

the liberal arts and your education

Like other college students, you want to succeed in college and after graduation. As you narrow your college choices, keep this in mind:

A liberal arts education is the best preparation for a successful, rewarding life.

Why? First of all, liberal arts graduates are more knowledgeable in many areas *and* they have a more complex, complete mastery over their specific field of study. Further, no matter what major you choose, over time your field will change. Throughout your life you may have a few careers—some of which don't yet exist.

Fortunately, a liberal arts education develops critical and creative thinking, communication and problem-solving, intellectual curiosity and versatility—the ability to think fast and switch gears. Employers want liberal arts graduates for these skills, and for the ability to integrate ideas from different fields.

In fact, more than 90% of employers rank critical thinking, communication and problem-solving skills as more important than a specific major, according to the annual national survey of employers by the American Association of Colleges & Universities. (Best Colleges, “The Value of a Liberal Arts Education,” March 2023)

These skills will support your success in college, graduate school and your evolving career.

They also happen to be qualities found in happy, well-rounded people—and that's why a liberal arts education is both practical and ideal.

Augustana's general education courses allow students to explore the fundamental aspects of the liberal arts, which apply to any major field. The questions and issues explored throughout the liberal arts at Augustana College are not just a supplement to each major, they are the foundation for each student's major field of study—whether accounting or biochemistry, landscape architecture or music, pre-med or graphic design.

At Augustana, each student's education and expertise in at least one major advance through internships, research, professional presentations, public performances, clinical experience, study abroad and more. All of these experiences are fueled by a culture and community devoted to inspiring lifelong exploration and growth in every student.

And so, by the time students graduate, success is not just a result—it's a way of life.



Augustana College