He sent me to Troy, and often gave me this command, to strive always for excellence ...

Glaucus, The Iliad
The Major in Humanities

The Humanities Program offers the highly motivated and able student the opportunity to fashion his or her own course of study as a major for the B.A. degree. Each applicant to the program consults with the Humanities adviser to design a major consisting of 42 credit hours beyond the University’s basic education requirements.

Each course in the individual program of study must clearly contribute to a coherent major with a focus on a particular theme, idea, or question. As the model plans in this brochure show, that interdisciplinary subject may be as specific as Health Care Policy, or as comprehensive as Philosophy, Politics, and Economics.

Each humanities major writes a senior thesis that addresses a particular aspect, case, application, or interpretation of the chosen topic. On occasion the thesis may be an original creative work such as a novel, a drama, a collection of poems, or a piece of music. Humanities seniors present their thesis findings at a conference for the academic community each semester.

The Humanities Community at UT Austin

Students selected for the Humanities Program join a close-knit academic community. The Liberal Arts Honors office, with its own commons room and computer lab, provides a center on campus for humanities majors, who enjoy a tradition of collegial commitment. Humanities students work closely with the program’s director and academic adviser at every stage of their studies, from designing the contract for the major to presenting the senior thesis.

Humanities graduates have found that the experience of designing their own majors and preparing a senior thesis greatly enhances the credentials they carry into advanced study and employment. In addition, the adviser takes an active role in helping students plan for and apply to graduate and professional school.
Degree Requirements for the Major in Humanities

The humanities major comprises 42 credit hours, chosen by the student in consultation with the program adviser and then submitted to the program director for approval. No student should embark upon a humanities major without prior approval of the proposed contract.

The student should consider four important points when working on the contract proposal:

- 30 hours of the 42 hours in the contract must be in upper-division courses.
- No course in the humanities contract can be counted towards the University Core or College of Liberal Arts core requirements.
- Humanities students rarely have special access to restricted courses. Check prerequisites carefully before including a course on a contract.
- Each course on the contract should clearly contribute to the chosen focus of the contract.
There are two contract formats:

The original humanities contract

• 9 hours in a single College of Liberal Arts department.
• 9 hours in one or more other Liberal Arts departments.
• 9 hours in one or more departments outside the College of Liberal Arts.
• 9 additional hours in any appropriate courses in any department or college.
• 6 hours of upper-division Humanities courses, including HMN 370 or the HMN 679H sequence.

The alternative humanities contract

• 12 hours in a single College of Liberal Arts department.
• 9 hours in one or more Liberal Arts departments.
• 15 hours in any appropriate courses in any department or college.
• 6 hours of upper-division Humanities courses, including HMN 370 or the HMN 679H sequence.

Some Model Humanities Plans

Following are examples of six humanities contracts, using both the original and alternative formats and ranging from a plan with a highly structured core curriculum to a distinctly individualized plan aimed at a specific professional interest.
Model #1: Philosophy, Politics, and Economics

The PPE contract offers a cross-disciplinary core curriculum based on a model developed at Oxford University and now offered at several leading American universities. The PPE student may choose to make philosophy, government, or economics the core discipline and basis for the thesis. Note that this plan has unusually rigorous prerequisites.

Economics Core:
ECO 304L Introduction to Macroeconomics (prerequisite: ECO 304K)
ECO 420K Microeconomic Theory (prerequisites: M 408C and M 408D or equivalent)
ECO 320L Macroeconomic Theory
ECO 3 hours Relevant upper-division course

Philosophy core:
PHL 329K History of Ancient Philosophy
PHL 329L Early Modern Philosophy: Descartes to Kant
PHL 313 Introductory Symbolic Logic
PHL 318 Introduction to Ethics (or an approved upper-division ethics course)

Government core:
GOV 3 hours Course in Political Theory
GOV 3 hours Course in American Government, Public Law, or Policy
GOV 3 hours Course in Comparative Government or International Relations
GOV 3 hours Upper-division course relevant to the student’s thesis

Humanities thesis sequence:
HMN 679HA Honors Tutorial Course (thesis)
HMN 679HB Honors Tutorial Course (thesis)
Model #2: Literature, History, and Philosophy

The LHP contract allows the student to select an individual focus, while studying the three core disciplines of the traditional humanities curriculum in some depth. The LHP contract is built around four courses in the student’s primary discipline, with at least three related courses in each of the other two disciplines. The following example emphasizes modern European literature and culture, but the LHP student may choose any period or area or language as a concentration for the contract. LHP students are strongly encouraged to include a literature in a language other than English.

**Literature core:**
- E 321    Shakespeare: Selected Plays
- E 363K  Classic to Romantic
- SPN 326L Introduction to Spanish Literature Since 1700
- SPN 376 Golden Age Literature: Poetry / Drama / Prose

**History core:**
- HIS 301F The Premodern World
- HIS 309L Western Civilization in Modern Times
- HIS 332G European Intellectual History: Enlightenment to Nietzsche

**Philosophy core:**
- PHL 329L Early Modern Philosophy: Descartes to Kant
- PHL 325K Ethical Theories
- PHL 366K Existentialism

**Related electives:**
- ARH 303 Survey of Renaissance through Modern Art
- LAH 364H The Enlightenment

**Humanities thesis sequence:**
- HMN 679HA Honors Tutorial Course (thesis)
- HMN 679HB Honors Tutorial Course (thesis)
Model #3: Comparative Foreign Affairs

In today’s global political climate, depth of knowledge in the fields of history, languages, government, economics and cultural studies is an ideal preparation for students interested in International Relations or foreign service. This is an example of an alternative-format Humanities contract with a focus in U.S. Relations with Asia and Europe. Students interested in international affairs are strongly encouraged to include a foreign language, though this is not required.

