CASCADE

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

diverse education
intellectual creativity
flexible thinkers
sustainable careers
By choosing a major in the College of Arts and Sciences, you’ve set yourself on intertwined paths: toward deep knowledge in your particular major and toward wide-ranging experience with the habits of mind unique to the arts, humanities, social sciences, natural sciences and mathematics. As you acquire knowledge and experience, your ability to ask questions, think critically about them and produce answers will be refined and renewed by what you learn in your field and across the curriculum, transforming your understanding of your major, your minor and the ways of thinking you encounter.

By engaging with the arts and sciences, you will develop the habits of mind to continue this cycle of intellectual and personal growth for the rest of your life. Applying these habits of mind to complex problems, our graduates have the critical skills and knowledge the world needs. As you read their stories, notice how our students dive deep into a subject to find both a passion and a career that makes a difference.

Sincerely,
Raymond Craig, Dean
College of Arts and Sciences

Visit CAScade online: bgsu.edu/cascade

Liberal arts education dates back to the ancient Greeks and Romans, who considered a multidisciplinary education to be essential for the liberate, the free-thinking citizen. A measure of an individual’s success was active participation in civic life, and education was designed to develop the whole human being to his or her full potential. By the medieval period, the curriculum consisted of seven subjects that reflected important themes and abilities of the time: grammar, rhetoric, logic, arithmetic, geometry, music and astronomy.

Today there are many more areas of study that fall under arts and sciences, but the aim is the same. Equipping students with deep knowledge over a range of subjects to produce well-rounded, flexible thinkers who are able to deal with complexity and change. An arts and sciences education prepares students for sustainable careers. The jobs of today will not necessarily be those of tomorrow, and a diverse education provides students with transferrable skills and intellectual creativity.

The exposure to multiple perspectives in a liberal arts education also fosters a sense of social responsibility, producing citizens with strong character and a real value to society.
Service, and a Story

Zach Rader and Tim Crnko had both seen autism in their extended families, so when the Media Production and Studies majors heard that the Autism Society of Northwest Ohio needed a video, they took it on as an assignment.

Projects for the “Video Practicum” course can take a number of formats such as commercial, corporate, news, even a wedding or music video. The class covers planning and managing a video production from start to finish and includes writing the budget, scripts, talent selection, release forms, production dailies, rough cuts and final edits. Students also sharpen their hands-on skills with the cameras, lighting equipment, sound equipment and digital editing systems.

“There is a business side to all this,” said Jose Cardenas, senior lecturer in Media Production and Studies. “You are essentially the producer of the show. You need to know about applicable laws, do your research, schedule on-site visits so you’re not showing up cold.”

The students chose a short documentary format to present “Faces for Autism,” a resource for families impacted by autism.

“Children with autism are commonly looked at, but after they become adults it’s a whole different challenge,” said Rader. “We wanted to talk with one family with a younger child and one with an adult with autism to look at it from two different perspectives.” The team also spoke with the executive directors of the Autism Society and Bittersweet Farms, a rural living and therapeutic agriculture facility in northwest Ohio for adults with autism.

“It’s all about investigating, interviewing, following the story to see where it takes you,” Rader said. “Then the next person might have a similar story but from a different perspective. Each person we talked to helped us shape questions for subsequent interviews. Then we decided on a structure and connected it all together.”

The service-learning experience is an integral part of the “Video Practicum” class. Service projects in general—whether for a class grade or personal fulfillment—not only benefit a community, but also contribute to a heightened sense of personal values to those who engage in them.

“Many students are unaware of work for nonprofits,” Cardenas said. “Not only are their skills very appreciated, but it helps to build their portfolios and looks good on a resume. Experience like this puts them on the path to the career they want.”
Greg Shaw was in New Orleans two weeks before Hurricane Katrina devastated the region in 2005. The city and Katrina’s aftermath left an indelible mark on the young boy’s mind. He felt as if he owed something to the city that introduced him to the music, food and festivals that define the Big Easy, and he vowed to return someday.

Several years later as he was recovering from back surgery, he took up a hobby he’d started when he was eight years old after receiving a video camera as a gift. The camera provided a distraction from his health issues and helped him push through rehabilitation. From that point forward his focus was on film, and the hobby eventually became his choice of career.

A decade after Katrina, the BGSU Film Production student returned to New Orleans to pursue an internship in the film industry with the Greenhouse Collective. It was something of a gamble.

“Greg emailed us but we had no money to offer him, no place for him to stay, only the promise that we’d put him to work and give him as much responsibility as he could handle,” said Zac Manuel, co-founder of the Greenhouse Collective. He became their go-to guy, running errands, setting up meetings, making travel arrangements for actors and doing some camera and production work. By the end of the internship he was seen as a professional and an asset to the team.

