



**KENTUCKY STATE  
UNIVERSITY**

## SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES

The School of Humanities is comprised of Baccalaureate degree programs, academic minors, and certificates that broaden human potential, promote intellectual and aesthetic inquiry, and foster artistic creativity and growth. The School's program in Music provides a rich multicultural environment that is vital to the greater institutional community, preparing Kentucky State University's students for a variety of professions in the arts and related fields. The program in Mass Communications and Journalism provides hands-on experience in public affairs journalism, public relations and digital communication, preparing students for communication careers in business, journalism or the public sector.

The School additionally supports the University's mission by providing liberal studies courses in English, music art and theater; by providing students with opportunities to develop and enhance effective written, oral and interpersonal communication skills for life in today's multicultural society; by providing professional services to public schools; and by preparing students to make significant contributions to society as arts educators, performers, and producers. Finally, the School promotes teaching excellence through its maintenance of a low student-faculty ratio and its emphasis on performance-based goals.

### Music

Maintaining membership with and accreditation by the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM) since 1971, the Music program has a long and distinguished legacy of award-winning performance ensembles and has produced leaders in the fields of musical performance and music education.

The unit counts among its alumni Grammy-nominated musicians and performers who have attained distinguished national and international careers. A survey of professional venues reveals the department's students to be active in a wide variety of regional, as well as national performance arenas, including Broadway and the Metropolitan Opera.

The music degree programs include the Bachelor of Arts in Music with tracks in General Music, Music Industry and Production, Music and Theatre<sup>1</sup>, and Jazz and World Music<sup>1</sup>, the Bachelor of Music-Education, and the Bachelor of Music-Performance. Additionally, the Department offers the minor in Music and Short-term certificates in Music and Culture of the African Diaspora and Music Industry and Production.

<sup>1</sup>

These tracks are not currently offered.

### Mass Communication and Journalism

The health of a democracy is deeply connected to the health of a free press. Thomas Jefferson thought so highly of the importance of the press' role in guarding the people's rights that he stated: "If I had to choose between a government without a free press and a

free press without government, I would choose the latter." From the hey-day of its nationally celebrated civil rights leader and alumnus Whitney M. Young, Jr. to its connections with Kentucky's black owned or operated newspapers and indeed throughout its some 120 years of great achievements and challenges, Kentucky State University's own history has been deeply entwined with the exercise of a free press. All three aspects of Kentucky State's mission – liberal studies, land grant status (especially the mass communications facilities of the land grant program), and its status as an HBCU – coalesce together in a B.A. program in mass communication and journalism.

### Humanities

The study of the Language Arts has always been central to a liberal arts curriculum. The Unit offers minor programs in English, French<sup>1</sup>, Philosophy<sup>1</sup>, Creative Writing, and Journalism. These minor programs are designed to complement the major programs offered by Kentucky State University and to provide students with additional flexibility and breadth of academic training. These minors are particularly useful for those students who wish to be flexible in future career paths, who plan careers in fields requiring diverse skills, and who will be pursuing global careers. Every course offered by the Division emphasizes writing, and students are encouraged to take an active part in classroom discussion. Coursework in foreign languages emphasizes written and spoken communication skills, and faculty make an effort to acquaint students with the complex relationships that exist between literary traditions and the historical and cultural contexts out of which these traditions arise. Coursework in philosophy addresses fundamental questions about the nature and possibility of knowledge, problems of ethics, logical issues, questions about the nature of reality, and issues that arise in the making and criticism of works of art.

<sup>1</sup>

Not currently offered.

### Communication

The Area of Communication seeks to develop an awareness of the methods and techniques necessary for the continual improvement of human communication as a social and professional tool. Courses are designed to help students understand the methods and techniques used by the media systems, to assist students in their understanding and appreciation of cultural heritages, and to help them develop strong and healthy relationships. A minor in Communication requires the completion of 18 semester credit hours in addition to COM 103 Interpersonal Communication, from the Liberal Studies Requirements.

### Modern Foreign Languages

Coursework in American Sign Language<sup>1</sup>, French<sup>1</sup>, and Spanish is offered by members of the faculty of the Humanities. Coursework in foreign languages emphasizes instruction in the fundamentals of syntax, pronunciation, and idiomatic expressions. There is a four-way approach to teaching foreign languages (listening/comprehension, conversing, reading, and writing). Instruction takes place in both the classroom and the foreign language laboratory, where students practice speaking and pronunciation and where they watch video material, films, or documentaries in the foreign language they study. Intermediate and upper-level courses stress the acquisition of communicative skills and cultural or literary information.

Students who pursue a baccalaureate degree are eligible to complete six semester credit hours of a foreign language (SPA 101 Elementary

Spanish I and SPA 102 Elementary Spanish II or ASL 171 American Sign Language and ASL 172 American Sign Language II) to meet a portion of the Liberal Studies Core Requirements. Students may also demonstrate elementary knowledge in a foreign language by making the necessary score on an AP examination or on a CLEP examination (see Proficiency Examination Programs in Registration and Academic Records). Elementary foreign language courses 101 and 102 or 171 and 172 must be taken in sequence and in the same language.

\*Spanish is the only foreign language currently being offered.

## Philosophy<sup>1</sup>

The academic study of philosophy is an important part of a liberal studies institution. Accordingly, Kentucky State University offers a minor in philosophy. While the study of philosophy can benefit any student, the minor is especially recommended for the following kinds of students:

- students pursuing a pre-law curriculum,
- prospective pre-health/medical professionals,
- computer science majors,
- majors in the humanities,
- students in the Whitney Young Honors Collegium, and
- students with interest in careers in theological schools and religious professions.

The philosophy program at Kentucky State University offers courses in a variety of basic and specialized philosophical disciplines. The main thrusts of the program are the development of analytical and critical reasoning skills and a focus upon evaluating arguments for and against important contemporary and classical philosophical proposals.

\* Philosophy classes are not currently being offered.

## Unit Attendance Policy

For all classes offered by the Division of Literature, Languages and Philosophy, the Unit Attendance Policy will be enforced. This policy states that missing more than twenty percent (20%) of the course's total class meetings for any reason is in itself sufficient cause for a student to receive a failing grade in the course. Instructors may adopt other attendance policies at their own discretion as long as these policies are included in the class syllabus and are within the parameters of the University's attendance policy. Instructors will adopt their own policies for lateness and early departure from class and list these policies in the class syllabus.

- School of Humanities (p. 1)
- Bachelor of Arts in Mass Communication and Journalism (<https://kysu-public.courseleaf.com/undergraduate/arts-sciences/humanities/masscommjournalismba/>) (includes tracks and minors)
- Certificate in Digital Communication (<https://kysu-public.courseleaf.com/undergraduate/arts-sciences/humanities/mass-communication-journalism-certificate-digital-communication/>)
- Certificate in Journalism (<https://kysu-public.courseleaf.com/undergraduate/arts-sciences/humanities/mass-communication-journalism-certificate-journalism/>)
- Certificate in Multimedia Journalism (<https://kysu-public.courseleaf.com/undergraduate/arts-sciences/humanities/mass-communication-journalism-certificate-multimedia-journalism/>)
- Certificate in Public Relations (<https://kysu-public.courseleaf.com/undergraduate/arts-sciences/humanities/mass-communication-journalism-certificate-public-relations/>)
- Certificate in Interdisciplinary Persuasion (<https://kysu-public.courseleaf.com/undergraduate/arts-sciences/humanities/mass-communication-journalism-certificate-interdisciplinary-persuasion/>)