The associate degree in Letters, Arts, and Sciences provides a solid foundation for careers in a wide variety of fields. With proper planning and advising, graduates can also make the transition into one of Penn State Berks' baccalaureate degree programs.

Penn State Berks' Office of Career Services maintains a strong relationship with local and regional employers, and assists program graduates with career placement.

Career Opportunities

The program is enhanced by the opportunity to transfer to baccalaureate degrees at Penn State Berks, including Communication Arts and Sciences, Global Studies, or Business, as well as a wide variety of baccalaureate majors offered at Penn State University Park campus, at other Penn State campuses, and at other educational institutions.

The degree can also serve as a pre-professional entry to programs that require two years of college. In addition, the associate degree program is a common choice for non-traditional students who want a college degree but are not ready to make a four-year commitment. For such students, the associate degree program serves as a motivating first step toward future studies.

Career Services

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For more information, please visit BERKS.PSU.EDU
Course Requirements

The 60-credit program emphasizes critical thinking, understanding differing points of view, problem solving, and active and collaborative learning. Some of the required courses include: English composition, communication, arts, humanities, and science. Students may choose an area of concentration (usually nine credits) in one of the following fields:

- Arts
- Humanities
- Social and behavioral sciences
- Natural sciences and quantification
- Foreign language skills

What Will I Learn?

Students in Letters, Arts, and Sciences will develop skills conducive to their future academic and professional endeavors. Students will learn to:

- use oral and written communication skills persuasively;
- develop the capacity to read, integrate, and respond analytically and intuitively to content in various academic disciplines, including humanities, mathematics, social sciences, sciences, and the arts;
- improve their ability to present ideas publicly and to engage and inform a live audience;
- draft successful papers in stages, to respond critically and constructively to the work of their fellow students, and to thereby enhance their own writing;
- effectively use information systems;
- use appropriate tools (databases, documents, etc.) to critically evaluate important academic issues and interpret these sources for bias and validity;
- critically evaluate and/or conduct research; and
- evaluate United States and global cultural and societal issues theoretically and critically.