

# Stephen J. Laut, S.J., Honors Program

Director: John Whitehead

The Stephen J. Laut, S.J., Honors Program is intended for students with a record of exceptional academic achievement and the desire to participate in a program of greater academic challenge. The aim of the program is to give talented and motivated students the encouragement for intellectual exploration in the company of fellow Laut Scholars. In the context of a comprehensive liberal arts college, the role of the honors program is to introduce students to aspects of the arts and sciences that are not available in the regular curriculum. Awakening curiosity and offering new experiences are central to its purpose. Students who successfully complete honors requirements are recognized at graduation and receive a diploma attesting to this distinction.

## Requirements

1. Students fulfill requirements as indicated by core and major.
2. Freshmen honor students participate in a two-credit seminar that introduces them to the Laut Honors Program and its mission through a guided project. All upperclass honor students take a 3 credit seminar. These seminars, arranged in a flexible curriculum, are designed to be interdisciplinary, multimedia and project-oriented.
3. Each of the honors seminars is guided by a faculty member who provides for speakers, readings and special trips. Seminars meet once biweekly and are graded Cr/NCr. A Laut scholar in good standing has met the attendance and participation requirements of the Honors Seminar. Though the seminars are graded Cr/NCr, Laut Scholars must maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.3. Students with deficient grades may petition for a probation year. Students are also expected to preregister for seminars and to maintain an uninterrupted registration in the Honors Program.

## Admission

All students who participate in the Laut Competitive Scholarship are automatically asked to seek admission in the Honors Program. Interested first year students who did not participate in the Competitive Scholarship, but who meet the criteria of that scholarship competition, are also welcome to submit an application. At the end of the first year, Laut Scholars must have a minimum of a 3.3 and submit an application to join the Laut Honors Program. Students with at least a 3.0 may petition to participate in the program on probation. Interested sophomore students who were not part of the first-year Laut program but who at the end of their freshmen year have earned a 3.3 may also apply to join the program. All applications are due in the beginning of the second year and are available from the program director.

# Liberal Studies

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The Liberal Studies in Elementary Education (LSEE) degree is part of the Professional Education Department (PED). Students in this major complete a concentration in elementary education that leads to certification to teach K-6 Multi-subjects in the state of West Virginia. Work in the LSEE major emphasizes the integration of knowledge in three areas: content, pedagogy and technology. In order to accomplish this integration, courses require that students develop and apply their ability to think critically and solve problems in both college and elementary classrooms through activities that involve connecting current pedagogical theory to actual classroom practice.

Because the LSEE major includes a combination of core classes, general PED classes and content methods classes, students should complete a four-year plan with a PED advisor during the freshman year. In order to complete program requirements within eight semesters, students must maintain sixteen to eighteen credit hours per semester beginning with the freshman year. The option exists for LSEE candidates to add a Special Education endorsement to their initial certification in elementary education. General guidelines and course descriptions for the professional education and special education components are outlined in the Professional Education Program section of the catalogue.

After consulting a PED/TPP advisor as soon as possible in the freshman year, students should enroll in PED 231 during the fall semester of the sophomore year. Formal application to the program is made in the second semester of the sophomore year during enrollment in PED 232. Applicants must possess and subsequently maintain a minimum GPA of 2.5 overall. Additional program requirements include a 3.0 minimum GPA in the major (LSEE) and psychology courses. In order to obtain teacher certification, students must successfully complete all required Praxis Series testing through the Educational Testing Service (ETS). All LSEE students must pass the Pre-Professional Skills Test with West Virginia minimums to be permitted to register for 300 through 400 level PED courses.

Most PED courses include a field experience in local schools as an integral component. When scheduling classes, students should consider this requirement and allocate an appropriate block of time.

## Requirements for the Liberal Studies Major with an Elementary Education Concentration:

A distribution of courses beyond the WJU core curriculum that includes:

### **MAT** electives beyond 096 (9 total credits)

**HIS** 211 or 212

**HIS** 214

**POS** 110

**GSC** 110 and 120

### **Elementary Education Concentration:**

PSY 214	PED 232C/F	PED 325	PED 375
PSY 220	PED 316	PED 327	PED 441
PED 210	PED 322C/F	PED 333C/F	PED 473
PED 223	PED 323	PED 334 C/F	PED 475
PED 231C/F	PED 324C/F	PED 341 C/F	PED 481