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.
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: 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: Thoery/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 #3: 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 #4: War, Security, and Intelligence

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 on security issues in the Middle East and the Asia Pacific region. Students interested in international affairs are strongly encouraged to include a foreign language. In this case, the student pursued both Arabic and Chinese alongside the Humanities contract courses.

Government core:
GOV 360N  Causes of War
GOV 365N  Comprehensive Notion of European Security
GOV 360N  Defense Policy - honors
GOV 365N  Suicide Terrorism

Asian Studies core:
ANS 361  Intl Relations of E/Stheast Asia
ANS 341N  Postwar Japan
ANS 361  War/Peace: China/Japan/Taiwan

Relevant Liberal Arts courses:
ARA 360L  Arab Political Speeches War/Peace
HIS 333M  US Foreign Relations, 1914 - Pres
LAH 350  Legacies/Lessons: Vietnam War
LAH 350  History at Play II
MES 341  Arab-Israeli Politics

Humanities thesis sequence:
HMN 679HA  Honors Tutorial Course (thesis)
HMN 679HB  Honors Tutorial Course (thesis)
Model #5: Social and Cultural Context of Healthcare in Africa

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.

**Sociology core:**
SOC 321K  Global Health Issues
SOC 368D  Social Context of Public Health
SOC 336D  Race, Class, and Health

**African Studies/History core:**
HIS 350L  Historical Images of Africa in Film
HIS 350L  Medicine in African History
HIS 350L  African Travel Narratives

**Natural Sciences core:**
BIO 325  Genetics
BCH 369  Biochemistry
CH 320  Cell Biology

**Liberal Arts core:**
GRG 357  Medical Geography
PHL 325M  Medicine, Ethics, and Society
HIS 350R  Health & Illness in American Society

**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 encouraged to initiate the advising consultations, though they must earn 30 hours at UT Austin before being admitted into the program. Exceptions to these rules will be considered on an individual basis for transfer students.

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. Several revisions of the proposed contract may be needed to bring the student’s intentions and interests into focus.

Interested students should make an advising appointment with the humanities adviser in CLA 2.104, 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

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