College of Liberal Studies, Seoul National University
서울대학교 자유전공학부
The College of Liberal Studies (CLS) was founded in 2009 to pioneer a new vision of undergraduate education and raise the next generation of creative and innovative leaders.

The College of Liberal Studies is centered on the student. CLS identifies each student’s strengths and interests, allows students to construct a curriculum that fits their needs and build their expertise, and supports students in their active learning and combining of various disciplines. It aims to cultivate in the students the flexibility to cross disciplinary boundaries and embrace the future.
The idea of the College of Liberal Studies was first conceived as part of Seoul National University’s Long-term Strategic Vision in 2007. The need for a Liberal Studies curriculum at Seoul National University lead to the forming of the Committee for the Establishment of the College of Liberal Studies in 2008. The Committee had the vision of devising an undergraduate program that would combine a broad-based liberal arts education with cross-disciplinary specializations and creative concentrations. In 2009, the College of Liberal Studies was officially inaugurated, with Professor Suh Kyung-Ho as the first Dean of the College. The College accepted its first incoming class of 157 students in 2009 and produced its first graduates in 2012. Currently, as of July 2023, the College has about 932 enrolled students, pursuing over 110 majors and concentrations.
An Open College that Embraces the Future

The motto of CLS is “Crossing Boundaries, Embracing the Future.” Founded as part of Seoul National University’s Long-term Strategic Vision, CLS was established as an independent college in 2009 and entrusted with the mission of raising the next generation of leaders. The CLS curriculum emphasizes rigorous liberal arts education, critical thinking, strong civic character, and forward-looking global leadership. CLS education aims to traverse both the classics and the cutting-edge, cross disciplinary boundaries, and foster creative problem-solving and convergence research. The CLS is the embodiment of SNU’s vision for the future.

A Creative College that Pursues True Freedom

CLS students have the freedom to pursue any major and even design their own unique majors, based on their personal interests and capacities, drawing on their own creativity and initiative. Furthermore, regardless of their majors and expertise, CLS students are driven to think independently, communicate effectively, self-examine critically, and engage others with empathy. CLS strives to liberate students from biases, customs, and ideologies that shackle our thoughts and raise them to question and construct the foundations of our lives and our culture.

A Diverse College that Stimulates Insight

CLS is pioneering a new vision of undergraduate education. It provides intimate advising, through individualized sessions, intensive mentoring systems, collective “Byeoli” camps, and global experience programs. CLS emphasizes active learning, through First-Year Seminars, Selected Topics Seminars, Creative Research Seminars, Classics Seminars, Independent Studies, Capstone Seminars, etc. These courses are based on the conviction that learning is an interactive and mutual process and that insight stems from excitement and confusion. For instance, the First-Year Seminars are co-taught by two or more professors from different fields yet focus on a common topic, such as Time, Space, Life, Knowledge, Love, Happiness, and Civilization.

CLS seeks to provide the resources and opportunities to foster both intellectual rigor and civic character, so that students can take the initiative and become creative and innovative leaders. In a short span of time, through the devotion of CLS faculty and staff, the support of many who are preparing for Korea’s future, and the success of our students, CLS has taken root and proven its potential. We ask for your continued and generous support and advice.

Thank you.
Integrated Education
From 2014, CLS selects the incoming class of students without regard to whether their high school education was in the humanities and social sciences or the natural and applied sciences. Every student is required to learn mathematics and a foreign language, enroll in First-Year Seminars on select topics such as life, space, and knowledge, and thereby gain fundamental capacities and skills that prepare them to major in diverse disciplines.

Selection of Major and Student Designed Major
CLS students select two or more majors. If existing majors do not meet their specific needs and interests, students may design their own majors. By letting students flexibly and creatively choose or design their own majors, CLS allows students to realize their full potential and develop into creative leaders.

Independent Research
CLS students are encouraged to undertake active learning and conduct independent and self-driven research. We guide them to choose their own topics, raise their own questions, and arrive at their own conclusions. By participating in discussions with fellow students from various majors, they can share different perspectives and develop civic character.

Global Citizenship
CLS provides numerous programs for students to use their intellectual abilities and problem-solving skills for others. Students are encouraged to take CLS courses that incorporate internships or community services and fulfill their social responsibility. CLS organizes various international exchange and global experience programs to help students gain an international perspective and contribute to global welfare.
This seminar focuses on a theme that encompasses several fields and thereby helps gain a holistic perspective. It offers lectures and discussions by a team of faculty members, from across humanities and sciences, on a common topic. Students will be able to experience diverse academic approaches and are encouraged to cross disciplinary boundaries.

