THE HUTCHINS SCHOOL OF LIBERAL STUDIES
AT SONOMA STATE UNIVERSITY

THE HUTCHINS MAJOR

LOWER-DIVISION COURSEWORK

The Hutchins School offers a unique approach to the lower-division GE requirements. Completion of four 12-units interdisciplinary seminars plus GE math fulfills all lower-division general education requirements. Seminars generally have no more 15 students and require a high degree of student participation. Completed units may be transferred at the end of any semester. Grading in the lower division can be done on either a credit/no credit and graded basis, and includes an extensive written evaluation of student achievement and participation.

UPPER-DIVISION COURSEWORK

Students may transfer into the Hutchins School at the junior class level. Hutchins offers a distinctive interdisciplinary 40-unit major in Liberal studies that culminates in the presentation and assessment of the student's portfolio in a senior capstone course.

PROGRAMS OF STUDY

Track I/Interdisciplinary Studies:
Track I consists of three required courses, four Core seminars, elective seminars and independent study. To better prepare for a career, students are also required to incorporate internships and/or field experiences into their coursework.

Track II/Pre-Credential Preparation Program:
This track also consists of three required courses, four Core seminars, and elective seminars. Additionally, students must complete a set of pre-credential and academic concentration courses. Upon graduation, Track II students complete an additional year of professional training courses in the School of Education, leading to an elementary teaching credential.

Track III/Blended Program:
In collaboration with the School of Education, Hutchins offers the Blended Program, which allows students to complete a B.A. in liberal studies and fulfill the requirements for a Multiple Subject Teaching Credential in four years. This program combines the Hutchins General Education program with the Track II program, and allows students to begin taking courses from the School of Education in their junior year. In addition, students have the opportunity to integrate their academic and professional training beginning in their freshman year. Students admitted to this program must meet higher admissions criteria and be able to take 17 to 18 units per semester.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Hutchins School of Liberal Studies is an interdisciplinary school within Sonoma State University offering lower-division students an alternative General Education program, and upper-division students a major in Liberal Studies leading to a B.A. degree. The School also offers the four-year Blended Program, which leads to a B.A. and a Multiple Subject Teaching Credential. A minor in Integrative Studies is also offered.

A nationally recognized leader in the movement for reform in higher education, the Hutchins School has maintained its commitment to innovative pedagogy and interdisciplinary inquiry since its inception in 1969. A key feature of the program is the small seminar, where students take responsibility as active participants in the learning process. The program is designed to encourage students to take themselves seriously as readers, writers, and thinkers capable of continuing an educational process throughout their lives.
CAREER OPTIONS

Through flexible requirements, independent studies, internships, and studies abroad, the Hutchins School also provides effective preparation for a wide variety of careers. Hutchins graduates do especially well in teaching, counseling, social services, law, media, journalism, and many types of business. They have entered graduate programs in fields such as American Studies, anthropology, English, history, library science, medieval studies, physics, religion, sociology and theater arts.

INTERDISCIPLINARY GENERAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

In addition to small class seminars, students also meet in a weekly symposium for field trips, guest lectures and hands-on projects. Students may take electives and pre-major courses in other SSU departments while completing the Hutchins GE program. In order to be accepted to the program, applicants must have a passing score on the EPT.

LOWER DIVISION COURSES

LIBS 101: The Human Enigma (12 units, Fall)
Drawing on materials about small-scale societies, ancient cultures and contemporary civilizations, this course concentrates on the development of cultural values, the concept of human nature, the growth of self-awareness, and the emergence of ethical and political thought.

LIBS 102: In Search of Self (12 units, Spring)
This course focuses on the individual, exploring how personal history, unconscious processes, and political and historical environments shape the concept of the self. This course develops a fuller understanding of these influences through scientific investigation, historical exploration and creative expression, employing materials drawn from biology, psychology, sociology, literature, history, politics and the arts.

LIBS 201: Exploring the Unknown (12 units, Fall)
An investigation of the meaning and limits of knowledge and the nature of the mind and physical reality. These issues are pursued through several different but interrelated fields of study, including literature, art, philosophy, comparative religion and science. The course considers Newtonian and quantum mechanical theories of physical reality, the religions of various cultures, and the functions of myth.

LIBS 202: Challenge and Response in the Modern World (12 units, Spring)
An examination of modern accomplishments and problems from several sources: the 18th century mechanical models, the Scientific and Industrial Revolutions, and the rise of modern economic theories. Asking how it is possible in the 21st century to live a moral life, the course examines the rise of individualism, the tension between personal and social values, the problems of poverty and the distribution of wealth, and the multiple consequences of modern technology upon the human and natural environments.

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN LIBERAL STUDIES

UPPER DIVISION

If a student has transferred into the Hutchins School as a junior, they are required to take LIBS 302 in their first semester. In this course, students work on the skills required in the major and develop their own learning plans. LIBS 302 is a prerequisite for all upper-division Hutchins courses. Students continuing from the Hutchins lower-division program are exempt.

Continuing in their studies, students will also select at least one course from each of the following Core areas:
Core A: Society and Self
Core B: The Individual and the Material World
Core C: The arts and Human Experience
Core D: Consciousness and Reality

The remainder of the 40 units required in the major may be earned through elective seminars, workshops, and independent study in Hutchins.