The College of Arts and Sciences is the heart of the academic experience at the University of Pennsylvania. Tracing its roots to the founding of the University, “The College” is home to 6,400 undergraduates in the School of Arts and Sciences, and offers a distinctive brand of liberal arts education. Students have access to all the resources of a world-class research university, while also sharing intense intellectual experiences more common in small college settings. This means you’ll get to know your faculty and classmates very well, leading to engagement both in and out of the classroom.

This brochure is an introduction to the interconnected ideas you’ll encounter in the College at Penn. It’s just a starting point, however. To explore how your interests align with the curriculum and community you’ll find here, visit our website for prospective students, where you’ll learn how our students construct their own paths to success.

Learn more at www.college.upenn.edu/prospective
Tradition Meets Innovation
ENGAGING BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

The College of Arts Sciences is the intellectual home for disciplines, programs, and research where tradition meets innovation. Our world-renowned faculty engage with students to turn the theoretical and experimental ideas formed in the classroom into practical applications used to remedy problems facing our world. And Philadelphia itself serves as a large, non-traditional classroom for our students to explore questions of science, society, humanities, and the arts.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
Community engagement is an essential part of the College’s curriculum where students can connect with real issues through a seminar like Making Space and Public Art, or an academically-based community service (ABCS) course in environmental studies called Clean Water—Green Cities where students investigate the link between urban ecosystems and human behavior.

RESEARCH
Students work with faculty members in genomics labs, on archeological digs in Tuscany, and in Philadelphia studying the history of jazz. Research brings together classroom knowledge with actual discoveries, imparting skills and subject expertise that might help you choose a major, decide on a first job or whether to attend graduate school.

Over 75% of students engage in research by graduation

Integration of Knowledge
LEARNING ACROSS DISCIPLINES

A liberal arts education trains students for more than a particular profession, it imparts skills and knowledge that cut across multiple disciplines, regardless of major, to serve graduates for a lifetime. In the College of Arts and Sciences, students don’t just absorb information—the curriculum teaches them to analyze, communicate, and transform facts into knowledge that then gets applied within a real-world context. This approach requires students to explore important topics through multiple lenses so that they can understand complicated issues in today’s world.

A FLEXIBLE CURRICULUM
As part of the College’s General Requirement, students choose one course from each of seven Sectors of Knowledge. The sectors allow students to tailor their own liberal arts education while gaining valuable knowledge across a broad spectrum of disciplines. Courses range from Indian philosophy to bioethics and geopolitics, and after completing a few of these interesting courses, many students change direction and begin a new field of study they never considered before.

Along the way, students also encounter six Foundational Approaches that they will apply to any future study or career after Penn. These approaches translate to tangible skills in problem solving, writing, public speaking, foreign language, cultural awareness and quantitative analysis.

REAL WORLD INTERDISCIPLINARITY
All majors in the College complement the interdisciplinary exploration that begins with the General Requirement. Seemingly traditional majors like history and German encourage learning from other disciplines like political science and sociology, while explicitly interdisciplinary majors such as Biological Basis of Behavior, Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies; and International Relations integrate courses from multiple fields of knowledge as core components.

This exposure teaches students valuable analytical skills that can only come from multiple subjects and approaches. And employers want broadly-educated employees in today’s constantly-evolving world. A company like Google regularly recruits College of Arts and Sciences seniors for its management training program. Why would a technology giant want to hire liberal arts majors? Because each and every graduate of Penn’s College of Arts and Sciences can draw on the communication, quantitative, analytical and creative skills nurtured through the General Requirement. Another way to think about it is that every graduate has depth in addition to his or her major, making them ideal candidates for many different kinds of jobs.

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Education for a Lifetime
BUILDING AN INTELLECTUAL AND PROFESSIONAL NETWORK

Students don’t have to have everything figured out from the first day they arrive at Penn. Advisors, faculty, fellow students, and the curriculum itself guide them to identify their passions and develop their voices in a way that is uncommon for a research university. As a result, the relationships students develop lead to amazing opportunities for experiential learning both on and off campus, internships and, ultimately, life after Penn in the form of a first job or graduate study.

RELATIONSHIPS
Penn might seem overwhelming right now, but there are tremendous resources everywhere students turn—from academic assistance to career advice. Just expressing a common interest to a faculty member can lead to research opportunities. And attending a talk by an alumnus might lead to a summer internship at Sony Pictures or The Brookings Institute. Most importantly, these relationships will lead to lifelong friendships with both your mentors and peers.

CAREERS AND THE LIBERAL ARTS
Evidence shows that there isn’t a direct correlation between a major and a career or lifestyle after Penn. Employers want new hires with strong research, analytical and communication skills. Students gain these necessary skills through each and every one of the majors in the College of Arts & Sciences. Given this fact, students should study something that interests them because people do better in areas that interest them. As a result, alumni establish charter schools, serve in Congress, chair Fortune 500 companies and produce shows on Broadway with majors as wide-ranging as political science, fine arts, biochemistry and South Asia Studies.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT
Penn alumni return to campus throughout the year to spend time with current students to discuss academic and professional goals through the College Alumni Mentoring Series, Fox Leadership Program and the Office of Career Services. Student groups also play an important role in the development of personal growth. From the Intelectual Philomathean Society to the theatrical antics of the Mask and Wig ensemble, students spend plenty of time outside of class developing their mental and social skills.

FIELDS OF GRADUATE STUDY
Top 5 Grad Schools:
Penn, Columbia, Harvard, NYU, Georgetown

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Consulting 19%
Finance 18%
Education 16%
Communications 8%
Healthcare 7%
Non-Profit 7%
Legal Services 6%
Technology 5%
Government 4%
Retail/Wholesale 4%
Manufacturing 2%

Regardless of the path you eventually follow, a degree from Penn’s College of Arts and Sciences will prove indispensable in a constantly changing world where individuals must adapt and draw on a wide body of knowledge, not on just a specific skill set, in order to succeed.

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