“His decision to come here with all the risk involved was insane,” said Manuel. “We pulled off a ridiculous number of productions that year. Greg made his internship happen and we hope he keeps taking those big risks.” The experience subsequently helped Shaw to land production gigs in Cleveland and Philadelphia for the “America’s Got Talent” TV series, and to be offered a job with “The Voice”, which he had to decline due to other work commitments. At that time during his senior year, he was working as a production assistant for the Hart creative agency in Maumee, Ohio. Within a week after graduating in December 2016, he accepted a full-time job (with pay!) as a producer and editor for the firm.

“Greg is a driven, hardworking filmmaker,” said Nick Army, Hart’s director of photography. “He has done work for clients across the country and has a very diverse portfolio. He is also incredibly motivated.”

Shaw knows that getting into the film industry can be difficult, but his minor in Marketing has made for a great combination for the commercial and corporate field where filmmakers can do very well.

FOCUSED ON THE FUTURE

“Greg is a driven, hardworking filmmaker. He has done work for clients across the country and has a very diverse portfolio.”

– NICK ARMY, HART’S DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Go big! Greg Shaw took a chance and went to NOLA without a confirmed commitment for work. He was confident the gamble would pay off in experience and connections.
While pursuing her first B.A. in film and television production in California, Lindsay Lesh happened to take an elective in quantum physics. “My whole life I had planned to make movies for a living,” she said. “As I learned more about it, I realized it really wasn’t for me. But the Space Sciences class blew my mind.” Since she was hooked on learning about space, an interest that led her to BGSU where she recently completed a B.S. in Physics with a dual minor in Astronomy and Math. “I knew I wanted to do research, and BGSU does tons of physics and astronomy research,” said Lesh. “Plus, not every school has the kind of power we have in our telescope or the size of the dome that we have in our planetarium.”

She has participated in a variety of research projects and presented her findings at professional conferences. With Dr. Andrew Layden, she was involved in variable star research. “Some stars pulse so regularly and so brightly that we can use them as distance markers in astronomy,” she said. “It’s important to catalog these, and we were able to confirm seven new variable stars in Globular Cluster 30.”

From Film to Physics

A DIFFERENT KIND OF STAR SEARCH

Lindsey Lesh served as star gaze leader and an operator at the BGSU Planetarium.

Next, she interned with Dr. Jill Tarter at the SETI Institute in California to build an online database for a project in which non-natural signals are located in the Milky Way galaxy using radio telescopes. Lesh and Tarter, who was the inspiration for the character played by Jodie Foster in the 1997 movie “Contact,” gave a joint presentation on their work at the American Astronomical Society conference. Most recently, Lesh and Dr. Eric Mandel have been looking at an unusual carbon nanostructure that has been found inside certain types of meteorites. “It appears to be a material we have not seen elsewhere on Earth called graphene,” she said. “We know it formed in the atmosphere of a red giant star. So first we need to identify what the material is, and then what properties it has and whether we can reproduce it.”

Lindsey Lesh

With her second bachelor’s degree in hand, Lesh will go on to graduate school to study high-energy particle physics, which looks at the most fundamental pieces of the universe. “I want to do research for the rest of my life. That’s what I love: Doing science, then telling everybody about it, then doing more science. I have ideas I haven’t yet seen explored anywhere.”

* Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence

“Science is actually not so different: You come up with an idea and present it to the people who have money. If they agree to fund it, you make the movie, then present it to the public. Then repeat the process.”

“In the movie industry, you come up with an idea and present it to the people who have money. If they agree to fund it, you make the movie, then present it to the public. Then repeat the process.”

LINDSAY LESH
When she was young, Andrea Danziger’s family lived in Frankfurt, Germany. Ever since moving to the States, she felt the call to return to her childhood home, and her time abroad played a role in her academic interests. She ultimately chose a double major in Political Science and German, with a minor in Philosophy, Politics, Economics and Law (PPEL).

She spent a summer interning at the U.S. State Department in Munich in the section of the Consulate that monitors how political and economic development there can affect American foreign policy decisions. Soon, she took an interest in the Syrian Refugee Crisis. “As Germany has been such a prominent player in the crisis, the event captured my attention,” Danziger said. “I was interested in learning more about refugee affairs. I wrote my PPEL capstone paper about the differences in the German and American asylum procedures, and how a country’s legal procedures may influence a population’s likeliness of accepting refugees.”

