College of Arts and Sciences

College Vision Statement
To be recognized and respected throughout the United States as one of the premier Colleges of Arts and Sciences at a metropolitan university, maximizing our resources to build exceptional programs related to teaching, scholarship, creative activity, outreach, and service.

College Mission Statement
The College of Arts and Sciences is a liberal arts college within a metropolitan university. The college serves as UNO’s standard-bearer for the tradition of liberal education, which emphasizes the importance of breadth of knowing and ways of knowing as central to a student’s education, and defending this view of education from critics who see the tradition as outdated, impractical, and unable to prepare students for the 21st century workforce. Courses of instruction are offered in the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences/mathematics to support a liberal education for the students of the college and to provide a significant portion of the general education requirements of the university. We offer disciplinary and interdisciplinary majors and minors at the bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral levels. The college is committed to outstanding teaching and to significant scholarship and research activities of its faculty and students and encourages involvement with our metropolitan community and the world at large.

The college endorses the goals articulated by the Strategic Plan of the University of Nebraska Omaha to (1) achieve academic excellence, (2) place students at the center of our academic enterprise, and (3) actively engage our community.

College Contact Information:
Arts and Sciences Advising Center
Arts and Sciences Hall, Room 240
402-554-2458

College Website (http://www.unomaha.edu/college-of-arts-and-sciences)

General Information
The College of Arts and Sciences offers Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees, with a diversity of majors from the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences. The college also offers advising for many pre-professional programs preparing students for graduate or professional schools in medicine, allied health and law.

Academic majors are available in the following fields: bioinformatics, biology, biotechnology, black studies, chemistry, economics, English, environmental science, foreign language and literature, general science, geography, geology, history, interdisciplinary studies, international studies, Latin American studies, mathematics, neuroscience, philosophy, physics, political science, psychology, religion, sociology, and women’s and gender studies.

The pre-professional programs of study are determined largely by the requirements of the graduate or professional schools which students intend to enter. If planned carefully, the requirements for a pre-professional program can also meet many of the requirements needed for a B.A. or B.S. degree. These pre-professional programs are not academic majors and a student seeking a degree from UNO must complete the requirements of a major as well. Pre-professional information can be found on the Arts and Sciences website (https://www.unomaha.edu/college-of-arts-and-sciences).

Admission Requirements
All students who have not yet earned any college credit and who are eligible to enter the university are accepted for admission to the college. However, admission of transfer students or students who have previously been enrolled at UNO is evaluated on an individual basis. A 2.0 grade point average in previous course work is required.

Application deadline for admission: August 1 for fall semester, December 1 for spring semester

College of Arts & Sciences Requirements
Students must complete one of the three following alternatives:

1. Minor

Students may complete any UNO minor. Arts and Sciences minors must contain at least 9 hours of upper-division work. In some cases, courses counting toward the minor may also be used toward the student’s cognate requirements when approved by the Educational Policy Committee of the College. See the respective departmental requirements for details. Minors are offered in the following Arts and Sciences fields: ancient Mediterranean studies, anthropology, biology, biotechnology, black studies, chemistry, Chicano-Latino/a studies, economics, English, environmental science, foreign language and literature (French, German, Russian, Spanish), geography, geology, history, Holocaust & genocide studies, human rights studies, international studies, Islamic studies, LGBTQ-Sexuality studies, leadership & public policy, mathematics, medical humanities, Medieval/Renaissance studies, Native American studies, philosophy, physics, political science, psychology, religion, sociology, sustainability, and women’s and gender studies. See the respective departments for details.

2. Other

2. Additional General Education

The University has established minimum General Education requirements. This alternative is designed to further the purposes of liberal education by encouraging students to explore coursework in other areas.

Humanities/Fine Arts (nine additional credit hours)

• Three additional credit hours from a third discipline
• HIST 1000 – World Civilizations I is required
• HIST 1010 – World Civilizations II is required

Transfer students who have taken two semesters of Western Civilization may count three hours toward the World Civilizations II requirement (HIST 1010) and then take three hours of HIST 1000 to complete their World Civilizations requirement, or they may take HIST 2190

Social Sciences (three additional credit hours)

• Three additional credit hours from a third discipline.

Natural and Physical Sciences (four additional credit hours with a lab)

• Four additional credit hours with a corresponding lab.

Quantitative Literacy

• One three credit hour course in mathematics, computer science, statistics, logic or other quantitative topic as specified by the student’s major and approved by the college.

OR
3. Interdisciplinary/Double Major

Students may earn more than one major or complete an interdisciplinary major approved by the College curriculum committee for this alternative. These interdisciplinary majors will require more than 50 credit hours total. Approved interdisciplinary majors are Bioinformatics, Environmental Science and Neuroscience.

