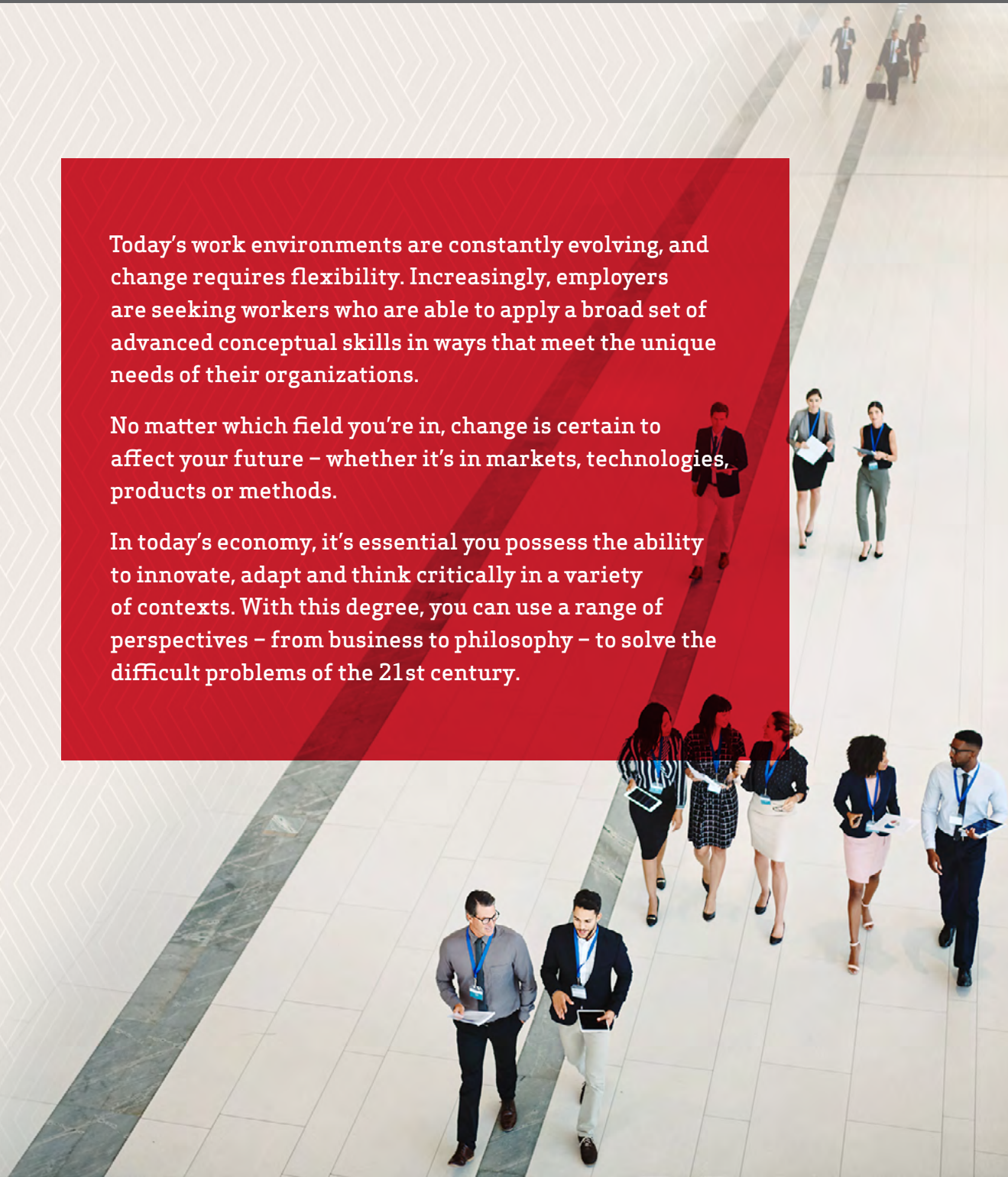
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Today's work environments are constantly evolving, and change requires flexibility. Increasingly, employers are seeking workers who are able to apply a broad set of advanced conceptual skills in ways that meet the unique needs of their organizations.

No matter which field you're in, change is certain to affect your future – whether it's in markets, technologies, products or methods.

In today's economy, it's essential you possess the ability to innovate, adapt and think critically in a variety of contexts. With this degree, you can use a range of perspectives – from business to philosophy – to solve the difficult problems of the 21st century.





This program teaches critical thinking and higher order reasoning skills that are crucial to professional preparation for the new global economy.

Master Today's Most In-demand Skills

Employers want employees who have a solid knowledge base across essential fields that allows them to consider challenges and opportunities from a variety of perspectives and design solutions that are smart and innovative. Employers also want senior staff who can share their insights with effective written and oral communication strategies that are appropriate for the issues and audiences in question. This requires a depth and breadth of communication skills that are attuned to organizational context and purpose.

