

The College of Arts and Letters

liberal arts at Notre Dame—
a smart investment for life



Three in One

Notre Dame's College of Arts and Letters:

- 1 a teaching-focused liberal arts college
- 2 a dynamic hub for new research by faculty and students
- 3 an international center for scholarship in the Catholic intellectual tradition



A Liberal Arts Foundation

Drawing on the medieval concept of *artes liberalis*—the Latin *liber* means free—an Arts and Letters education at Notre Dame does not train you for just a single profession. Rather, by fostering curiosity and a commitment to lifelong learning, it prepares you for life.

"A 'liberal' education is precious precisely because it provides you the opportunity to reflect upon great moral and intellectual questions.

"Yes, you develop analytical, writing, and speaking skills you can employ in the world of work, but you also learn to relish the humane pleasure that comes from the close study of works of art, diverse cultures, and complex human problems."

– John T. McGreevy
I.A. O'Shaughnessy Dean of the College of Arts and Letters and Professor of History



Scholars as Teachers

The College of Arts and Letters combines the intimate atmosphere of a residential liberal arts college with the dynamic qualities of a preeminent research university in which professors are both dedicated teachers and active scholars.

The award-winning faculty bring to the classroom and to conversations with students the latest knowledge of their fields, challenging students to develop the intellectual, linguistic, and research skills to advance knowledge—even as undergraduates—with their own essays, experiments, and performances.

12:1
the College's overall
student-to-faculty
ratio

Catholic Intellectual Tradition

Imbued with a centuries-old tradition of inquiry and anchored in the world's most global and multilingual institution, our Catholicism propels us both to ask the enduring questions—Does religion matter? What is human excellence? How should we live our lives?—and to tackle the most pressing issues of the day.

Within this broad intellectual scope, Arts and Letters faculty lead centers of scholarship in religion, politics, history, and economics as well as literature, sociology, psychology, the arts, and more.

al.nd.edu/about-us

What Will Your Business Card Say?

Arts and Letters alumni are in every state in the country, almost every country in the world—and most every profession you can imagine.



CEO of Sprint Nextel Corporation. President of DePauw University. Sundance-winning documentary filmmaker. Chief innovation officer and global vice chair at Edelman. U.S. ambassador to Mozambique. Editor-in-chief of *GQ* magazine.

All are graduates of the College of Arts and Letters.

What unites these and all Arts and Letters alumni is their ability to ask questions, to engage in critical and creative thinking, to research complex issues and solve challenging problems, and to write effectively and speak persuasively—essential skills employers in today's idea- and service-driven economy demand.

98% the percentage of Arts and Letters students who right after graduation are:

- employed full time (42%)
- going to graduate or professional school (31%)
- engaged in service programs or independent projects (21%)
- serving in the military (4%)

Only **2%** are still seeking work six months after graduating, according to a Career Center survey.

Note: The survey cited above included 93 percent of all 2011 Arts and Letters graduates; "independent projects" include activities such as writing a novel, creating a film, traveling the world, caring for a family member, etc.

Did You Know?

- 500 employers visit campus each year to recruit students
- 7,000 on-campus job interviews take place every year
- 20,000 internships are accessible through careercenter.nd.edu

al.nd.edu/about-alums

Invest in Yourself



Students in Arts and Letters study what they love in the classroom—and then use what they learn.

Arts and Letters' 20 departments offer more than **40 majors and 40 minors**, from international economics and design to politics and the classics.

In keeping with the ideals of a broad-based education, students have the flexibility to complete their major, perhaps add a minor, and *still* explore other interests with a variety of elective courses.

Another hallmark of an Arts and Letters education is **College Seminar**, which builds on the discussion-based University Seminar every first-year ND student takes.

Reserved just for sophomores enrolled in the College, CSem courses are small, interdisciplinary classes in which students are challenged to develop their presentation and public speaking skills.

Students can pursue multiple research and internship opportunities.

Most every major includes an honors track and the option to do a **senior thesis**, working with a professor on a research or creative project of your choosing. Grants to assist with research (including travel) are available through the **Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program**.

Arts and Letters also sponsors the **John and Barbara Glynn Family Honors Program**, which invites the highest-achieving students in each year's incoming class to join a rigorous course of study combining the humanities and sciences. The program offers seminar-style alternatives to a number of required University and College courses and summer research funding.

Students in Arts and Letters are asked to think early in their college careers about how their studies can lead to a career in business or to acceptance into elite graduate, professional, and fellowship programs after graduation.

For details, visit the websites for the **Arts and Letters Summer Internship Program** and the **Center for Undergraduate Scholarly Engagement**.

70
the percentage of Arts and Letters
classes with **fewer than
20 students**



al.nd.edu/our-majors

Rob Cain is unabashed. "I know that there is concern about whether a liberal arts education is the right choice in this economy," he says. "Let me tell you something: It's the *best* choice. In a tough economy, it is important to have the broadest set of marketable skills possible—and that develops over a four-year undergraduate education in the liberal arts."

It doesn't matter which major you pick, he says, because they all build critical thinking, creativity, storytelling, and relationship management. "And these capabilities offer you much greater marketability than if you were to choose to specialize at this point in your career," Cain says.

"You should broaden your base as wide as possible because the jobs you're going to compete for three or four years from now, half of them probably don't exist today."

"People ask me all the time: 'You're an English major and now you're a CIO? You're in a technical role?' You know," he says, "I'm in a role that requires critical thinking and creative solutions to business problems."

