A&S Overview

We believe that an excellent education in the liberal arts and sciences is the best preparation for life and work in a world of increasing diversity and rapid change. It prepares our graduates to be informed critical-thinkers, creative problem-solvers, and confident communicators.

Our students learn by doing: they conduct research and express their artistry; include ethical considerations in their thinking and decision-making; and experience the world from the perspectives of cultures other than their own.

The University of Louisville is a Carnegie Research I University, and the College of Arts & Sciences is its research hub. Impacting the health and well-being of local, national and global communities, our faculty and students collaborate across departments to explore the past, improve the present, and plan for the future. We value our role in Louisville and enjoy helping our community. Through cutting-edge methodologies, innovative research and creative activities, engaged teaching using 21st Century tools, and rigorous scholarship, we are advancing knowledge and preparing the next generation of leaders, thinkers, dreamers, and doers.

The College of Arts & Sciences enrolls nearly half of the student body and our faculty teach the majority of the general education courses. Offering 89 degree programs across the arts, humanities, social, behavioral, natural and physical sciences, and math, we are at the heart of the University’s educational mission.

History

A&S History: More than 100 Years of Learning

In 1907, the University of Louisville, a semi-private institution at the time, established the Academic Department, which contained the College of Liberal Arts and the Graduate School of Liberal Arts. With 104 students, 15 departments, and 3 undergraduate and graduate courses of study, the College was first located at 119 West Broadway in a converted private home that once belonged to steamboat Captain Silas Miller.

In 1923, the University acquired the property for Belknap Campus and A&S moved to Gardiner Hall. Built in 1872, it is the oldest surviving building on campus.

In 1951, Louisville Municipal College, a separate and segregated four-year liberal arts college administered by the UofL Board of Trustees, closed. Most LMC students
entered the College of Arts and Sciences.

In 1970, the University of Louisville entered the state university system as Kentucky’s second-largest public university. This had a profound effect on the University and on A&S and, by the 1980s, A&S enrollment had almost doubled.

Since the College’s founding in 1907, A&S majors have earned well over 50,000 degrees.

A&S Now

We are the heart of UofL

- As the home of the liberal arts and sciences, A&S provides more than 90% of the courses students need for their General Education requirements. More than 50% of courses are taught by A&S faculty.
- A&S enrolls approximately 7,000 undergraduate and 700 graduate students.
- Approximately 420 full-time faculty teach in A&S and 200 staff.
- A&S has 86 degree programs in 24 departments across the arts and humanities; the natural and physical sciences; and the social and behavioral sciences.
  - 51 undergraduate degree programs
  - 12 active doctoral programs
  - 23 master’s programs
  - 11 graduate and 2 undergraduate certificates
- There are nearly 46,000 living A&S alumni, 53% of which live in the Greater Louisville area.

We think therefore, we research and innovate.

- In the past five years, A&S has raised more than $38 million for research.
- Current funding sources include 32 different federal, state, and local agencies as well as seven private foundations.
- Faculty average over 600 scholarly publications each year.
- A hub of research and creative activity, A&S houses approximately 30 centers and institutes.
- There were more than 80 engaged research and scholarship projects in 2014-15.

We think, therefore we engage.

- A&S faculty and students are teaching, researching, and serving in 117 Kentucky counties, 3 states and 11 countries.
- A&S faculty, staff, and students are involved in more than 200 community programs and projects.

We think, therefore we excel.

- Of the 16 students who won national awards in 2014-15, 14 are recent graduates and alumni from the College of Arts & Sciences – including six Fulbrights, two Critical Language Scholars, one Truman Scholar and one English-Speaking Union Scholar.
- Of the 90 UofL student winners of Fulbrights since 2000, 69 (77%) were from A&S.