The project only fueled her interest in learning more about the crisis from an international perspective and to put real faces with the numbers and legalese. She applied for and received the Stuart R. Givens Memorial Fellowship and the Hoskins Global Scholarship, and combined them with a year-long study abroad in Salzburg, Austria during the 2016–17 school year. The experience allowed her to study the impact refugees have on different European societies.

“I spent time researching refugee societal integration in Berlin, Dresden and Budapest and then was able to volunteer in a special cases refugee camp in Greece during my winter break,” Danziger said. “The more than five million Syrians who have fled their country are straddling two cultures. Integration is often viewed as: The refugee leaves behind everything from home and learns how to live in a new society. But what is often forgotten is that refugees didn’t willingly leave, and their primary dream is usually to return home, not to assimilate, whether in Germany, America or anywhere else in the world. So for the host country, the question of where to compromise on cultural standards is just as—if not more—important as how to integrate. The responses of countries affected by the refugee crisis have been hugely diverse,” she said.

Within her Political Science major, Danziger has a specialization in International Relations. “I hope to work in foreign affairs, and as a future political actor, my understanding of international perspectives will underpin my success.”

“I didn’t experience too much culture shock and travel anxiety the way many of my peers did. I had the experience of using public transportation and ordering French fries without ketchup that many of my travel companions lacked.”

ANDREA DANZIGER
“My interest in Asia started back in the third grade,” recalled Matthew Thome. “My uncle lived in a part of Cleveland that had a large Asian population. He didn’t have a lot of money, so for Christmas he would buy me Japanese and Chinese newspapers at the local markets as a joke gift. I really liked them and as I got older I became obsessed with the kanji characters.”

In high school, Thome found a tutor to study Japanese and by the time he enrolled at BGSU, he knew what his focus would be. He’s pursuing dual bachelor’s degrees majoring in Asian Studies with a Japanese minor, and in Education with an English minor.

“My goal is to travel and to teach,” he said. “I’m very interested in international education, and I’m hoping to work in Asia and eventually go on for a master’s degree.”

Akiko Jones, director of the Asian Studies program, encouraged Thome to live in Japan for one academic year to immerse himself in the culture. He enrolled in courses at Nanzan University in Nagoya where he studied with students from all over the world and took courses in ancient and modern Japanese literature. During his time there he stayed with a host family, Mr. and Mrs. Kondou, who insisted he call them okasan (mother) and otousan (father).

Matthew Thome returned to Japan in summer 2016 as part of a class and conference on the WWII atomic bombing of Hiroshima. His capstone research paper, “Hiroshima on Peace Education and Problems with US-Centric Historical Narratives in a World Without Survivors,” received a 2016 Embracing Global Engagement Award from the BGSU Center for Undergraduate Research and Scholarship.

“The small mountain town of Asuke is a scenic place for a hike. It was nighttime and the skyline was lit up – it was an emotional moment when I realized, I’m here, finally, in Japan.”

MATTHEW THOME

AN AFFINITY FOR ASIA

“The small mountain town of Asuke is a scenic place for a hike. It was nighttime and the skyline was lit up – it was an emotional moment when I realized, I’m here, finally, in Japan.”

MATTHEW THOME
Brenda Emerson, a Data Science major with a minor in Computer Science, likes math because it provides concrete answers and lets people learn things they didn’t know before. “I like running the data and getting results,” she said.

So what is she doing coaching students in a Russian literature class? She’s teaching them the programming language “R” so they can perform text mining, which provides a deeper understanding of the stories they’re reading.

R is an open-source software for statistical computing and graphics. It’s popular, in part, because of its ability to create data visualizations, and because of the many add-on packages with commands and tools for specific tasks. The packages used in this Introduction to Russian Literature course are related to text mining and data display.

“We enter the text of a story into the software, then sort and filter it to extract all the words,” Emerson said. “Then we use tools to make word clouds and frequency graphs and dispersion plots.

“You see the most common words, which are usually the pronouns, so right off the bat you know who the main characters are and even the gender breakdown of the story,” she said. “You can get a sense of the tone, whether sad or happy, based on the polarity (positive/negative/neutral) of the words used. And where the words are located can show you how the writer is directing your attention during the story!”

Reading Russian literature is a new experience for most students, according to Associate Professor Irina Stakhanova, and in a traditional class they can be reluctant to open up because they know so little about it. But the empirical data provides a whole new area of knowledge and lets them discuss it with greater confidence. Like an X-ray, text mining reveals what’s at work inside a story.

“Students in this class are programming as they work with their text,” said Stakhanova. “It becomes like a computer game. They start playing with the adjectives and nouns, with structure, with plot. Then they see the differences between Chekhov, Tolstoy and Nabokov, and they start to really understand how these stories are made.