Students are provided with several topical seminars taught by professors from different majors, in order to assist with their major selection. These seminars allow students to follow their interests and explore various disciplines, before they decide their majors. Each topics seminar is comprised of lectures and student activities such as text analysis, group discussions, writing and problem-solving assignments. Especially, final group presentations provide an opportunity for students to approach the topic holistically and creatively, by developing their own research questions and formulating their own answers.

CLS guides students to cross the boundaries of humanities and sciences, acquire fundamental intellectual capacities, and engage in independent and creative research.

CLS provides a unique curriculum that fosters foundational academic skills, through a series of topical seminars that delve into specific topics with diverse methodologies.
Individual Course Design I
This course is designed to help students identify or develop their own major and understand what it means to major in a field of study at the university. The course provides an overview of the changing role of universities, the formation and methodologies of disciplines, the history of education in the East and the West, and the development of new fields of study, thereby assisting students in choosing their own majors.

Individual Course Design II
Through guest lectures and one-to-one consultations, this course aids students to learn about the different approaches of the disciplines they are considering to major in, and explore the career paths open to them in the future. This course is compulsory for those who want to start a Student Designed Major. It is also highly recommended for those who are planning to choose their fields of study from existing majors but need help in discovering their aptitudes and potentials.

Creative Fusion Seminar
In this course, students aim to produce creative outcomes by undertaking discussions on multidisciplinary topics. Students who are studying their own majors in various disciplines come together to find new research topics, discuss research methods, and write an interdisciplinary research proposal together. Through this process, students will experience collaborative problem-solving and enhance their own intellectual capacities.

Creative Fusion Project
This course is designed for students who have successfully completed the Creative Fusion Seminar and wish to carry out their research projects or conduct more advanced research. Students develop a joint research project and produce in-depth convergence research outcomes.

Classics Seminar
This course aims to enhance the critical thinking and problem-solving abilities of students through a close reading and discussion of classics, both ancient and modern, Western and Eastern, and from across disciplines. Students explore fundamental issues raised in the classics from various perspectives and improve their capacity for creative and interdisciplinary thinking. Furthermore, the classics provide an opportunity to contemplate life and reality.

Capstone Design
This course offers students an opportunity to design and complete a capstone project that brings together their undergraduate studies and experiences. Each student is required to conduct independent research and produce an outcome that demonstrates comprehensive thinking and problem-solving. Students will then present and discuss their completed projects with fellow students to share their experiences and expertise.

Independent Research
This course provides students an opportunity to develop their own research questions, conduct individual research under the supervision of a faculty member, and produce a final research paper. Students can gain valuable experience in actively taking the initiative, developing their own research skills, and becoming an independent researcher.

Global and Community Service Learning
This course allows students to gain hands-on learning experience through participation in the internships at service-oriented, non-governmental and public organizations during the winter and summer, as well as regular semesters. Students are assessed by their leaders as well as faculty, after giving a presentation on their learning experience. It provides students a chance to actively seek career paths and leadership experiences.

Advanced Topics Seminar
This seminar brings together junior and senior students from different majors and encourages cross-disciplinary exploration. The seminar focuses on delving into a topic in-depth, through lectures, interdisciplinary discussions, and group work. The aim is to foster collaboration, active learning, convergence-capacities, and creative problem-solving abilities.

Advanced Topics Project
This course provides students who have already chosen their majors with a chance to team up with students from different majors, and design and conduct a research project, a community service project, a problem-solving project, or a site-connected project. The aim is to provide an opportunity for students to combine theory and practice, by applying their individual expertise and collaborative skills to a real-life problem.

Interdisciplinary Seminar in Natural Sciences
This course seeks to enable students to undertake interdisciplinary research in the fields of arts and humanities. The course will review a specific topic from a wide range of approaches, such as literary criticism, philosophical reasoning, historical excavation, as well as artistic expression. It will consider how the different disciplinary methods in the arts and humanities address common and universal questions and how the interactions between them stimulate methodological innovations and provide academic insight. Students from diverse majors are encouraged to provide their own perspectives and learn from each other, and thereby broaden and deepen their own research agendas. Students submit a final research proposal that tackles their own academic interests from an interdisciplinary arts and humanities perspective.