Also required in our rich information age is the ability to find relevant and reliable information, to research questions and problems in order to develop deeper understandings of the challenges, and to shape solutions solidly grounded in the most current and accurate information available. Ours is an era in which data-driven decisions are increasingly important.

Agility is also essential in the contemporary working world – the ability to work alone and in teams, to lead a working group and to also be an effective team member, and to work with changing teams across unit and organizational lines that often have a global reach.

Finally, the contemporary working world requires an understanding of cross-cultural perspectives, the ability to work with diverse colleagues and clients, and to see opportunities and address challenges across national lines.

This degree focuses on these very high-value competencies in today's working world and ensures that graduates are ready for success in the contemporary global economy.

It can be said that having a broad set of multipurpose skills is even more important from the perspectives of employees than from those of employers. Because most of today's working adults will switch careers several times during their lives, they must adapt and apply core competencies to new settings and use them for new purposes. As a result, today's most successful, upwardly mobile people think of themselves as lifelong learners and continuously hone the tools needed to keep learning and evolving.

This CSUN Liberal Studies baccalaureate degree has been crafted to enable students both to attain the skills essential for success in today's workplace and to become lifelong learners with the essential knowledge and habits of mind that will support on-going exploration and growth throughout the career span.

Employers are seeking workers who are able to apply a broad set of advanced conceptual skills in ways that meet the unique needs of their organization.

Program Benefits

Provides an essential knowledge base rooted in the conceptual foundations of key disciplines

Several courses in the curriculum explore important social and cultural traditions, innovations and challenges; others focus on quantitative literacy and the process of scientific exploration. Liberal Studies courses draw their content from many fields essential for understanding how organizations and cultures work, including the arts and humanities, economics, business, mathematics, science and the social sciences. The program emphasizes the importance of making connections between and integrating knowledge from various fields of study to define problems and design solutions.

Develops critical-thinking and problem-solving skills

All courses in the program are designed to nurture these essential skills. The instructors will challenge you to think, to re-examine pre-existing ideas and to develop cohesive arguments in support of positions taken.

Creates a high level of information literacy

Most courses in this program require you to seek out information on your own, and certain classes focus on how to do this well. For example, "Conducting and Presenting Research in the Digital Age in Career Context" – which was developed specifically for this program – emphasizes how to search print and electronic information sources efficiently, correctly cite the information found, develop effective written and oral presentations of research findings, and apply these findings to specific contexts in relevant ways.

Develops advanced, professionally focused communication skills

The ability to present information competently and professionally to a range of audiences and for a variety of purposes is an essential workplace skill. While all Liberal Studies courses will develop writing skills, two of them specifically address writing for results in a career context. Equally important is the ability to grasp and distill information from a variety of texts. This program boosts such skills in all of its classes through directed reading assignments that focus on the retrieval and evaluation of information for specific purposes.





Instills cultural knowledge and appreciation

Almost every workplace today is a multicultural environment. To operate effectively in such environments, workers need to understand how cultural differences in conventions and expectations may affect the workplace. Several Liberal Studies courses address these issues. For example, “(How) Language Matters,” approaches this topic from a linguistic perspective, while “Cultural Literacies in Career Contexts,” examines cultural issues and their impact on the workplace.

Prepares graduates for careers and career-advancement in the new global economy

Upon graduating, you will be an attractive candidate for a wide range of positions in a variety of fields and environments. Many prospective students will have already acquired very specific and useful professional expertise (e.g., IT, accounting, business or teaching) but lack the more general competencies that would better qualify them for career advancement in today’s changing workplace. This degree provides an excellent complement to previous education or training and readies you for higher-level positions in the fields of your choice.

“

People need to have the skills and adaptability that will make them flexible enough to be successful in a world that we can’t predict. So, what are those kinds of skills?

Imagination. Insight. Perspective. So much of that comes from a breadth of experience that you can get through reading history, reading literature, thinking critically about yourself, challenging your taken-for-granted assumptions, and seeing that they may all change in a second because other people have challenged them in other times and other places. There’s a contingency that you come to understand through the liberal arts that is very much a part of our world that best suits students for a lifetime of continuing to learn and adapt.

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*Interview with Drew Gilpin Faust, Ph.D.
President, Harvard University
(Fast Company, July/August 2014)*

"My cohort was filled with mostly public-sector employees, like myself, but from wide range of departments and agencies. I learned just as much from my classmates as I did from my professors."

*Stephanie Magnien Rockwell
Principle Project Coordinator
City of Los Angeles,
City Administrative Officer*



CSUN's Michael D. Eisner College of Education is the largest public college of education in the nation.



CSUN's College of Business and Economics is recognized in the Princeton Review's list of Best Business Schools. The part-time MBA program is ranked as among the best programs of its type by U.S. News & World Report.