“For many students today, it’s all about the screen, so it’s extremely beneficial to incorporate a technological component into the subject matter,” she said. “They can change colors, size, rotation, aesthetics, but they don’t have to clean the data.”

That’s Brenda’s job, and she’s not afraid to step out of her comfort zone and teach others what she knows. In addition to tutoring at BGSU’s Math Emporium, she’ll be working with Stakhanova to lead an “R” coding workshop for students and faculty in the humanities and social sciences.

SIMPLE TEXT MINING: TRY IT YOURSELF

- Find a short story such as one of these: https://media.bookbub.com/blog/2016/02/04/free-short-stories-online/
- Copy the text (highlight → Ctrl-C)
- Open the easy tool: voyant-tools.org
- Paste your text in the box (Ctrl-V)
- Click “Reveal”
The week after spring semester exams, Diamond Spratling was in South Africa volunteering for the World Wildlife Fund, and for a village kindergarten in KwaZulu-Natal the following week. Two days after her return to the States, she started a summer research project on community health. After that, she presented her research in New York.

Staying busy is nothing new for the Environmental Policy and Analysis major. Her first internship after freshman year was with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, where she worked on projects related to environmental waste, recycling automobile tires into new roads, and Michigan’s water economy, to name a few. The following summer, she interned with the West Michigan Environmental Council in Grand Rapids, where she put on a traveling roadshow presentation about the importance of health equity in environmental laws. She lobbied at the state capitol and worked with the national Clean Power Plan, both related to increasing community involvement in environmental issues.

Suffice it to say, she’s passionate about her field. “I took an environmental science class in high school and I liked the activism side of it,” Spratling said. “I’ve always liked politics and I envision a career where I can have an impact on people’s lives.”

Renewable Energy

Her project this summer as a Ronald E. McNair research scholar centered on how environmental issues cause health disparities in low-income communities of color. She conducted interviews with community members, professionals in the environmental field and the health industry and, combined with census data, presented her findings at the annual McNair conference in Buffalo.

McNair is a program for first-generation college students planning to pursue graduate degrees. Spratling has her sights set on a master’s of public health specializing in global health. “Public health is everything I want to do in my career,” she said. “There are so many different aspects to the environment; it’s much more than plants and wildlife.” Advocacy, in particular, factors heavily in her interests, and she would eventually like to work for an international organization such as the World Health Organization or the United Nations.

On the search for invasive species of plants.

Children at the South African orphanage love interacting with the volunteers.

Renzo is an ambassador for elephant conservation.

Spratling is a member of the BGSU Student Green Initiatives Committee, which oversees a fund for student-proposed sustainability projects related to emissions reduction, waste reduction and conservation, and education and outreach. The group meets every other Friday at 8 a.m. and she hasn’t missed a meeting. That calls for commitment and lots of coffee!
In a partnership between the BGSU Athletic Department and WBGU-TV, students produce live sportscasts for ESPN3, the web-based arm of the network that works with universities around the country to produce collegiate sports programs.

As a primer in the Live Sports Production course, coaches are brought in to teach the basic rules of basketball, volleyball, gymnastics and swimming. From there, it’s up to the students to produce the webcasts.

In class, students propose storylines that can be developed throughout the game, provide background information on players and coaches, and suggest ideas for live interviews. They might also attend practices, interview team or family members, or spend time shooting a pre-taped video package.

On game day, the on-camera students serve in one of two roles. The color commentator adds observations and insight, which might be interesting personal facts about a player or coach, an explanation of why a player substitution is made or why a play was (or wasn’t) effective.

“I look at the roster for each team and look up their stats,” said Claudia Seibert, a Broadcast Journalism major familiar with this role. “But the audience also wants to hear the human interest stories, like that a player started a charity or has a twin who plays a different sport.”

The second role, sideline reporter, interviews coaches and players on camera. Interviews take place before the start of the game (three questions for a “key player”) and during halftime (five minutes with a person of the reporter’s choice). The reporter also must be ready to interview someone at a moment’s notice when there’s an injury or other unplanned break in the action.

“I’ve always wanted to be a reporter and I love sports... but there’s a lot more to it than you might think. Your pacing; your camera presence; your tone of voice—they need to be pleasing for all audiences.”

“Claudia Seibert teams up with Brad Woznicki, an alumnus hired to do play-by-play.”

Chicago Bulls forward Jimmy Butler gives Claudia Seibert a few pointers.

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“I’ve always wanted to be a reporter and I love sports,” said Errin Kelly, a major in Media Production and Studies with a Journalism minor. “But there’s a lot more to it than you might think. Your pacing, your camera presence, your tone of voice—they need to be pleasing for all audiences.”