**Asian Studies core:**
- ANS 302J Intro to Japan
- ANS 340M Modern China
- CHI 320K Readings in Modern Chinese
- CHI 330 Business Chinese

**Government core:**
- GOV 360N U.S.-China Relations (Maymester)
- EUS 301 Germany and Globalization
- GOV 360N International Political Economy

**Relevant Liberal Arts courses:**
- FR 322E Advanced French I: Oral Emphasis
- GOV 360N Globalization and Trade
- HIS 333M U.S. Foreign Relations since 1914
- FR 324C French for Business
- FR 340P Making and Identity of France

**Humanities thesis sequence:**
- HMN 679HA Honors Tutorial Course (thesis)
- HMN 679HB Honors Tutorial Course (thesis)
Model #4: Bioethical Concerns in Medicine

This plan is adapted from the contract of a recent humanities graduate who completed the course sequence for pre-medical education along with the humanities degree. Some of the pre-medical requirements have been included in the contract, as is often the case for humanities pre-med students.

The student's thesis on ethical issues and neo-natal care was directed by a professor in the School of Nursing and a professor in the Department of Philosophy.

Philosophy core:
- PHL 318 Introduction to Ethics
- PHL 322 Science and the Modern World
- PHL 325M Medicine, Ethics, and Society

Social Sciences core:
- ANT 324L Health and Illness
- SOC 354K Sociology of Health and Illness
- PSY 341K Health Psychology (prerequisite: PSY 301 and an approved statistics course)

Natural Sciences core:
- BIO 325 Genetics
- BIO 365 Vertebrate Physiology
- CH 310N Organic Chemistry II

Liberal Arts core:
- ANS 372 Body in Indian Medicine and Myth
- CC 348 Humanism in the Ancient World
- HIS 350L Medicine, Disease, and the Body in the 19th Century

Humanities thesis sequence:
- HMN 679HA Honors Tutorial Course (thesis)
- HMN 679HB Honors Tutorial Course (thesis)
Model #5: Leadership, Ethics, and Business

What constitutes ethical choices? In what ways do leaders shape society? This model takes an interdisciplinary approach to exploring these issues, using Government and Philosophy as core areas, with additional courses relating to a focus on Social Justice. When designing a Leadership and Ethics contract, students are encouraged to emphasize one of the following areas: Business Ethics, Health Care, Public Policy, Race/Ethics, or Social Justice, Politics, and Law.

Liberal Arts Honors core:
LAH 350 Leadership and Ethics
LAH 350 Face of Justice
LAH 350 Boundaries and Dilemmas

Business core:
LEB 320F Business Law
MAN 320F Foundations of Management
FIN 320F Foundations of Finance

Relevant coursework:
GOV 335M Morality and Politics
GOV 370L Social Movements: Theory/Practice
PHL 318 Intro to Ethics
PHL 325L Business, Ethics, and Public Policy
PA 325 Advanced Seminar in Ethics and Leadership
SOC 321K Entrepreneurship and Innovation

Humanities thesis sequence:
HMN 679HA Honors Tutorial Course (thesis)
HMN 679HB Honors Tutorial Course (thesis)
Model #6: Human Rights in the Francophone World

This plan is based on a recent contract by a student interested in expanding the coursework from the Program for Core Texts and Ideas into a major. In this contract, the student combines an interest in human rights, political philosophy, Western Europe, Africa, and French language. As part of her studies, this student participated in the Normandy Scholars program and spent the summer in Lyon, France.

Core Texts and Ideas core:
CTI 335  Classical Quest for Justice
CTI 310  Early Modern Philosophy
CTI 310  Ancient Philosophy
CTI 320  Morality and Politics

French core:
FR 320E  Advanced French I
FR 322E  Advanced French II
FR 358  Advanced Francophone Literature

Relevant coursework:
HIS 350L  Imperialism: Empire to Globalization
E 360L  Colonial Education and Global English Literature
GOV 335M  Global Justice
GOV 365N  Politics in Contemporary Africa
BDP 319  Human Rights: Theories and Practices

Humanities thesis sequence:
HMN 679HA  Honors Tutorial Course (thesis)
HMN 679HB  Honors Tutorial Course (thesis)
Applying to The Humanities Program

Students with 30 or more credit hours earned at UT Austin and a GPA of 3.5 or better may apply for admission to the program. Students should generally apply before they have accumulated 70 hours of credit. Applicants who already have more than 90 of hours of credit will probably not be admitted to the program. Freshmen are particularly encouraged to initiate the advising consultations that precede admission, though no one can be admitted to the program before earning 30 hours at UT Austin.

The first step to admission is the preparation of a proposal in consultation with the adviser. The proposal includes a program of courses in the form of a contract, and a letter to the program director defining the goals of the proposed plan of study and defending the coherence of the plan. Several revisions of the proposed contract may be needed to bring the student's intentions and interests into focus.

This major is not appropriate for the student who hopes simply to sample many interesting courses with no particular direction. Nor is it appropriate for the student who has a strong interest in a subject taught by a given department, but hopes to avoid certain parts of the major in that department. Proposals that fall into either of those categories will not be approved.

Interested students should make an advising appointment with the humanities adviser in GEB 1.206, or by calling 471-3458.
Humanities Program Scholarships

Undergraduates accepted into the Humanities Program are eligible to receive consideration for the following scholarships. Contact the Humanities adviser for specific application details.

Karyn Diane Cameron
Endowed Presidential Scholarship
Amount: $2,500.00

Mr. and Mrs. Marvin K. Collie
Endowed Presidential Scholarship
Amount: $2,500.00

James and Dorothy Doyle
Scholarship in Western Civilization
Amount: varies

Professor Stanley N. Werbow
Memorial Scholarship in the Humanities
Amount: varies