Course List

The following courses have been carefully crafted and purposefully sequenced to form a uniquely integrated program of study.

ENGL 205	Business Communication in its Rhetorical Contexts	PHIL 305	Business Ethics and Public Policy
PHIL 150	Introduction to Philosophical Thought	PHIL 349	Contemporary Social and Political Issues
LING 200	(How) Language Matters	RS 310	Religion and Literature
MATH 331	Mathematical Explorations	URBS 350	Cities of the Developing World
BUS 104	Introduction to Business	LRS 402	Cultural Literacies in a Career Contexts
ECON 175	Introduction to U.S. Economic History	PHIL 330	Philosophy of Science
LRS 401	Research in the Digital Age for Professionals	POLS 355	American National, State and Local Governments
HUM 101	Forms and Ideas in Humanities	ENGL 407	Composition and the Professions
COMS 356	Intercultural Communication	HUM 391	Cultural Theories and Methodologies
FLIT 320	Business Culture in Asia or	COMS 443	Rhetoric of Business
FLIT 321	Business Culture in Europe		



Course Highlights

CSUN's online Baccalaureate degree-completion program in Liberal Studies has a carefully crafted curriculum designed for the cohort format. In this format, each course builds or expands upon content presented in one or more earlier courses. While the program is delivered entirely online, instructional approaches to the courses vary to ensure that the successive courses and their learning outcomes combine to make the overall program a comprehensive learning experience.

ENGL 205 | Business Communication in its Rhetorical Contexts

This course hones your written, oral and visual communication skills, as well as your ability to find, synthesize and make arguments based on primary and secondary sources. You'll learn to communicate with diverse audiences, and you'll study real-world cases related to ethical issues in local and global business.

PHIL 150 | Introduction to Philosophical Thought

In this introduction to philosophy, you'll investigate the concepts of knowledge, reality and mind, paying special attention to skepticism, dogmatism, common sense, materialism, mind-body dualism, the existence of God and free will.

LING 200 | (How) Language Matters

Using topical social issues as a model, this course examines how language affects the construction of identity; the formation of new meanings; and the use of popular new technologies (e.g., texting). You'll also probe personal and societal perceptions and attitudes toward the language use and competence of others.

MATH 331 | Mathematical Explorations

Through this course, you'll explore the tremendous diversity of mathematics, and investigate how its varied application affects results and outcomes. Further topics of study include the character and origin of different branches of mathematics; the contributions of various cultures to the field; and the use of mathematical models to solve physical problems.

BUS 104 | Introduction to Business

In this introduction to the American enterprise system, you'll learn about the economic foundation of the United States, as well as the basic concepts of business organization and the nature of business activity.

ECON 175 | Introduction to U.S. Economic History

Using social, historical, economic and political viewpoints, you'll analyze economic events in the United States from the colonial period to the present.

LRS 401 | Research in the Digital Age for Professionals

Designed for the digital age, this course teaches you how to find, interpret and evaluate information in today's hyperconnected world. You'll learn the steps necessary to develop workplace-related research topics; find and evaluate relevant information; and hone your presentation skills for the occasion and audience.

HUM 101 | Forms and Ideas in Humanities

This introductory course provides instruction in the interdisciplinary analysis and interpretation of meaning in art, music and literature. You'll study the influence of philosophical ideas on styles and themes in works of art.

COMS 356 | Intercultural Communication

In this course, you'll apply and evaluate theories of intercultural communication, examining how perception, power, language and nonverbal communication affect the social, political and economic outcomes of encounters between cultures.

FLIT 320 | Business Culture in Asia or FLIT 321 | Business Culture in Europe

Designed for international business, this course gives you the cross-cultural sensitivity and communication skills needed for success in the markets of Asia (320) or Europe (321). You'll learn to research and assess cultural, political and economic risks and opportunities as you simultaneously explore interpersonal cues, rules of behavior and regional norms.

PHIL 305 | Business Ethics and Public Policy

Using moral philosophy, you'll examine ethical norms and issues in contemporary business and public policy. As you explore the societal roles of business and economic institutions, you'll also study the conduct and responsibilities of individuals, firms and organizations.

PHIL 349 | Contemporary Social and Political Issues

This course examines concepts, values and arguments central to contemporary social and political issues. You'll explore current public debates, civil and political rights, social and economic inequality, the environment, biotechnology, economic policy, global trade, and national defense.

RS 310 | Religion and Literature

Digging into an array of literary sources, you'll investigate how religious tradition affects an author's understanding of human existence. You'll study a diverse lineup of writers -- some religious, and others humanistic or atheist -- to discover the role(s) of religion in literature.

URBS 350 | Cities of the Developing World

Through case studies of cities in Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean, the Middle East and Asia, you'll explore the social, economic, historical, cultural and political factors that influence and shape cities in the developing world.

