MAJORS, CONCENTRATIONS, AREAS OF EMPHASIS, AND TEACHING CERTIFICATIONS

The general education provisions of St. Olaf’s liberal arts curriculum are designed to encourage in students a breadth of knowledge. The requirement that a student complete a major in order to graduate fosters the development of knowledge in depth.

Students at St. Olaf have 41 Bachelor of Arts graduation majors from which to select, as well as a number of teaching majors and teaching certification programs. Many students choose to major in one of the traditional liberal arts disciplines, such as art, biology, economics, history, mathematics, philosophy, or a world language. Others choose an interdisciplinary program that brings the perspectives of several disciplines to bear on a specialized area of concern, such as Asian studies, environmental studies, or women’s and gender studies. Some students choose to double major or to pursue a concentration or certification program in addition to a disciplinary major or to develop an area of emphasis within a major. Students may also propose an individual major through the Center for Integrative Studies.

One major is required for graduation. Some students opt to pursue two majors, and others add an area of emphasis (a program of three or more related courses within or beyond certain majors) or a concentration (an approved program of four or more courses that cuts across departmental boundaries).

Students must declare one major no later than March 15 of the sophomore year, in advance of spring registration for fall semester courses. Majors (with areas of emphasis) and concentrations are officially listed, once awarded, on the student’s permanent record. Students interested in a department teaching major or teaching certification must first be admitted to the Teacher Education Program.

Bachelor of Arts Graduation Majors

Bachelor of Arts majors are not available to Bachelor of Music candidates.

- ancient studies
- art, studio
- art history
- Asian studies
- biology
- chemistry
- Chinese
- classics
- computer science
- dance
- economics
- English
- environmental studies (an area of emphasis is required for this major)
- exercise science
- French
- German
- Greek
- history
- individual major
- Japanese
- Latin
- Latin American studies
- mathematics
- medieval studies
- music
- Norwegian
- nursing
- philosophy
- physics
- political science
- psychology
- race and ethnic studies
- religion
- Russian
- Russian area studies
- social studies education
- social work
- sociology/anthropology
- Spanish
- theater
- women’s and gender studies

Bachelor of Arts Teaching Certifications

- communication arts and literature: English
- English as a second language
- mathematics
- music: vocal, instrumental, classroom
- science: biology, chemistry, physics, general science
- social studies
- theater
- visual arts
- world languages: French, German, Latin, Spanish

Areas of Emphasis

Areas of emphasis (three or more related courses within or beyond the basic major) at St. Olaf are:

- economics: finance, management, international economic analysis and policy
- environmental studies: arts and humanities, natural science, social science
- history: public history
- B.A. music: composition, musicology, theory
- B.M. music: collaborative keyboard performance

Bachelor of Arts Concentrations

A concentration is an approved interdisciplinary program consisting of a minimum of four courses. Bachelor of Arts concentrations are not
available to Bachelor of Music candidates. St. Olaf’s 20 concentrations are listed below:

- Africa and the African Diaspora
- Asian studies
- biomolecular science
- educational studies
- environmental studies
- family studies
- film studies
- German studies
- international relations
- Latin American studies
- linguistic studies
- management studies
- mathematical biology
- media studies
- Middle Eastern studies
- neuroscience
- Nordic studies
- race and ethnic studies
- statistic and data science
- women's and gender studies

**Bachelor of Music Graduation Majors**

- church music
- composition
- elective studies
- music education
- performance

**Special Programs**

Students can customize their education at St. Olaf, thanks to an array of international and domestic off-campus study programs, innovative offerings such as a Foreign Languages Across the Curriculum course, the American Conversations, Asian Conversations, Environmental Conversations, Great Conversation, Public Affairs Conversation, Race Matters, Science Conversation, and opportunities for independent study and research, internships, pre-professional preparation, or the creation of an individual major through the Center for Integrative Studies.