

reVamping the liberal arts

EASTERN REFINES ITS TRADEMARK CURRICULUM

Long known as Connecticut's public liberal arts university, Eastern Connecticut State University's trademark curriculum has a new face. Launching this fall 2024, the new Eastern Liberal Arts Core (ELAC) is a more streamlined program aimed at meeting the needs of a rapidly changing world.

"Thanks to the extraordinary work of our faculty and many others across the entire university, Eastern has reimagined its liberal arts core to emphasize the essential skills and habits of mind that will enable every graduate to thrive now and well into the future," said President Karim Ismaili.

As always, the curriculum ensures a broad-based education by engaging students in disciplines outside of their major, but now it does so with essential employability skills in mind.

Beyond broadening horizons and being intellectually stimulating, each ELAC course is designed to foster one of five target learning outcomes — critical thinking, ethical reasoning, communication, creativity and quantitative literacy — skills highly sought after by employers. In addition, every course utilizes at least one of 11 high-impact learning practices, such as research, community-based learning, internships, capstone projects, team-based projects and more.

Each Eastern student regardless of their major completes ELAC before receiving their degree, constituting 40 of the 120 credits needed to graduate. Students customize their ELAC journeys with a selection of foundational (writing/math intensive), disciplinary and core (interdisciplinary seminar) courses.

Starting their very first semester, students can choose from many intriguing ELAC seminars, such as "Getting Started as an Entrepreneur," "Political Disinformation and New Media," "War and Society," "Ethics of Biotechnology" and more.

LEARN HOW EASTERN ALUMNI USE THESE FIVE LEARNING OUTCOMES IN THEIR CAREERS.



"ELAC focuses on educating the individual as a whole person, not just as a future worker in a specific field. It teaches students to approach life and work critically and thoughtfully, creating innovative problem solvers who can face the challenges of a rapidly changing world."

courtney broscious, professor of political science, ELAC committee member

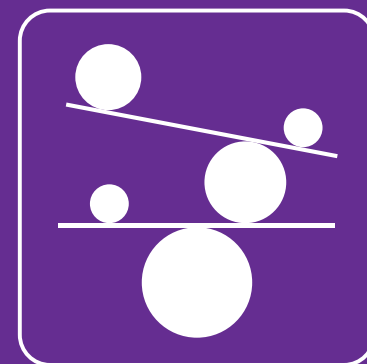


first-year seminars



learning communities

The ability to recognize ethical issues and identify different ethical perspectives to consider the impact of decisions and actions on other individuals, society and the environment.



ethical reasoning

"When considering the benefits of exposure to many disciplines, we recognized that an accumulation of knowledge is not enough. That's why ELAC focuses more on what to do with that knowledge. Prioritizing the learning outcomes and meeting today's students where they are, in essence, makes a liberal arts education more relevant, responsive and dynamic."

david pellegrini, professor of theatre, ELAC committee member

The analysis and evaluation of complex ideas, artifacts, information and arguments as a basis for formulating a well-reasoned belief, judgment or conclusion.



critical thinking



community-based learning

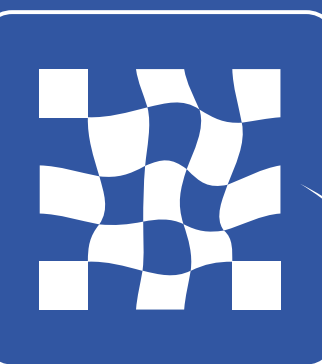
The ability to utilize the most appropriate means to impart information and address specific audiences to effectively inform or persuade.



communication



capstone projects



creativity

The ability to synthesize ideas, information and materials in original ways, and to use that synthesis to generate imaginative acts or products.



global learning



e-portfolios



quantitative literacy

The ability to work with numerical data to reason or solve problems and the ability to make judgments and draw conclusions supported by quantitative evidence.



internships



writing-intensive courses



common intellectual experiences



undergraduate research

"By creating a curriculum centered around the learning outcomes and implementing high-impact practices, I hope that students will see the relevance of what they're learning in ELAC and view it as real value added to their education that will serve them throughout their lives."

megan heenehan, professor of mathematics, ELAC committee member



collaborative assignments & projects