

The LAS Insider

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Information Sessions for LAS Students

Interested in Teaching?

Are you an undergraduate student thinking about a teaching career in secondary education? Then attend this information session on **March 8th**.

4:00–4:50 pm in Room 140 BSB

RSVP with Shatell Coleman
scolem1@uic.edu by March 5th

Interested in Pharmacy?

Dr. Thomas TenHoeve, III, Associate Dean in the Office of Student Affairs of the UIC College of Pharmacy, will speak with UIC pre-pharmacy students on

March 6th.

4:00 pm in B1 LC

He will address the expectations of the admissions committee when reviewing applicants to the College of Pharmacy.

This is a free event, sponsored by the Pre-Health Advisors in the LAS Academic Advising Center.

Interested in Veterinary Medicine?

Leslie Shaver, Associate Director of Admissions at Ross University, will speak with UIC pre-vet students on

March 19th.

3:00–4:00 pm in A7 LC

This is a free event for UIC students interested in veterinary medicine, sponsored by the Pre-Health Advisors in the LAS Academic Advising Center.

Interested in Medicine?

Dr. Parkash Talwar will speak on "Medicine for Humanity" on

March 7th.

3:00 pm in F6 LC

All UIC pre-medical students are welcome. This is a free event, sponsored by the Pre-Health Advisors in the LAS Academic Advising Center.

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Registration Issues

Registration for Summer and Fall 2007 will begin in April. Here are a few things to keep in mind before you sit down to register so that there won't be any surprises.

- **Know the EXACT date and time you will be eligible to register.** This information can be found under "Registration" then "Registration Eligibility" in UIC Web for Student after March 5th.
- **Check to see if you have any holds that will prevent your registration.** Take care of these issues (i.e. pay your bill, get your shots/immunizations, see an advisor, fulfill probation requirements, etc...).
- **See an Advisor** (within LAS and your major department) to verify and review the courses you should be taking and ask any questions regarding graduation requirements.
- **MVSC 251 registration for the Fall semester.** Students must put their names on a waitlist found on the Movement Science homepage (www.ahs.uic.edu/mvsc/). The waitlist should be up toward the end of March.
- **The maximum number of hours for which you may register is 18 hours during the Fall semester and 10 during the Summer.** Once classes have begun you may request approval to take additional hours by speaking to a LAS Advisor prior to the end of the add/drop period.
- **You CANNOT repeat a course in which you earned a "C" or better.** If you repeat a "D" grade you will lose credit for the first time you took the class. Both grades will factor into your GPA. If you have questions about this policy, consult a LAS Advisor.
- **If you earned an INCOMPLETE in a previous semester, DO NOT re-register for the class.** Please contact the professor and determine what you must do to finish the course in the next semester. An incomplete will become a 'F' after two semesters.

Once you sit down to register....

- Register as close to your starting date and time as possible. Give yourself the best shot at getting the courses and class times you want.
- Check the Course catalog to make sure you have taken the Pre-requisite courses and are registering for the Co-requisite courses if applicable.
- If a course says **DEPARTMENT APPROVAL** required, contact the specific department. (Ex. If you are trying to register for Psch 399, contact the Psychology department).
- If a course is closed when you try to register, don't be discouraged. Check back often to see if a seat has become available.

Taking Summer Courses

Community colleges both in the Chicago area and beyond will soon post their summer offerings, enticing many UIC students to enroll in these classes. The benefits of taking this route (closer to home, cheaper tuition, may be academically "easier" than UIC equivalent) make it seem like a no-brainer to take advantage of, but there are some major drawbacks that many students do not consider.

- Once enrolled at UIC, any remaining courses needed to fulfill the English Composition requirement must be taken at UIC. (p.155 in the 2005-2007 catalog)
- Sequential courses in areas such as Foreign Language, Math, and Chemistry (and others) should be taken exclusively at UIC to ensure adequate preparation and strong academic performance.
- If a student achieves Junior standing (cumulative 60 hours of college-level coursework), UIC can no longer accept community college credit towards the 120 credits needed to graduate.

- Many major programs have residency requirements that limit the amount of transfer credit applicable towards the major.

The undergraduate catalog (p. 159) outlines the University's policy pertaining to transferring credit from another institution once enrolled at UIC. It states that if a student does not obtain written permission from their college, the credit earned cannot be accepted to apply towards their UIC degree.

The bottom line is, if you want to take courses over the summer elsewhere, you have to see an LAS Advisor to discuss your options and gain prior approval. If the course is in your major then you also need prior approval from your major department. Community college can be a great opportunity to catch up or get ahead, but if this process is not followed, your good intentions and efforts may go to waste.

The Value of a Liberal Arts Degree



The next time someone tells me “you can’t get a job with a Liberal Arts degree,” I’m going to scream. Not only because they’re insulting me (a proud double major in Modern Languages and International Studies) and the majority of my colleagues, but also because a Liberal Arts degree can be one of the most valuable degrees out there. You just have to know how to use it.