College Rules

Upper-Division Rule

Students must have at least 18 hours of upper-division course work in their major and a total of at least 27 credit hours of upper-division work (3000 or 4000-level courses).

Forty-Five Hour Rule

No candidate may count more than 45 credits in any one discipline toward completion of a major.

Four Hour Rule

No candidate may count more than four out of 120 credits in physical education activity classes.

Requirements for The Bachelor of Arts Degree

Students pursuing a Bachelor of Arts degree must complete a major, including at least 18 credit hours of upper-division work, (3000 or 4000-level courses) designated as appropriate by the faculty in one of the following fields: biology, black studies, chemistry, economics, English, foreign language and literature, general science, geography, geology, history, interdisciplinary studies, international studies, Latin American studies, mathematics, philosophy, physics, political science, psychology, religion, sociology, and women and gender studies. A student meeting the requirements in each of two fields may present a double major in these fields, provided that the disciplines do not overlap significantly in requirements and a total of at least 27 credit hours of upper-division work (3000 or 4000-level courses) is completed.

For Bachelor of Arts students, foreign language through the intermediate level is required, as described in the next paragraph.

Foreign Language

For Bachelor of Arts degree-seeking students only, students must complete 16 credit hours of college work in one foreign language, American Sign Language, or equivalent. Up to five credit hours may be used toward the general education requirements. Successful completion of four years of a single language in high school or four college semesters will satisfy this requirement. For unusual circumstances, please contact the Arts & Sciences Advising Center.

A student fulfilling the foreign language requirement through a combination of high school and college work must complete the fourth semester college course of their chosen language.

To enroll in any French, German, Japanese, Russian, or Spanish course beyond 1110, a student who has not successfully completed the prerequisite courses at UNO must take the appropriate placement exam and qualify for the desired course. All students are subject to this requirement including transfer students (including those from UNK/UNL). The Department of Foreign Languages reserves the right to cancel the registration of any student who has not met the prerequisites for a course. Transfer courses at the 3000/4000 level are subject to the approval of a departmental adviser and the department chair. All foreign language courses must be completed with a grade of “C-“ or better to continue to the next course.

The Department of Foreign Languages will grant retroactive credit for French, German, Japanese, Russian, or Spanish 1110, 1120, 2110, or 2120 subject to the following conditions:

• a student who completes any French, German, Japanese, Russian, or Spanish course in the 1120-2120 sequence with a grade of “C-“ (1.67) or better at UNO without having completed the previous courses may be granted credit for those previous courses;

• a student who completes a 3000-level course in French, German, Russian, or Spanish with a grade of “C-“ (1.67) or better at UNO without having completed the 1110-2120 sequence may be granted credit for any of the courses 1110, 1120, 2110, and 2120 for which credit has not already been earned.

Requirements for the Bachelor of Science Degree

The Bachelor of Science degree provides greater opportunity for concentrated and specialized study in a particular field, generally in the natural or social sciences. The requirements for the Bachelor of Science degree are the same as those for the Bachelor of Arts degree except as follows: Each degree candidate must complete a major including at least 18 credit hours of upper-division work (3000 or 4000-level) designated as appropriate by the faculty in one of the following fields: bioinformatics, biology, biotechnology, chemistry, economics, environmental science, geography, geology, history, interdisciplinary studies, mathematics, neuroscience, physics, political science, psychology, and sociology. A student meeting the requirements in each of two fields may present a double major in these fields, provided that the disciplines do not overlap significantly in requirements and a total of at least 27 credit hours of upper-division work (3000 or 4000-level courses) is completed.

Foreign language is not required for students completing a B.S. degree. Instead, students must complete cognate courses as described in the next paragraph.

Cognate Courses

Each Bachelor of Science degree requires a minimum of 15 credit hours from cognate fields, outside the student’s major department. Up to six credit hours may be used toward the general education requirements. These cognate courses must support the student’s work within the major. Each department shall determine criteria and procedures for the selection of courses for each student; these criteria and procedures should be approved by the Educational Policy Committee of the College. In most cases, students completing a minor or double major for the College of Arts and Sciences Requirements may not count the coursework for the same minor or double major toward their cognate coursework, unless approved by the Educational Policy Committee of the College. See the respective departmental requirements for details.

Residency Requirement

30 of the last 36 hours required for the degree must be registered for and completed at UNO. Some majors and minors may have residency requirements in addition to this and the chairperson for the department of the major or minor should be contacted for information.

Transfer Credit Policy

The University allows transfer of a maximum of 64 credit hours from community colleges. STEM majors may transfer 67 credit hours from community colleges. The Arts and Sciences Advising Center should be contacted for information on transferability of courses applying to College of Arts and Sciences requirements. Students may be referred to departmental advisors for transferability of courses toward major or minor requirements.

