



FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY



BACHELOR OF LIBERAL STUDIES (BLS)

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Why pursue your degree through our Bachelor of Liberal Studies program? Because you always meant to finish your degree, and then life happened. Because you've taken college classes at other schools, but you understand the value of graduating from a school like Fairfield University. Because you know you'll need to juggle your job, family, and going back to school, and Fairfield University offers the flexibility you need. Because you've always said you'd earn your college degree someday, and you're ready to make it happen starting today.

With a mix of in-class, online and hybrid courses, and both full or part-time options, the Bachelor of Liberal Studies (BLS) degree is designed for adult learners like you. Taking into account up to 75 previously earned college credits, once you've matriculated into the BLS program, you'll be on your way to earning your bachelor's degree. Different from the pre-determined course of study required for most undergraduate majors, the BLS is a multidisciplinary degree enabling a major course of study that makes sense for you.

Fairfield University is renowned for its superior academics and excellent faculty. We take pride in our academic advisement for each student to assess his or her academic and career goals and to provide guidance as needed from start to finish. Students may enroll in the BLS program on a part-time or full-time basis, and may stop out and re-enter as needed. There was never any question that you'd finish your degree — the only question was when. Given all that Fairfield's BLS program has to offer, the answer is NOW!

COURSE OF STUDY

BLS students choose at least two (2) broad areas in which to concentrate their studies (Humanities, Professional Studies, Social Science or Math/Science). Students take courses in their area of interest based on the following guidelines:

- Students can choose to earn a bachelor of arts degree (BA) or a bachelor of science degree (BS) in Liberal Studies based on the distribution across subjects of their credits earned toward their major course of study.
- Complete 120 credits. The last 30 credits toward a student's bachelor's degree must be completed at Fairfield University or through a program that issues Fairfield University course credit.
- Meet the requirements of the BLS core curriculum.
- Complete the GS 399 Independent Research Project.
- Complete nine (9) upper-level courses from at least two (2) areas to concentrate your studies. No more than four courses can be taken in any one subject.

The final class in the BLS program is GS 399, the Senior Project. In this project, students research a topic of interest and write a research paper. The research topic encompasses the particular subjects studied in the completion of a student's major. In effect, the Senior Project serves to synthesize and deepen the knowledge and skills the student has acquired through the program.

AREAS AND SUBJECTS

The nine (9) major classes must be taken across **at least two areas** (the Humanities; Social and Behavioral Sciences; Mathematics and Science; Professional Programs).

No more than four (4) courses can be taken in any one of the subject areas below:

- **The Humanities:** Applied Ethics, Classics, English, History, Modern Languages, Philosophy, Religious Studies, Visual and Performing Arts
- **Social and Behavioral Sciences:** Anthropology, Communication, Economics, International Studies, Politics, Psychology, Sociology
- **Mathematics and Science:** Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics, Psychology
- **Professional Programs:** Accounting, Information Systems, Engineering, Finance, Management, Marketing, Nursing

CORE CURRICULUM

Fairfield's core curriculum gives students the opportunity to explore a variety of different subjects and be exposed to new perspectives while expanding their knowledge. For our BLS students, there is a slightly modified core without foreign language or calculus requirements.

TRANSFER CREDITS

- Students begin the BLS program with a minimum of 18 previously earned college credits.
- Students can transfer up to 75 credits of previously completed college work. After being admitted into the BLS program, students are required to gather all previous transcripts' course information, course descriptions and the syllabus (if available) that have a grade of C or better for transfer credit review and consideration. Those materials should be gathered and sent by the student, either electronically or by mail, to the Office of Part-time and Continuing Studies Admission. The Dean's Office of the student's school or college will review and notify the student in an advising meeting about the credits that will successfully transfer toward the BLS degree.
- Transfer credits OUTSIDE of the major — in *core* and *elective* courses — may be over 10 years old. All credits in your *major* must be less than 10 years old and must have been taken at Fairfield University. Note that *major* courses should be upper level (200 and 300 level) rather than 100 level introductory courses. As long as they are not "intro" courses, however, it is possible to count a limited number of 100-level courses towards your *major*.