Interdisciplinary Seminar in Social Sciences
This course introduces students to recent research in the social sciences, including studies in economics, sociology, political science, and psychology. By discussing both theoretical and empirical papers, students will learn how social science models can be applied to analyze real world problems and how various data can be used to test hypotheses. Students will also experience how interdisciplinary research can provide new insights and contribute to the advancement of the social sciences. Students are required to submit a research proposal at the end of the semester that is related to the topics covered in class, and thereby learn how to explore real world questions from a social scientist’s perspective.

Interdisciplinary Seminar in Arts & Humanities
This course seeks to enhance the critical thinking and problem-solving abilities of students in economics, sociology, political science, and psychology. By discussing both theoretical and empirical papers, students will learn how social science models can be applied to analyze real world problems and how various data can be used to test hypotheses. Students will also experience how interdisciplinary research can provide new insights and contribute to the advancement of the social sciences. Students are required to submit a research proposal at the end of the semester that is related to the topics covered in class, and thereby learn how to explore real world questions from a social scientist’s perspective.
The major characteristic of CLS is that students can select or design their own major. At CLS, students are not enrolled in a specific major, but choose a major according to their personal aptitude and interests, after exploring various majors. The opportunity to discover and pursue a major that they truly enjoy is a unique benefit for CLS students.

After taking two or more full semesters, CLS students can choose from any majors or combined majors in SNU except for the College of Nursing, the College of Education, the College of Veterinary Medicine, the College of Pharmacy, and the College of Medicine. Since 2008, SNU has instituted a second major policy and most Colleges have a double major or minor requirement, however, CLS does not differentiate between a major and a double major. Students must major in two existing majors or one major and a combined or student-designed major. The affiliation with CLS still remains and a bachelor’s degree will also be awarded for each major when the graduation requirements are met.

Student-directed majors are distinct from other majors and combined majors offered at SNU. Students have to organize their own academic curriculum by combining two or more departments. The curriculum designed by students can become a major after being approved by the Student-Designed Major Committee. Students designing their own majors can construct a curriculum based on courses offered at SNU, and with pre-approval, also courses offered in graduate schools and other universities. The name of the major will be distinct from the list of existing majors and the combined majors at SNU (in both Korean or English). After completing the “Comprehensive Design” course and meeting the graduation requirements, such as a graduation thesis, students can obtain a Bachelor of Arts, Science, or Engineering degree, under the name of their student-designed major.

### Student-Designed Major

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Completion of Major Types</th>
<th>Taking 2 majors (Bachelor degree for 2 majors)</th>
<th>Taking 1 major (Bachelor degree for 1 major)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Major A + Major B</td>
<td>Major + Combined Major</td>
<td>Major + Combined Major</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major + Student-Designed Major (as a major)</td>
<td>Combined Major + Student-Designed Major (as a major)</td>
<td>Major + Combined Major + Major (as a major) + Major (as a minor) + Student-Designed Major (as a major) + Combined Major + Student-Designed Major (as an intensive major)</td>
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</tbody>
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### List of Student-Designed Majors (138 Majors in Total)

- **Virtual Reality Studies**
  - Data Science
  - Media Contents Management
  - Consumer Analytics
  - Human-Centered Urban Engineering
  - Political Economy and Philosophy
- **Vocal Science and Engineering**
  - Urban Planning and Engineering
  - Aesthetic Neuroscience
  - Philosophy of Mathematics and Logic
  - Human-Robot Interaction
- **Art Intersciency Study of Environment**
  - Urban Social Engineering
  - Aesthetic Value Management
  - Small Design Engineering
  - Human-Centred Spatial Planning
- **Contractual Institutions**
  - East Asian Humanities
  - Aesthetic Value Management
  - Small Design Engineering
  - Human-Centred Spatial Planning
- **Study of Public Governance**
  - East Asian Studies
  - Biomorphic Design
  - Epics in International Relations
  - Human-Computer Interaction
- **Governance of Science and Technology**
  - East Asian Environmental Studies
  - Cosmology
  - Visual Culture Studies
  - Human Behavioral Ecology
- **Science, Technology, and Public Policy**
  - Digital Semiotics
  - The Study of Evolution of langauges
  - Visual Culture Trend Studies
  - Artificial Intelligence Engineering
- **Science and Technology Communication Studies**
  - Latin American Studies
  - The Study of Communication of Law
  - Knowledge
  - Human–Computer Interaction and Design
- **Science and Technology Studies**
  - Robotics
  - Molecular Simulation
  - Information Engineering of Quantum
  - Human Communication
- **Science Studies**
  - Media Arts Communication
  - Mechanical Design
  - Molecular Simulation
  - Cognitive Logic
- **Educational Policy Studies**
  - Educational Program Design and Technology
  - Library Creation
  - Comparative Literature
  - Cognitive Biopsychology
- **Educational Program Design and Technology**
  - Psychology of Interactional Happiness
  - Literature and Film Studies
  - Social Data Analytics
  - Cognitive Neuropsychology
- **Global Development and Cooperation**
  - International Cooperation in Science
  - Literature and Philosophy
  - Social Communication Studies
  - Cognitive Neuropsychology
- **International Relations**
  - Cultural Media Criticism
  - Cultural Media Studies
  - Art Management and Administration
- **International Finance**
  - Cultural Nanotechnology
  - Cultural Medical Studies
  - Exercise Science
- **International Food and Agricultural Development**
  - Cultural Arts Contents
  - Cultural Media Criticism
  - Exercise Science
- **International Political Economy**
  - Social Ecology
  - Exercise Physiology
  - Exercise Physiology
- **International Politics**
  - Social Justice Studies
  - Introductory Information Science
  - Rehabilitation Counseling for People with Disabilities
- **International Commerce**
  - Administration for Arts and Culture
  - Studies of Cultural Heritage Policy
  - Social and Logic
  - Strategic Design
- **International Law of the Web**
  - Cultural Studies and Communications
  - Biological Engineering
  - Social Informatics
  - Social Computing
- **Global Environmental Studies**
  - Cultural Contents Studies
  - Blacksmithy and Sustainability
  - Artificial Intelligence
  - Computer Science
- **Study of Lusus and Culture**
  - Cultural Contents Marketing
  - Production Engineering
  - Studies on Design and Bioreconstruction
  - Technology Studies

