



The Independent
A Newsletter for Liberal Studies

December 2009 Graduation Fair

Date:

Tuesday, October 6th

Time: 11:00—6:00

Location: Red Barn

- Apply for your degree (degree application for December 2009 applicants will be open that day)
- Order Apparel, Class Rings, Diploma Frames, Announcements
- Get ready for the Commencement Ceremony – Dec 17, 2009
- Win Prizes

Meet representatives from:

- Office of Enrollment Management - Commencement Staff
- Registrar's Office
- Bursar's Office

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Fall 2009 Career Development Center Workshops

Resume & Job Search Strategies Workshop, Oct 14, 12:30-1:30pm, Belknap Research Building, Room 139

Graduate School Preparation Workshop, Oct 28, 12:30-1:30pm, Belknap Research Building, Room 139

Please go to <https://louisville.edu/career/about-us/our-services.html> for the range of services Career Development provides.

Writers Needed!

If you would like to contribute an article to an upcoming issue of The Independent, please let us know! As a thank you for your contribution, you'll receive a Barnes & Noble gift card.

A Pep Talk (and a suggestion) from Maggie



Your proposal represents the initial articulation of your program, your interests and abilities, your intent, and the marriage of these ambitions with other life goals. However, as you progress through your degree and become consumed with the demands and minutiae of the moment, it may be helpful to remember the broader meaning.

As a Liberal Studies major, you have seized the opportunity to design a program of study tailored to your own interests. You possess the maturity, independence, and motivation necessary to create and complete a unique degree plan. Because of your research and initiative, you understand that your B.A. is both a significant milestone and a crucial first step toward later achievement.

Our Liberal Studies Program is one example of a significant trend in higher education – interdisciplinary inquiry that transcends the bounds of the single discipline major. NYU's Gallatin College, Carnegie-Mellon, Amherst, University of Connecticut, University of Iowa, University of Alabama, University of Michigan, and University of Minnesota have similar programs and enjoy a robust student population which, despite varying interests and aspirations, has in common the focus, courage, and discipline to seek their own path. You are not alone! You may be a trendsetter, a pioneer, a hybrid...but you are in good and illustrious company.

New learning, new questions, and new theories happen in the space between fields. Think about it: in pursuit of a single discipline, one can follow an idea through an ever-narrowing prospect. But when an idea is born between disciplines, the view expands and the search for meaning is illimitable.

During your time here, I hope you'll revisit your proposal. Since you've begun your major, do you find you are more engaged in your learning? Are you more committed to your goals? What occurred that you expected? What about the unexpected and how did you adapt? How have things come together (or not)? Do you strategize your next step? Consider writing a retrospective statement. It will, I promise, be good preparation for graduate/professional school essays and the job market. It will help you process your undergraduate experiences and may reveal important steps you have yet to take.

Dates to Remember:

- REACH's Midterm Blitz - Sept., 29—October 9. This focuses on midterm exams with test reviews, study sessions, and Student Success Seminars.
- Take back the Night - Sept., 29, 5 p.m. - 7:30 p.m., Red Barn
- **Last day to withdraw from class**– Oct. 15
- Fall Break - Oct 12-13
- Flu Shots begin - Oct 12
- **Pre-registration begins October 26th.** Check <http://louisville.edu/registrar/registration-information/prereg.html> for the full calendar.

Don't Do List

We want the same thing: for your degree progress to be smooth and culminate in your B.A. Just as I'd warn someone getting ready to trip or bump their head, please consider the following:

- Don't disregard prerequisites. Some students, especially transfer students, may be able to register for a course without first completing prerequisites. The deeper you go into content, the more important it becomes to have "solid ground" under your feet. When YOU know you don't know the content, your grip on the subject gets slick and progress is haphazard (also, you tend to feel awful and anxious and all those things we'd like to avoid). Build mastery of your subject.
- Which leads to: if you appealed to a professor to gain a seat you would otherwise not have...don't give him or her cause to regret it. Always preserve the path for those who follow!
- Don't delay courses you dread. Everyone's degree has some course which they'd like to avoid. But putting off a requirement can work against the student. It looms larger, anxiety heightens, and (worst case scenario) if you delay 'til the end of your degree and don't pass, you must stay 'til you do. Typical avoid-to-the-end courses are the gen ed math requirement, foreign language, and—for those Psych minors out there—Psych 301 and 302. Requirements don't go away. Facing a challenge, especially with the support of the university's resources, is the better option.
- Don't wait 'til things are dire to seek help. Make it a habit to introduce yourself to your professor, form a study group with the other students, and seek tutoring early if you think you might need it.
- Don't forget to preregister and, if you need me, schedule advising well in advance of your early registration date.



AND SPEAKING OF APPOINTMENTS FOR SPRING REGISTRATION



Out of the Office

In addition to teaching here this semester, Dr. Hale is teaching courses at Yale. He'll be in the office Thursdays and Fridays; the best way to reach him is still by email at jrhale@louisville.edu

I will be out the week of October 19th. If you'd like to schedule a degree check before pre-registration begins, it's a good idea to call in early October (852-2249).





The University of Louisville
Liberal Studies Program
320 Gardiner Hall
Louisville, Kentucky 40292
(502) 852-2249
www.louisville.edu/a-s/lbst

Graduate Record Exam Seminars at REACH

Beginning again---GRE Seminars:

Students may want to take advantage of REACH's second series of GRE seminars which review GRE test taking strategies in a series of four free sessions. Students can get advice and a head start with tutors who have scored well in the past.

Monday sessions (series of four meetings)@ 2:00 - 2:50pm

Wednesdays (series of four meetings)@ 11:00 - 11:50am

Session 1-Introduction

Session 2- Math

Session 3-Verbal

Session 4-Analytical Writing:

Location for all: Strickler Hall, Room 111

Questions: Call the Learning Resource Center at 852-7516

You must be the
change you wish to
see in the world.

Mahatma Gandhi