Academic Units

College of Arts and Sciences

Top 3 Things Prospective Students (and Their Families) Should Know About Your College:

1. We are the home of Liberal Arts at UVM and offer B.A. and B.S. degrees in more than 25 departments and programs in disciplines ranging from the Humanities, to Social Sciences, to Fine Arts, to the Natural Sciences. We provide a small liberal arts college environment within the context of a large, comprehensive research institution.

2. We offer a first-year seminar program (the Teacher Advisor Program: TAP) that ensures all first-time first-year students in CAS are able to take a small-enrollment, topical course in which the instructor is also the academic advisor for these new students. All TAP classes satisfy the new GenEd requirement in Writing and Information Literacy and often include outside of the class co-curricular activities.

3. We offer four full-year integrated programs (IHP: Integrated Humanities Program; ISSP: Integrated Social Sciences Program; ISEE: Integrated Study of Earth and the Environment; IFA: Integrated Fine Arts) for first-year students that have residential and co-curricular components in addition to 2-3 common courses each semester. These signature programs are selective and admission is by application – typically, about 60% of those IHP and ISSP students who were eligible apply and are accepted to the Honors College as sophomore admits.

What Is New For The Coming Year?

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Are there any important new changes or updates to your program/department?
- **We have a new Dean:** Professor Bill Falls (who Chaired our Psychological Science Department for the past nine years) started as the new permanent Dean of CAS in the spring of last year.
- **New degree option:** Students can now pursue a Bachelor’s of Science degree in Economics in addition to the B.A. in Economics. The BS is intended for students who want more mathematical and quantitative training. It is excellent preparation for graduate study in economics and related fields such as business or policy, which increasingly include sophisticated mathematical models and statistical analysis.
- **New minor in International Politics:** The minor is open to all students across the university interested in the field of international politics.
- **New minor in Jewish Studies:** The minor examines Judaism not only as a "religion" but also as an ongoing civilization and as a culture encompassing a rich textual tradition, literature in several languages, philosophy and theology, customs and ritual, art, music and film; the minor is open to students across the university.
- **New minor in Neuroscience:** The minor requires courses at multiple levels of science, from the cell/molecular to the cognitive/behavioral, ensuring that students have strong exposure to a field that crosses several scientific disciplines; it is open to students across the university.
- **New minor in Writing:** The minor is designed to offer opportunities for academic and career development through the intensive, guided practice of writing in a variety of genres—poetry, fiction, expository and professional writing—to students across the university.
- **STEM complex labs will come into use in May 2017:** The new STEM complex will be a transformative experience for our students. Specifically, all of our Chemistry and Physics faculty and students (currently in the Cook Physical Science Building) will move to brand new state-of-the-art facilities when the new laboratory building (Phase One) is completed in May 2017. This means brand new research labs for faculty and students (undergraduate and graduate) in Chemistry and Physics. Also, all undergraduate teaching labs in Chemistry and Physics will be housed in the new complex, impacting not just Chemistry and Physics majors, but all undergraduate students taking laboratory courses in
these two disciplines (that’s thousands of students every semester), plus a new teaching laboratory for students in Biology. These new facilities enable us to implement new laboratory experiences in an environment that supports a more collaborative and engaging approach to learning in the physical sciences.

Experiential Learning Opportunities:

- CAS now offers a series of supported internship courses in addition to the opportunity to pursue internships on an individual basis.
  - In fall 2016 alone we will offer 8 internship courses: in Economics, Gender/Sexuality and Women’s Studies, Political Science, Psychological Science, and Sociology as well as interdisciplinary courses in the social sciences, food systems, and the humanities.
- All departments and programs in the College of Arts and Sciences offer experiential learning opportunities, including research/creative work, service learning courses, undergraduate student teaching assistantships and study abroad programs.
- This year CAS is launching an initiative to help students in the sciences identify study abroad experiences that fit within their majors. By the end of the 2016-2017 academic year, each department and program in the sciences will be able to provide students with a list of select partner universities around the world, indicating which individual courses taken overseas will fulfill requirements for science majors.

What Makes Your Program Unique Compared To Peer Institutions?

The opportunity to engage in a “small liberal arts college” program within the context of a student-centered comprehensive research university – see our webpage for more information.

What is your college doing to further the first year experience for new students?

Our First-Year-Experience programs (i.e., TAP, Integrated Full-Year Residential Programs, BioFIG) are described in detail at our FYE website here: http://www.uvm.edu/cas/tap/

Our Graduates Have Gone On To...

Just about any career imaginable! Really, the list is just much too long for the 25 departments and programs as a liberal arts education prepares one for a lifetime of career opportunities. Whether students are interested in careers in science or medicine or art or public policy or law or business or government or finance or music or teaching, our graduates go on to get jobs, go to graduate school, work in the private or public
sectors, for corporations, small businesses or NGOs . . . if you can imagine it, our graduates have done it!