Liberal Arts and Human Services

Description of Major
The program's three main purposes are to provide a firm liberal arts basis for understanding individual human behavior in its social context; provide the liberal arts foundation for professional work in baccalaureate-level human services occupations such as counseling, casework, personnel work, and administration of human services in federal and state agencies, private businesses, or professional organizations; and prepare students for graduate work in the human services professions.

Skills
A liberal arts education and study in a particular major will lead to the acquisition of a group of skills which enable one to solve problems, communicate effectively, and perform complicated tasks. These skills are essential in any career. The following is a list of important and commonly agreed upon career skills identified by UMM faculty as a part of the project to Improve Public Understanding of Liberal Learning (IMPUll). The skills are those which all or most students are likely to acquire through classroom instruction, co-curricular or extra-curricular activities. These skills are likely to be acquired regardless of major or discipline:

Leadership/Management Skills:
- ability to work self-directedly
- analyzing
- identifying problems and needs
- identifying priorities and parameters
- predicting and evaluating future trends and patterns
- identifying the critical issues and making decisions quickly and accurately
- conceptualizing
- applying data
- taking risks
- organizing
- initiating projects or ideas
- making and keeping a schedule
- making decisions

Communication/Writing Skills:
- comprehending written material
- describing objects or events with a minimum of factual errors
- writing factual material clearly and concisely
- identifying and communicating value judgments effectively
- writing effectively
- demonstrating premises and reasoning to their conclusion
- summarizing
- reporting accurately

Research/Analytical Skills:
- sorting data and objects
- using library and research facilities
- gathering information
- perceiving and defining cause and effect relationships
- applying appropriate methods to test the validity of data
- the ability to analyze the interrelationships of events and ideas from several perspectives
- compiling and selecting information
- analyzing and evaluating ideas and presentations
- reading
- reviewing large amounts of material and extraction essence
- using a variety of sources of information
- formulating questions to clarify a particular problem or issue

Jobs Obtained by UMM LAHS Graduates
Studies conducted by the UMM Career Center have shown that graduates obtain jobs that are both related to their major and jobs that may not be formally related to the major. Approximately 73% of the LAHS graduates from 1975-1998 said their job was in the same field or related to their undergraduate degree. Other studies have shown that liberal arts graduates find employment that makes use of their skills, special knowledge, values, and interests, even though the employment field may not be related to their academic major. Listed below are some jobs obtained by UMM Liberal Arts for the Human Services graduates:

Accounting-Bookkeeper
Activities Director
Administrative Assistant
Administrative Specialist
Administrator
Airport and Land Use Planner
Appeals Officer
Bank Liquidator
Bookkeeper
Business Owner
Entertainer
Executive Assistant
Executive Director
Farmer
Field Compensation Rep.
Group Home Supervisor
Guardian
Guardian ad litem
Health Planner
Human Resources
Program Coordinator
Program Counselor
QMRP-Program Coordinator
Recreation Services Director
Registered Nurse
Rehab Exercise Physiologist
Research Assistant
Resident Coordinator
Resident Services Coordinator
Retirement Representative
There are many occupations that do not require a specific undergraduate major; they are often learned as a result of on-the-job training rather than prior education. What is sought among prospective employees is the development of certain skills and abilities that can be developed not only through an academic major but through courses taken as part of one's general education, and through internships, directed studies, tutorials, seminars, study abroad, work-study and summer employment, and volunteer experiences.

Graduate/Professional Schools in LAHS
Links to LAHS Jobs
Liberal Arts and Human Services Links

LAHS Career Links:
- National Organization for Human Services
- Scottsdale, Arizona School District
- The Michigan Electronic Library
- Human Resource Online

LAHS Career Information:
- The New Social Worker's Online Career Center
- Barry U
- UNCWIL
- Penn Graduate School
- U of Alabama at Huntsville