Yes, I’m saying there are other choices out there besides a major in Business, Nursing, or Engineering. In fact, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences offers 42 different majors, ranging from Classics to Neuroscience to Sociology. (For a complete list of available majors, check out page 156 in the 2005-2007 catalog.) LAS even offers a brand new major, Gender and Women’s Studies.

So, then, what can you do with a degree from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences?

The answer is: anything.

The Liberal Arts degree challenges you as a student to be well-versed in a wide variety of subjects instead of specializing in one specific area. That means **you’re going to have a wide base of knowledge in all kinds of different subjects**, a plus for any employer. So the next time you’re sulking over having to complete your Foreign Language requirement, stop and think about it— a potential employee who has even the most basic conversational skills in a foreign language is more valuable than one who does not.

Throughout the course of your studies at UIC, you have probably lamented all of those long papers you’ve had to write. But that’s part of the beauty of a Liberal Arts degree— **it teaches you how to write**. Throughout your degree, you’ve written everything from persuasive essays to research papers to soliloquies. On top of that, your Liberal Arts background has **taught you to think critically**. Believe it or not, writing skills and critical thinking ability are two incredibly important skills that employers look for in potential employees. **You have learned how to learn, and that’s one of the most important and underrated skills necessary for getting a job**. Think about it— if you know how to learn, you can learn anything, especially new skills needed for a job.

Your Liberal Arts diploma **comes complete with an incredibly valuable skill set**. When you start to peruse the want-ads in the newspaper or online, you’ll begin to notice a few buzz-words that most employers are looking for: interpersonal skills, writing skills, problem-solving, etc. These are all skills that you have learned as a Liberal Arts student.

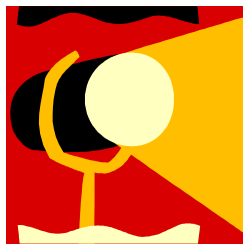
What else does your Liberal Arts degree say about you?

You’re well-rounded, and passionate about education. You love learning for the sake of learning, instead of being totally career-driven. You’re flexible (heck, you had to take all those natural science classes!) and of course, you’re smart. The world is your oyster.

Will you have to work hard to get the job of your dreams after graduation?

Of course! You’re going to need to get creative when it comes to sending out applications. Ask yourself: “What do I *really* want to do?” Just because you’re a psychology major (or any other major, for that matter) doesn’t mean that you can only get a job within the field of psychology. Think about what skills you’ve had to learn as a part of your major, and how those skills can be adapted to the workforce. If you’re having trouble putting your finger on what those skills might be, think about wandering over to Career Services (located in 3050 SSB) and utilizing their extensive library and career advising.

It’s true, some jobs will require additional education, such as a Master’s degree or a PhD. However, as a Liberal Arts undergrad, you’re well equipped for the challenge.



Anthropology Major

Currently, over 100 LAS students are pursuing anthropology as a major.

Anthropology is the study of human cultural and biological diversity over time and space. The 33-hour major consists of coursework in physical anthropology, archaeology, and ethnography. The wide range of faculty expertise gives students the opportunity to pursue interests in most of the significant time periods and geographic regions of the world.

An undergraduate education in anthropology prepares students for a variety of careers that involve working with individuals of diverse national or ethnic backgrounds. Graduates of the major have secured careers in health care services, social work, cultural resource management, museum education, public housing, employment and personnel counseling, public office, Peace Corps, field archaeology, import business, market research, Foreign Service, and social and environmental planning.

For further information, please see:

UIC Anthropology Department Website

<http://www.uic.edu/depts/anth/anthprog.html>

American Anthropological Association

<http://www.aaanet.org/students.htm>

<http://www.aaanet.org/careersbroch.htm>

<http://www.aaanet.org/resinet.htm#bio>

National Association for the Practice of Anthropology

<http://www.practicinganthropology.org/>

Archaeological Institute of America

<http://www.archaeological.org/>

Society for American Archaeology

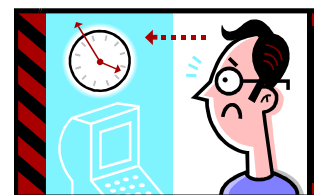
<http://www.saa.org/student/index.html>

Anthropology Resources on the Internet

<http://www.anthropologie.net/>

<http://www.anthro.net/>

It's Past the Deadline, but I Want to Drop a Class



1. If you need to drop a class because of extenuating circumstances (not for academic reasons) then see an LAS Advisor about a late drop petition.
2. If it is close to the end of the semester and you have had an emergency and are unable to finish the course work required then talk with the instructor about an incomplete. Read the incomplete grade policy at <http://www.uic.edu/ucat/catalog/AS.shtml> or on page 32 of the 2005-2007 Undergraduate Catalog.
3. If you aren't doing well in multiple classes then talk with an advisor about a University Withdrawal.
4. If none of the above fit your situation, then talk with the instructor and/or LAS Advisor about tutoring options and ways to improve your grade.