*As of March 2023 (even when names of the majors are the same, each major has its own curricular structure and contents.)
Various Mentoring Program
Since most CLS students have difficulties choosing their major, various mentoring programs are provided. The programs allow students to acquire the foundations of both the humanities and natural sciences and challenge the students to pursue any disciplines, regardless of what they studied in high school. These unique CLS programs help students fulfill their potentials and traverse the arts and sciences.

Byeoli Camp / Reading Byeoli Camp
(CLS Residential College Experience)
Byeoli is a program established in 2010 to literally forge (“byeoli”) students who are in different majors. Peers from across the disciplines and different stages in their undergraduate education gather together once a year to spend meaningful time with professors and strengthen their relationships. In 2016, a new program called Reading Byeoli Camp was established so that members can camp together and have extended reading, debating, and conversation sessions with the author of a selected book.

Student Guidance Programs
CLS operates counseling and extracurricular programs that help students fully explore their potentials. Students can map out their careers based on individual interviews and guidance with professors, fellows, student program coordinators, and mentors. Furthermore, various special lectures, domestic and foreign field trips, and global experience program opportunities are provided to help students broaden their perspectives.
Undergraduate Academic Exchange Program
Over the years, CLS has been organizing international student exchange programs with other liberal arts colleges in East Asia, including Yuanpei College at Peking University, the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Tokyo, S. H. Ho College at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, and the University Scholars Program at the National University of Singapore. The first international student exchange program dates back to 2011, although the foundations were laid in 2010, when the deans of CLS visited Yuanpei College. In 2013, CLS, Yuanpei College, and S. H. Ho College hosted a joint exchange program. The College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Tokyo and the University Scholars Program at the National University of Singapore joined the same program in 2014 and 2015, respectively. The five participating universities took turns to host the exchange program: the University of Tokyo in 2016, Peking University in 2017, the National University of Singapore in 2018, and Seoul National University in 2019. The program in 2020, which was planned to be held at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2021, CLS formed a new consortium with Yuanpei College at Peking University, Rikkyo University, and NUS College at the National University of Singapore. Student academic exchanges between the four universities took place online during the pandemic and onsite since the summer of 2022.

Student Academic Conference
The student academic conference, held every November, encourages independent academic research among students. Students, whose research has been reviewed by professors, present their research results on various topics in the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, and engineering. Prizes, including cash prizes, are awarded among students who present at the conference, and the research results are posted on the CLS website.

Symposium
CLS hosts domestic and international symposiums on undergraduate education and active learning every year. Distinguished guests from diverse fields are invited to share their knowledge, experience, and visions for the future of higher education.

Colloquium
CLS organizes colloquia featuring faculty from CLS and SNU, as well as peer institutions, who present recent research on themes that cross disciplines and provide models of convergence research.