“It’s real-world reporting on live camera.”

“This has given me the best practical experience because it’s completely live,” Seibert said. “If you mess up, you have no choice but to keep going; you can’t let it trip you up. You have to be paying attention, you have to think on the fly, which means it’s a lot of prep work beforehand and you have to look polished when it’s live. It really pays off when it looks and sounds good.”

“Errin Kelly puts on her game face.”

“Claudia Seibert teams up with Brad Woznicki, an alumnus hired to do play-by-play.”

She’s Got Game

ON AIR IN “LIVE SPORTS PRODUCTION”
Mike Horton’s love for scuba diving took him to Florida to teach it one year. On a return visit to the Keys, he was on a friend’s boat when a jet ski tooled into the alcove and a friendly conversation began. It turned out the rider was the producer of an upcoming History Channel series on lost shipwrecks of the Spanish Empire, and was in the area where so many ships had gone down.

The chance encounter turned out to be auspicious. Horton, who was pursuing his M.A. in History at the time, had done research on the European colonization of the Americas and—given his involvement in diving—had long been interested in maritime archaeology. By the end of the conversation, he was invited to work for the show.

“This project combines two of the greatest passions in my life: history and scuba diving,” said Horton.

His role as historical consultant involved doing voiceover and on-camera work in Los Angeles and writing a narrative timeline of explorers and conquerors of the Spanish Empire.

“He was one of the greatest explorers of his time. The ships he sent out were not only the mightiest and most magnificent of his day, but were also the first to bring the Spaniards success in the New World,” said Horton.

During the rise of the Empire, the stretch of ocean between the Florida Keys and the Bahamas became the main travel route for ships to and from the Caribbean, he said. “Thousands of ships traveled this route and many of them got caught in massive storms. Those that sunk now litter the ocean floor. The voyage records help us to know which ships went down, but they may have been carried off or broken up by the current.”

More than three centuries later, treasure hunters continue to scour the sea for lost Spanish shipwrecks and the gold and jewels on them. Horton, who has been diving for 12 years, now has the connections and an open invitation to participate on treasure dives.

“I came to BGU (as a business major with dreams to run my own scuba dive business),” he said. “But as I watched the owner of the shop I worked for, I saw that if you own the business, you’re not going to be in the water very much. Teaching people how to dive has made me realize how much I love teaching. But I also want to see where this underwater archaeology takes me. There’s more to history than reading books, and in my case it took me well off the beaten path.”

The series “Pirates & Profiteers: The Quest for the Mother Lode” premiered September 2017 on the History Channel.
Undergraduate Majors

BGSU College of Arts and Sciences

African Studies

American Culture Studies

Art:
• Studio Art
• Digital Arts
• Graphic Design
• Art Education
• Art History

Asian Studies

Biology:
• Ecology & Conservation
• Marine & Aquatic
• Microbiology

Chemistry:
• Biochemistry
• Forensic

Classical Civilization

Communication

Computer Science:
• Business Systems

Creative Writing

Economics

English

Environmental Policy & Analysis

Environmental Science

Ethnic Studies

Film Production

Film Studies

Forensic Science

French

Geography

Geology

History

International Studies

Journalism

Latin

Liberal Studies

Mathematics

Music

Neuroscience

Philosophy

Physics

Political Science

Pre-Professional Preparation

An undergraduate degree from BGSU is excellent preparation for students who plan to attend one of these professional schools after graduation:

• Pre-Dental
• Pre-Law
• Pre-Medicine (M.D. or D.O.)
• Pre-Mortuary Science
• Pre-Optometry
• Pre-Pharmacy
• Pre-Physician Assistant
• Pre-Veterinary Medicine

Bowling Green State University

BGSU is ranked as a top tier public university by U.S. News & World Report.

ABOUT

Admissions:
• More than 15,000 enrolled
• 56,000+ alumni & 30,000+ Facebook friends
• Ethnic and racial minority students make up 20% of population

Faculty:
• Nearly 400 faculty members
• 6:1 student-to-faculty ratio
• National leader in faculty-student mentoring

BGSU, Ohio:
• 15 miles south of Toledo, Ohio
• Traditional “college town” with 30,000 residents, including students

Campus:
• Established 1910
• 14 residence halls; apartments and rental houses nearby

FEES and FINANCIAL AID

Visit:
www.visit.bgsu.edu
Schedule online or call 1-866-246-6732.

• Guided tours: 60-min walking tour. Mon–Fri, 11 a.m. & 2 p.m.

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