Unacceptable Credits

Remedial, developmental, or technical coursework may not be used toward the fulfillment of the 120 credit hour requirement. Courses taken at a community college that are upper-division level courses in the College of Arts and Sciences may not be counted as equivalent to
upper-division Arts and Sciences courses. At the discretion of the advisor and the department, these courses may be used toward required or elective coursework but may not be used to meet upper-division requirements.

**Quality of Work**

Students seeking a degree must maintain an average grade of at least "C" (2.0) in all college work, including work transferred from other institutions. Students must earn a grade of at least "C" (1.67) in all coursework intended to satisfy general education, major or minor requirements, however some majors may require a minimum of a "C" (2.0). (Courses passed with less than a C- can still count as elective credit used towards the 120 credits needed to graduate, but will not satisfy specific requirements.) To qualify for a grade of "CR" in any course in the College of Arts and Sciences, a student must earn a grade of at least "C-" (1.67) in that course. All grades reported by the faculty to the registrar become part of the students' permanent records and are included in the computation of their grade point averages, even though some of these grades may be for work done in excess of the 120 hours required for graduation. In order to graduate, students must attain a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0 ("C"). The only exception to this rule is provided in the section of these requirements entitled "Amnesty Clause."

**Grade Appeal Policy**

If a student believes that a final course grade has been assigned erroneously, the student should contact the instructor of the course immediately. If the problem cannot be resolved with the instructor, and if the student believes that the instructor's grading reflects prejudice or caprice, then the student should immediately contact the chairperson of the department in which the course was taught for information about the department grade appeal process. If a formal grade appeal is completed at the department level, either the student or the instructor may request, within 30 days of the department decision, a final hearing from the College. For information on the College process, please contact the Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

There is a separate process for issues of academic integrity such as cheating or plagiarism. Please contact the Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences for additional information.

**Academic Amnesty**

A student who didn’t perform well during one or both of their **first two semesters** at UNO, UNL or UNK, may petition the Educational Policy Committee to have either or both of their first two semesters' grades removed from their cumulative grade point average (GPA). No other semesters may be considered. Students may choose to keep courses taken during those first two semesters in which a minimum grade of "C-" (1.67) was earned. If a student chooses to keep these courses, they will count towards degree requirements, credits towards graduation and they will contribute to the cumulative grade point average.

This petition is subject to the following stipulations:

- The student must be at least four years removed from the semester or year to be deleted.
- The student is responsible for initiation of the petition.
- This petition must come through the student's counselor or academic advisor to the Dean of the college.
- The student must complete at least 24 consecutive semester hours of coursework with a GPA of 2.5 or higher from any of the University of Nebraska system universities (UNO, UNL and UNK) before a petition will be considered.
- The only semesters eligible for amnesty are the first two semesters from any of the University of Nebraska system universities (UNO, UNL or UNK).

The Arts and Sciences Dean’s Office will make the calculations based on college rules and report cases in question to the Educational Policy Committee.

- Students who are granted academic amnesty cannot be considered for degrees with honors at graduation.
- Even if academic amnesty is granted, grades that are removed from the student’s GPA will still show on their academic transcripts, therefore will be seen by anyone evaluating those transcripts.

Therefore, students may petition to have grades from courses in either or both semesters of their University of Nebraska freshman year removed from their cumulative grade point averages, but may count courses in which they earn at least a "C-") toward graduation requirements. Academic amnesty is not allowed after a student has graduated.

**Academic Advising**

Advising in the College of Arts and Sciences is shared between the professional advisors in the Arts and Sciences Advising Center, and professional or faculty advisors in the departmental majors. Students start with an advisor in the Advising Center and transition to the departmental major advisor once they have a declared major and at least 27 earned credits. Undeclared students in the College of Arts and Sciences may be advised by advisors in the Advising Center past 27 earned credits.

The College of Arts and Sciences is responsible for the advising of pre-health students. As such, the Health Careers Resource Center is available to assist students with pre-health advising needs. Students seeking careers in healthcare may seek advising from the advisors in the Health Careers Resource Center, located in Allwine Hall, Room 307, at any point in their academic career. Students also seeking a major or degree from UNO must continue to see their college and major advisors to ensure correct course selection of major coursework.

**Senior Check**

After completing 91 hours of course work, students must have their schedules checked in the Dean’s Office each semester until graduation. Assuming satisfactory completion of all approved courses, this process will assure the student’s graduation date. Should this procedure not be followed, responsibility for meeting graduation requirements falls on the student; if errors are made they can prevent graduation at the anticipated date. Multiple options exist for Senior Checks to be conducted, and are outlined on the Arts and Sciences Advising Center website here (http://www.unomaha.edu/college-of-arts-and-sciences/academic-advising-center/resources/graduation.php#check).