

MISSION STATEMENT OF COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) is the academic core of the University of Connecticut. CLAS faculty and students review and critically assess the foundations of human knowledge. They are dedicated to the traditional values of the liberal arts and sciences, which include both intellectual independence and the capacity to integrate insights from the humanities and the natural, physical, and social sciences.

By nurturing in its members a sense of curiosity and providing experiences in discovery and collaboration, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences prepares faculty and students to be leaders in their communities and work places, and to become lifelong learners. In terms of faculty members' research foci, CLAS values insights gained from traditional disciplinary studies and interdisciplinary inquiry. The College also recognizes the pedagogical value for students of study abroad, research experiences, pre-professional internships, and volunteer activities.

Approximately half of all full-time faculty members at the University of Connecticut are members of CLAS. They are involved primarily in basic research, but many are also engaged in applied research that is responsive to the needs of communities and businesses, consistent with the University of Connecticut's overarching land-grant mission.

The activities of research and teaching are inextricably linked within CLAS. Undergraduate and graduate students learn from professional researchers who are deeply involved in the creation of new knowledge. In the course of sharing their knowledge with students, our scholars revisit disciplinary issues and assumptions and sharpen their own understanding and formulations of academic puzzles and lines of reasoning.

In the liberal arts, knowledge arises from the ongoing questioning of conventional beliefs about society and nature, which leads to the never-ending development and refinement of arguments and to the novel syntheses of existing ideas via new perspectives and information. Pluralism lies at the heart of learning in the liberal arts and sciences. Therefore, CLAS faculty give voice to varied intellectual traditions, have members from diverse social backgrounds and with different personal experiences, and encourage all members of the college community to explore the rich variety of human cultures and ideas.