Top Poor Excuses for Low Grades

1. **“This course covered too much material.”**
Great! That means you are getting your money’s worth. At over \$200 a credit, you should complain about *not* getting a lot of information.
2. **“There was too much memorization.”** You may have been told that memorization is not important—that’s not true. You can’t possibly hope to have creative insights unless you have memorized all the relevant information. Rote memorization is a *choice*. If you remember facts and concepts as part of an integrated whole that expands your intellectual horizons, it won’t be rote. If you merely remember things to get through the next exam, it will be rote, and a whole lot less interesting, too. But that is solely *your choice*.
3. **“I studied for hours.”** How many? The general rule of thumb is 2 hours a week for every credit hour. That means that 15 credit hours translates to an average of 30 hours a week of studying outside of your class time. The one thing you can count on is that a few hours of cramming before the final will *not* give good results.
4. **“I know the material—I just don’t do well on exams.”** I’ve met students who *claim* to know the material but do not do well on exams. However, when you press them, it turns out they *don’t* know the material after all. If you can’t answer questions about the material or apply the knowledge in an unfamiliar context, you *don’t know it*. You might have vague impressions of specific ideas, but if you can’t describe them in detail and relate them to other ideas, *you don’t know the material*.
5. **“I don’t have time for all of this.”** Life is about choices. We all have more to do than we can reasonably accomplish, and we have to set priorities. So we may have to accept tradeoffs. Some options:
 - Reduce your credit load and take longer to get your college degree
 - Cut back on social events
 - Cut back on work hours
 - When you have two conflicting assignments, focus on the most important one

Not Doing Well...Take These Steps

Are you worried about not doing well in your classes? Here are some steps you can take to help raise your grades:

1. Identify areas in which you can improve and develop new skills or strategies. A self-assessment and information on academic skills are available in the online academic workshop at <http://www.las.uic.edu/info/workshop>.
2. Identify your goals (steps you plan to take) and then take action.
3. Visit your professor and/or TA during office hours and ask questions about any material you do not fully understand.
4. Get tutoring and assistance through the support programs, Honors College, Writing Center, Science Learning Center, and/or Mathematical Sciences Learning Center. For more information on campus resources go to <http://www.las.uic.edu/info/workshop/resource.shtml>.
5. Take an ACE workshop to improve your academic skills. <http://www.vcsa.uic.edu/MainSite/departments/ace/home/>
6. If you aren’t sure about what steps to take then meet with an LAS Advisor for assistance.

“What you’re supposed to do when you don’t like a thing is change it. If you can’t change it, change the way you think about it. Don’t complain.”

— Advice to Maya Angelou from her grandmother

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**College of Liberal Arts and Sciences,
University of Illinois at Chicago**

LAS Academic Advising Center
3rd floor of University Hall
Phone: 312-996-3366
Hours 8:30-4:45

Appointments:
Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday
Walk-ins: Tuesday 8:30-11:30, 1-3:30

Comments or
Questions About Submitting an Article:
Contact Melinda Finkle at mfinkle@uic.edu

We're on the Web!
www.las.uic.edu

Our advising staff is continuing to grow to meet the needs of our students. Please welcome our newest LAS Academic Advisor, Justin Wier.

Important Dates

March 5 : Registration Time Tickets are available on Web for Student

March 26 — March 30: Spring Break

April 6: Deadline for LAS and UIC Scholarships
www.las.uic.edu/scholarship

April 3 — April 18 : Advance Registration by Time Tickets

April 30—May 4 : Open registration for non-degree, re-admitted, newly admitted students, and continuing students not enrolled in Spring 2007

May 7—May 11: Finals

Commencement 2007

Before we know it the snow will be melted, and it will be time for Summer 2006, Fall 2006, and potential Spring 2007 graduates to start planning for Commencement 2007. Did you know that Commencement and Graduation are **2 separate events**??! Commencement is the ceremony in which students participate to celebrate the completion of an academic degree program. Graduation occurs when the student has submitted their Intent to Graduate, has completed all of their requirements and is awarded their degree.

Here is just a sneak-peek into Commencement details:

- Spring 2007 Commencement will be held on Sunday, May 13, 2007 at 9 am for Summer and Fall 2006 graduates, as well as potential Spring 2007 graduates.
- Commencement will be held in the UIC Pavilion, and will last approximately 2 hours.
- Tickets for guests are **not** needed, but students must RSVP (details to follow).
- Professional pictures will be taken of the graduate before and as they cross the stage.
- Caps and gowns will be available in the Student Center East Bookstore starting Wednesday, April 18th.
- If you are receiving a Bachelor of Science, your tassel will be gold. If you are receiving a Bachelor of Arts, your tassel will be white.
- Commencement announcements can be ordered through Traditions USA at www.traditionsusa.com.
- Check out the Commencement Website for more information by the end of March 2007 at www.las.uic.edu/commencement/ or the university's site at <http://www.vcsa.uic.edu/MainSite/departments/commencement/home>.

