a look at Notre Dame’s

College of Arts and Letters

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The College of Arts and Letters is the oldest and largest college at the University of Notre Dame.

- Arts and Letters is home to approximately 500 faculty, 2,800 undergraduates, and 1,000 graduate students.
- Established in 1842—the year Notre Dame was founded—the College began awarding degrees in 1849.

- Almost 70% of Arts and Letters classes have fewer than 20 students.
- Overall, the student-to-faculty ratio is just 12:1.
- The College has 20 academic departments with more than 50 majors and minors, including interdisciplinary programs and honors tracks in almost every subject. The College also offers more than 20 graduate-degree programs.
Over the past decade, Notre Dame has ranked in the Top 3 among research universities for the percentage of students who study abroad.

Two-thirds of all students in the College of Arts and Letters travel to more than 60 locations around the world to take courses, participate in service, or do original research.

The College of Arts and Letters provides instruction in 14 languages, including Arabic, Korean, and Irish.

Through the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program, the College awarded grants and stipends of approximately $300,000 to more than 150 students in the 2011–12 academic year and summer 2012.

Through its Summer Language Abroad program, the College awarded $300,000 in 2012 to more than 70 undergraduate and graduate students—many of whom advance their fluency level by two full semesters in just one summer.

All undergraduates enrolled in Arts and Letters complete the College Seminar, in which they explore significant issues or enduring questions while developing public speaking and presentation skills.

Each year, one-third of all seniors complete a yearlong thesis project, working one-on-one with a faculty member or graduate student to make an intellectual contribution to their chosen field of study.

The Arts and Letters Summer Internship Program helps majors in the College hone their skills in the world of work—providing $110,000 in stipends to more than 50 students in 2012.

Six months after graduating, 42% of Arts and Letters students are employed full time, 31% are in graduate or professional school, 21% are in service programs or pursuing independent projects, 4% are in the military, and only 2% are still seeking work.