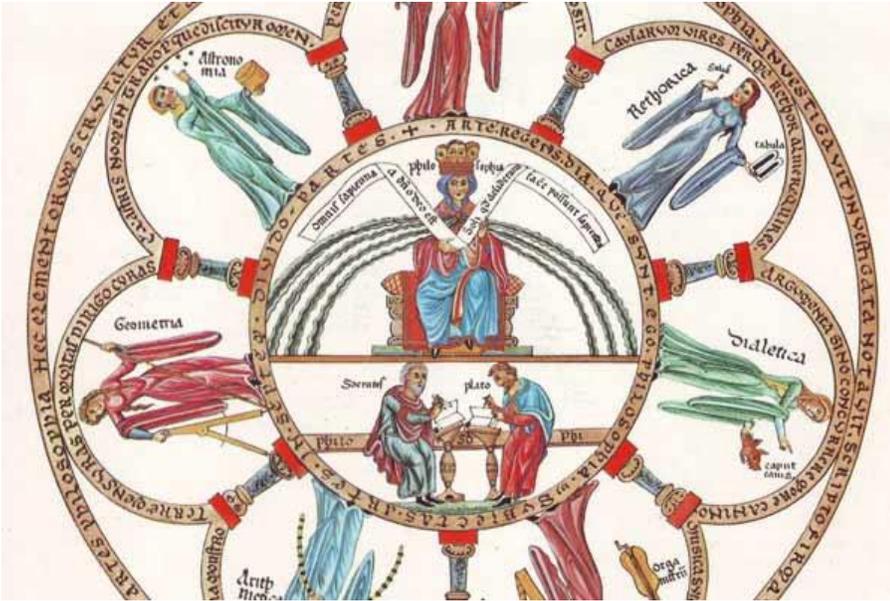


# 5 Reasons Why You Need a Liberal Arts Education by [Megan Ferch](#)



But [what is a liberal arts education](#)? The liberal arts have nothing to do with political affiliation or artistic skill—it is the tradition of a broad education in various fields, including literature, philosophy, math, and the social and physical sciences. Often referred to as "core classes," the liberal arts tradition can be found in most institutions across the country, both those specifically designated as "liberal arts colleges" as well as bigger research universities.

You may wonder why it's necessary to take courses outside your field of study—why not use your credit hours for classes that will be useful to your future career? But the liberal arts *are* in fact useful, maybe even more than you think. Here are five reasons why a liberal arts education might be best for you

## 1. Liberal arts courses teach a broad range of skills

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As stated above, a liberal arts education includes core classes in many areas of study, like math, science, literature, and even fine arts. Although one or more of the liberal arts classes you may take might not seem anywhere near relevant to your future career, the range of skills they provide can still benefit you. The job market is competitive, and people don't always end up in the field in which they originally intended to work. Having a broad education and varied knowledge can help you perform in any job you end up working after you graduate. Coming out of college with a well-rounded background is a key aspect of liberal arts education. Which leads us to our next point...

## 2. Employers are more likely to hire someone with a liberal arts background

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You've probably learned through the college admission process that being well rounded is a valued quality in any candidate. The same goes for applying for jobs—in fact, four out of five employers believe that all students should have a broad knowledge of the arts and sciences, and 55% of employers require both field-specific skills and a broad range of skills in order for graduates to advance and remain employed long-term within a company, [according to a 2014 study by the Association of American Colleges & Universities](#). Many jobs require many different skills, not just the ones that seem obvious or are included in your major. This also ties into the next point...

## 3. Many skills taught in the liberal arts tradition are useful in *any* career field

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Most jobs require a wide range of skills. For example, in writing and research-based careers, it is likely you will need to know *some* math, usually statistics, to back up what you write. In science- and math-based professions, you will need to document your experiments and research and express your findings in writing. Writing and communication are especially important skills taught in the liberal arts tradition, as they are needed in just about any field you can think of, even for tasks as simple as composing an e-mail.

#### 4. Liberal arts courses allow for exploration into your interests

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Taking a variety of classes, not just those within your specific major, can help you find other topics that you are interested in. This can prompt you to take up new hobbies, learn new things, or even change the direction of your studies altogether. Who knows—you may find that another major or career choice suits you better than what you had planned. A liberal arts education has the potential to guide you in finding your true passions and could even change what you decide to do in life.

#### 5. The liberal arts tradition can increase your world-view and add depth to your college experience

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Gaining knowledge in a range of topics not only helps you to be well rounded in your skills, but also in your thinking. Liberal arts education provides multiple viewpoints and allows for educational opportunities that cannot be obtained from trade or technical schools. Many colleges with strong liberal arts programs have interdisciplinary studies, internships, study abroad, and other opportunities that go into educating the student as a whole, adding depth to the overall college experience.