Fairfield University

CLEP AND CREDIT FOR LIFE EXPERIENCE

At Fairfield, we make every effort to give a complete transcript evaluation of past college credits that may be applicable toward the BLS degree. We also encourage BLS students to attempt to receive CLEP, DACE, DANTES and ACE credits (exam credits and credit requests) and portfolio credit (work experience). Seeking and awarding of these credits must take place BEFORE the student's final 30 credits. As with all Fairfield students, the final 30 credits must be earned from Fairfield University.

MORE INFORMATION

To learn more and get started on your BLS degree, contact:

Catherine O'Donnell
Phone: 203-254-5532
E-mail: ptadmiss@fairfield.edu

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS AND PROCESS

Students seeking admission to the BLS must complete and submit the following information:

- An online admission application for Part-Time Students (www.fairfield.edu/blsapp)
- Official transcripts from all high schools and colleges/universities you attended

ROLLING ADMISSION

There is no application fee or deadline for the BLS program. Once your admission application is complete, all required documents are submitted and reviewed, then you will be notified online of your admission decision. Once admitted to the BLS program and after initial academic advising, BLS students can register and enroll in any subsequent semester.

OFFICE OF PART-TIME ADMISSION

Questions about the application process should be directed to the Office of Part-Time and Continuing Studies Admission that is located in the Aloysius P. Kelley, S.J. Center, off the main campus entrance on Loyola Boulevard.

Office of Part-Time and Continuing Studies Admission
1073 North Benson Road
Fairfield, CT 06824
Phone: 203-254-5532
E-mail: ptadmiss@fairfield.edu
Fax: 203-254-4073

MANDATORY PROOF OF IMMUNIZATION

After your application process is completed, but sometime before you can register and attend classes as a matriculated student at Fairfield University, Connecticut state law requires each student to provide proof of immunity or screening against measles, mumps, rubella, varicella (chicken pox), meningitis and tuberculosis. Certain exemptions based on age and housing status apply. Matriculating students are defined as those enrolled in a degree seeking program. More detailed information and the required forms are available online at www.fairfield.edu/immunization. Completed forms should be submitted directly to the Student Health Center. Please consult your private health care provider to obtain the necessary immunizations. Questions may be directed to the Student Health Center at 203-254-4000, ext. 2241 or e-mail: health@fairfield.edu.

TUITION

Academic Year: 2017/18
Tuition: \$725 per credit hour

OFFICE OF FINANCIAL AID

Investing in a college education is often a major financial decision, and many students need to look beyond their own resources or those of their employer for assistance. A Fairfield education offers a lifetime of benefits, both personally and professionally, and its value will far exceed the expenses involved.

Financial aid programs consist of federal grants and federal student loans. To apply for financial aid, complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) online at www.fafsa.gov at least four weeks before the start of the semester. Additional information about applications and financing can be found online at www.fairfield.edu/ptaid.

We recognize that each student has unique academic and career goals, and distinctive financial circumstances when planning to further their education. We encourage all students to speak with a Financial Aid Counselor.

FINANCIAL AID CONTACT INFORMATION

Kimberly Fetko, Assistant Director - Financial Aid
Phone: 203-254-4125
Fax: 203-254-4008
E-mail: kfetko@fairfield.edu

FINANCIAL AID OFFICE OPERATIONS

Days: Monday-Friday
Hours: 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Location: Aloysius P. Kelley, S.J. Center

TAX DEDUCTIONS

Treasury regulation (1.162.5) permits an income tax deduction for educational expenses (registration fees and the cost of travel, meals and lodging) undertaken to maintain or improve skills required in one's employment or other trade or business; or meet express requirements of an employer or a law imposed as a condition to retention of employment job status or rate of compensation.

VETERANS PRIDE PROGRAM

Veterans may apply educational benefits to degree studies pursued at Fairfield University. To learn more about our enhanced financial aid benefits for veterans, see www.fairfield.edu/veterans.

WEBSITE

More detailed information can be found on the website for the BLS at www.fairfield.edu/bls.

ONLINE CATALOG

For detailed course descriptions and other University information, please refer to our online academic course catalog at www.fairfield.edu/catalogs.