11 Majors in HSS

- Anthropology
- Communication
- English
- History
- Philosophy
- Political Science
- Psychology
- Religious Studies
- Sociology
- Urban Studies
- Women’s and Gender Studies
“In times of great division, the capacity to see others’ viewpoints and the imperative to assess one’s own become more and more important. A liberal arts education works for us, no matter what our political leanings are. We need it now more than ever.”

WILLARD DIX, FORBES MAGAZINE
ANTHROPOLOGY

Studying What It Means To Be Human

Students will -

• see the connection between culture, biological/physical evolution, language and study of the past (archaeology)
• have opportunities to engage in local archaeology fieldwork.
• learn to ask good questions, look for multiple influences on issues, and appreciate human cultural diversity.

• These skills will translate to international work, working with nonprofits, teaching, and help our graduates generate solutions to business problems.
COMMUNICATION

Professional Writing Skills, Audience/Message Analysis, Increased Public Speaking Ability, Nonverbal and Verbal Communication Awareness

• Communication skills play a vital role in just about ANY job you will take after graduation. Today, many companies have teams devoted to communication work.

• Our majors pursue careers in journalism, public relations, social media, event coordination, marketing, communication, media, political campaigning, digital content and advertising.

• A unique opportunity for students:
  • Network with industry communication executives who are on our national Advisory Council (50+ members)
ENGLISH

Studying the Historical, Cultural and Aesthetic Dimensions of Language and Literature in a 17th-Century City

• Students can choose a concentration in literature, film and cultural studies, creative writing, or writing, rhetoric, and publication.

• English majors pursue careers in writing, publishing, law, education, nonprofits, journalism, information science, speechwriting, business and arts management.

• Charleston has a rich cultural setting for studying literature, creative writing, and cultural rhetoric. It also has a vibrant literary and arts scene and a growing digital sector, all of which provide opportunities for students to hone their skills and pursue pathways to careers in these areas prior to graduation.
HISTORY

Studying the Past in One of America’s Most Historic Cities

• A degree in history gives you the tools to understand the world, add perspective to your knowledge of society and politics, and improve your critical, analytical, and writing skills.

• Our graduates have gone on to successful careers in medicine, law, public history, archive management, museum work, business, teaching and theology.

• Our department offers internship opportunities with the Historic Charleston Foundation, Charleston Library Society, H.L. Hunley and more.
PHILOSOPHY

Intellectual Independence and Critical Thinking

• Studying philosophy strengthens your ability to write clearly and persuasively, to solve problems creatively, and to carefully and critically analyze arguments - skills that will benefit you in a wide variety of life and career paths.

• Philosophy majors score highly on the LSAT and GRE, and go on to successful careers in fields such as law and business.

• Students can participate in the Aesthetics Work Group. Faculty and students from across campus meet periodically to discuss theoretically challenging works in and about the arts, often by members of the group or by visitors from other institutions.
Political science majors pursue careers in business, law, consulting, state, local and federal government, journalism, communications, interest groups, sales, nonprofits, teaching, criminal justice, finance and politics.

Alumni Mentorship Program matches political science alumni with current students based on the students’ career interests.

Students participate in the William V. Moore Student Research Conference each spring and present their original research projects on a variety of political science and public policy topics.
PSYCHOLOGY

Studying Mind, Brain and Behavior

• Our faculty offer courses in a wide range of topics, including positive psychology, child development and psychopathology, learning and memory and neuroscience.

• Students pursue a variety of hands-on and immersive experiences, including internships, research experiences (at both the College and Medical University of South Carolina), and study-abroad programs in the U.K., Ireland, Germany, Italy, Cambodia/Vietnam, and Rwanda/Uganda.

• Two degree programs: a B.A. (intended for students who want to pursue careers in human services) and a B.S. (designed to provide advanced training in statistics and research).

• Graduates pursue advanced degrees and careers in healthcare, business, education, and nonprofit work.
RELIGIOUS STUDIES
The Academic Study of Religion in a Local and Global Setting

• Religious studies majors pursue careers in nonprofits, education, business, government, media and health services.

• The department faculty has expertise in various religions: eastern, western and indigenous, ancient, medieval and modern. Examples include African American and Native American religions, Daoist healing traditions in China, Christian attitudes toward gender and the body, western esotericism, the prophetic traditions of the Ancient Near East, Christian Pentecostalism in Haiti, Tibetan Buddhist monasticism and religion in American popular culture today.

• Majors enjoy highly personalized educational opportunities in internships, mentoring research projects, career advising, conference support, field visits and study abroad opportunities.
SOCIOMETRY

Studying Human Social Organization

Areas of study include institutions, social movements, social inequality, race, gender and class.

Skills learned include problem solving, critical analysis, empirical research and communication.

Charleston provides a living laboratory to examine contemporary social issues.
URBAN STUDIES

Studying the Culture, Health, Quality of Life and Environmental Sustainability of Urban Places

• Students can choose to concentrate in urban planning and administration, urban policy and social problems, or sustainable urbanism.

• Urban studies majors get jobs as city planners, nonprofit organizers and consultants/administrators for development-related organizations.

• A unique opportunity for students:
  • Mentorship with Urban Studies Advisory Board, a group of dedicated professionals in the Charleston area, who serve as ambassadors of building beautiful, functional and livable spaces in the Lowcountry and beyond.
WOMEN’S and GENDER STUDIES (WGS)

Exploring Current and Historical Intersections of Gender, Race, Class, Ethnicity, Age, Religion, Ability and Sexuality

- WGS prepares students to thrive in a wide variety of careers, and to tackle today’s global problems in public health, social services, politics, education and the law.

- Charleston presents students the opportunity to engage critically and carefully with the city’s rich and troubled histories and WGS students get involved in community organizations that advocate for progressive change.

- WGS supports activism and community-based learning through diverse courses and learning experiences. Students partner with local organizations, including those focused on LGBTQ+ justice, environmental concerns, writing and publishing, women’s rights, reproductive justice, public health and victim advocacy.
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