"I find that the more responsibility I have been given, the more what I do becomes about people and communicating with people. The abilities I honed in Arts and Letters—to read and to write, to comprehend and to communicate—have been the single biggest driver for being successful."

The same set of skills are needed in the new employees he hires, he says.

"I've not met anyone yet in business who couldn't be trained in whatever we wanted to train them in, whether it's finance or technology or accounting," Cain says. "But you can't really train critical thinking. You really have to develop that through education."



Rob Cain '91

at ND :
English

now:
chief information officer,
enabling functions,
Coca-Cola Company

"You really learn there's no perfect answer,"

Elizabeth Cuda says. "The professors in Arts and Letters are always asking you to dig deeper, find better answers, go back and look again—really just find other solutions to problems."

"And in my current position, what we're doing is solving problems and looking for new ways we can go about doing things. They don't even tell us what problems are there; we have to research it and then when we find the problem, they say, 'Okay, how do you want to go about fixing it?'"

"All the writing and research I did built a foundation for what I do in my job. These are the skills I use day to day—and these skills that employers look for are what Notre Dame ingrains in you."

Success after graduation is also a matter of versatility, she says.

"In the workforce, you never know what they're going to throw at you, and a degree in the liberal arts really prepares you. You get to study language, the arts, theology, philosophy—things that give you a foundation to be a persuasive talker and give presentations that pull from all different backgrounds."

Cuda says she changed jobs two times in the first five years after Notre Dame. "And I know that in five to 10 years I might have two or four more different jobs, but my education in the liberal arts provided me a wealth of background knowledge so I feel like I can do any sort of job."

"My degree from Arts and Letters is really the greatest value—the best investment I have ever made."



Elizabeth Cuda '07

at ND :
political science, music

now:
program analyst, Office
of the Inspector General,
Department of Justice

Become a Global Citizen



Knowing a second (or third) language is your passport to understanding other cultures—and a high-priority skill in many business, government, and nonprofit jobs.

Arts and Letters students can choose from among courses in 13 languages—from Arabic to Korean to Irish.

The College's **Center for the Study of Languages and Cultures** also offers multimedia learning resources, cultural activities, and grants to participate in a **Summer Language Abroad** immersion program.

All students in Arts and Letters are required to attain at least an intermediate level of proficiency in another language.



2/3 of all Arts and Letters students travel abroad at least once for a semester, summer, or break, going to more than 60 different locations around the world to conduct research, do service, and improve their language skills.



Did You Know?

— 92% of the world's economic growth is in markets outside the United States

Source: U.S. Chamber of Commerce, 2012

— 64% of business executives speak at least two languages

Source: Korn/Ferry International, 2005

al.nd.edu/study-abroad

As a linguist, artist, semiotician, and interdisciplinary scholar committed to social action, Mary Atwood is a quintessential example of a liberal arts student.

Drawing on seven weeks of independent research in Peru, the theology major completed a senior thesis on three Inca legends she learned during interviews with Quechua speakers in the ancient capital city of Cusco. The first part of her project translates and interprets the legends for English-speaking students; the second part is a series of original oil paintings that can communicate with both Quechua and English-speaking audiences.

Already a student of Spanish and Japanese, Atwood says her path to Peru started when she took two classes in Quechua—just for fun. “The professors, however, taught me to fall in love with the language. They’re both Peruvian, and our studies became sort of a Quechua version of *Dead Poets Society*.”

“My senior thesis allowed me to wear a lot of hats,” Atwood says. “It involved painting, linguistics, anthropological research, photography, and informal interviews. For me, it was a lovely culmination of my Arts and Letters degree.”

The project was also an unforgettable personal experience, as she illustrates in a conversation she cites in her thesis: “Why do you laugh?” Atwood asks an interviewee. “My Quechua isn’t *that* bad!”

“My listener grabbed my hands and started patting them, saying, ‘No, no, my sister, I laugh because I cannot believe a *gringa* is speaking to me in Quechua. I laugh because I am happy, because I never thought someone from your country would want to learn our language. A North American wants to learn my language. That makes me proud, and for that I laugh.”



Mary Atwood '12

at ND:
theology, Glynn Family Honors scholar

now:
paid intern, ND Office of Campus Ministry

He wanted to get the most out of college.

Patrick McCormick organized a University-wide rally and basketball tournament to advocate for peace in Sudan. He was co-chair of a national conference on sustainability and justice. He led the development of the West Side Food Security Coalition, which brings fresh foods to low-income people in South Bend, Ind. He interned at the Bipartisan Policy Center in Washington, D.C., working on refugee resettlement.

“I also had the opportunity to research xenophobia and immigration policy in South Africa, study the relationship between education and international development in Haiti, and attend meetings with officials at the United Nations,” McCormick says. “These experiences each played a major role in my academic and personal formation.”

“Notre Dame provides us with extraordinary opportunities through funding for undergraduate research and travel grants that give us a chance to get outside our comfort zones and see the world from different angles.”

After graduating from Notre Dame—where as a senior he was student body president and a winner of the Kroc Institute’s 2012 Yarrow Award—McCormick is continuing to pursue his interests in public policy and consensus building.

As a Rhodes Scholarship finalist, he began the University of Oxford’s graduate program in refugee and forced-migration studies in fall 2012, funded by the Weidenfeld Scholarship and Leadership Program.



Patrick McCormick '12

at ND:
political science, peace studies

now:
graduate student at the University of Oxford

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