LRS 402 | Cultural Literacies in a Career Contexts

In this course, you'll develop the multicultural understanding needed to thrive in today's diverse workplace. You'll investigate your own cultural assumptions, as well as your personal background, to examine how culture shapes your worldview. You'll also explore the intersectionality of race, gender, class and sexuality.

PHIL 330 | Philosophy of Science

Through varied lenses -- among them, reality, knowledge, mind and theory -- this course sets out to discover the scientific essence of human beings and nature.

POLS 355 | American National, State and Local Governments

This course investigates the structures and functions of federal, state and local governments. You'll pay special attention to legislative and executive branches, and conduct detailed studies of policy-making, administrative procedures and the constitutionality of governance.

ENGL 407 | Composition and the Professions

This advanced composition course teaches you to analyze, structure and compose content in a logical, error-free manner. Designed for a range of high-value professions, this course covers composition in the fields of law, medicine, government, community services, business, education and more.

HUM 391 | Cultural Theories and Methodologies

In this seminar, you'll explore the practices and methodologies of interdisciplinary study. Depending upon the semester, the course might focus on historical eras, political movements, cultural problems or other largescale themes.

COMS 443 | Rhetoric of Business

This course analyzes the rhetoric used in executive speaking, advertising and labor negotiations to give you the depth and range of communication needed to conduct business in many contexts. Regular written assignments are required.





"In order to prepare people to do the jobs computers cannot do, we must re-focus our education system around one objective: giving students the foundational skills in problem solving and communication that computers don't have."

Dancing with Robots – Human Skills for a Computerized World

Frank Levy and Richard J. Murnane

The Advantages of CSUN's Approach to Supporting the Educational Success of Working Professionals

At CSUN, we recognize the work-related constraints of working professionals. Starting a new degree is a big step, but for you, the working adult, the pay-off is the program's completion. So, to get you there on time, with a diploma in hand, we offer a range of support services rare among public universities.

An assigned program coordinator will work with you from the time you apply to the time you graduate. This practice delivers ongoing, direct personal support from a real-world contact to guide you through the program without long lines or red tape. Coordinators play a proactive, hands-on part in the cohort experience by offering continuing information, regular reminders and steady, reliable encouragement.

Distinction in Accreditation

California State University, Northridge is accredited by The Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), a regional institutional accrediting body recognized by the U.S. Council of Higher Education and Accreditation. Visit the WASC reaccreditation website for more information.

Graduates will be a desirable hire for a variety of industries because they have developed critical thinking skills that are crucial for professionals in the 21st century.

The Advantages of the CSUN Approach to Designing and Supporting Online Degree Programs

With its fully online programs, the university's record of student success continues, with on-time graduation rates at exceptionally high levels – well above national average, with most at or above an 80% on-time graduation rate, and some reaching over 90%.

CSUN's online programs are crafted by the same community of distinguished faculty members and practitioners who develop and teach the programs on the CSUN campus. Faculty create and teach each course, working with skilled educational technology specialists who help them find and use the changing array of online tools and strategies that work for the course and the individual faculty member's instructional style.

Each online course is a distinctive educational experience with a particular faculty member working with a given cohort of midcareer students in a dynamic teaching and learning context. Content is not only integrated from course to course, but also updated every semester for relevance and applicability to current professional practice.

Online programs offer working adults remarkable flexibility. For working professionals with demanding jobs and other life obligations, that flexibility is often the key factor that allows them to embark on a degree program and, in turn, move their careers forward. That flexibility of time and place also can enhance the learning experience. It gives students time to reflect, review, formulate questions (and not worry that the moment has passed, as can happen in a face-to-face classroom), consider answers before sharing them, and turn attention to study in a context and at a time that is right for each individual student – for some, that is on the front porch at dawn with a laptop, while for others it might be at night at the kitchen table when the house is quiet – maybe with a cup of tea.

CSUN has its own distance learning team with a strong commitment to the faculty and participants in each program. They work with the program's faculty, from the design of the program to the graduation of each cohort of students. The team provides both program design support and ongoing technical support to faculty and program participants.





Admission Requirements

To be considered for admission, applicants must:

- Have completed at least *60 transferable semester (90 quarter) units of college coursework with a grade point average of 2.0 or higher.
- A grade of C or better in each course used to meet the CSU General Education Basic Skills requirement, consisting of 3 units each in the areas of:
 - Written communication
 - Oral communication
 - Critical thinking, and
 - Mathematics/quantitative reasoning

*Review [Admission Guidelines for Bachelor Degree Completion Programs](#) for more detailed information.

(818) 210-3063

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[Learn More](#)

We would enjoy hearing from you to answer any questions you may have on how our program can support your personal and professional goals.