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College of Liberal Studies, Seoul National University
20
21
RESEARCH PROGRAMS
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EXTRA-CURRICULAR PROGRAMS

The Asian Consortium for Excellence in Liberal Arts and Interdisciplinary Education (The ACE Program)
The ACE program is part of the CAMPUS Asia project, which is directed by the Ministry of Education and the Korean Council for University Education. Jointly operated by CLS, Yuanpei College at Peking University, Rikkyo University, and NUS College at the National University of Singapore, the program seeks to develop a joint curriculum and a joint major program. Ultimately, it aims to contribute to the peace and development of East Asia by fostering a new generation of experts in Asia. Specifically, it encourages academic and cultural exchanges amongst Korean, Chinese, Japanese, and Singaporean students to develop their scholarly insight, intercultural competence, and global perspective. (Visit the ACE program website at clscampusasia.snu.ac.kr)

Life Academy
SNU Life Academy brings together the vision of CLS, which is to nurture creative and independent thinkers, and the Life Academy program of Dongwon Education Foundation, which is to cultivate intellectually and relationally mature citizens. For a year, students pool their various expertise to ponder on and design their paths after university and undertake group projects and activities to grow as a community. The one-year curriculum entails lectures that are aligned with the theme of the year and student-led projects. In the Spring semester, students attend lectures by leading experts, deliver presentations, and participate in discussions. During the summer break and in the Fall semester, they develop and carry out their group projects based on what they have learned from the lectures. Trips and volunteering opportunities organized throughout the year allow students to build relationships and enhance teamwork. SNU Life Academy also supports student clubs to help students grow as a community. (Visit the SNU Life Academy website at snula.kr)

Internship Program
At CLS, students can participate in an internship at a startup for two months during the summer and winter breaks. The internship program began with networking sessions between a CLS alumnus, who ran a startup company, and current students. Since then, the program has expanded to include a wide range of startups. Students who participate in the internship program can receive a scholarship and earn academic credits.

Overseas Volunteer Program
CLS has been visiting developing countries, such as India, the Philippines, and Laos, every summer and winter for community services since 2012. In 2013, students who had visited Cambodia established the student club ‘Cambodelight’ to raise donations. From 2015 Winter, the program has visited Preah Vihear, Cambodia to assist in long term development. Participating students learn hands-on knowledge about appropriate technology, develop ideas for revenue-generating projects, and become global-minded citizens who can contribute to humanity.
FACULTY AND STAFF

Full-time Professors
Cho, Jun Hee, History
Ph.D., Columbia University

Hwang, Jiseo, Economics
Ph.D., Harvard University

Kim, Bum-Soo, Political Science
Ph.D., University of Chicago

Lee, Sangmin, Physics
Ph.D., Princeton University

Shin, Ye Eun, Statistics
Ph.D., Texas A&M University

Yang, Ilmo, Philosophy
Ph.D., University of Tokyo

Yoo, Hwajong, Mathematics
Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley

Affiliate Professors
Han, Dong-Hun, Preventive and Social Dentistry
Ph.D., Seoul National University

Kim, Jangwoo, Computer System
Ph.D., Carnegie Mellon University

Lee, Junghye, Industrial Engineering
Ph.D., Pohang University of Science and Technology

Lee, Sang Ah, Neuroscience
Ph.D., Harvard University

Paek, Yunheung, Computer System Security, Internet of Things Security
Ph.D., University of Illinois Urbana Champaign

Visiting Assistant Professor
Kim, Seo Min, English Literature
Ph.D., National University of Singapore

Kim, Ji-na, Landscape Architecture
Ph.D., Seoul National University

Hwang, In sok, Ethics Education
Ph.D., Seoul National University

Emeritus Professor
Suh, Kyung-Ho, Chinese Literature
Ph.D., Harvard University
Giving to CLS

The Seoul National University Foundation supports education, scholarship, research, and related projects to further the mission of the university. Your gifts to the College of Liberal Studies through the SNU Foundation will only be used for the advancement of the College and will be administered in a transparent and efficient manner. Previous gifts have made possible the expansion of facilities, the development of new educational programs, and the establishment of scholarships and student welfare funds at the College of Liberal Studies.

The College of Liberal Studies strives to equip our graduates with the skills and expertise to embrace this era of rapid change. Your gifts play a vital role in providing the exceptional facilities and educational programs that cultivate the intellectual capacities and civic character of our students. We ask for your continued interest and support, as the College of Liberal Studies fulfills its mission of raising the next generation of creative and innovative leaders.

For any questions about giving and participating, please contact us at
Tel: 02-880-9537   E-mail: cls@snu.ac.kr