

Arts & Contemporary Studies

Bachelor of Arts (Honours)
Full-time, 4 years

**Ryerson
University**

**Arts & Contemporary
Studies**
Faculty of Arts



Where

inspiration meets

impact

About the Program

Apply key insights from the past to solve the real-world problems of today and tomorrow. Customize a unique program in the humanities and social sciences with the opportunity to specialise in the interdisciplinary fields of **Anthropology Studies, Culture Studies, Diversity and Equity Studies, Global Studies** or **Inquiry and Invention**. Or, pursue disciplinary studies in **English, French, History, or Philosophy**.

Arts and Contemporary Studies (ACS) program prepares graduates to think, work and actively participate in the challenging social, political and cultural environments of the 21st century. It combines the intellectual agility and other benefits of a liberal arts education with hands-on, applied skills and competencies, with access to professors and instructors who are current and knowledgeable in their fields.

Program Highlights



*Coming out of high school, my interests were scattered all over the place and I had no idea what I wanted to pursue as a career. I was determined to enrol in a university program, but was not ready to commit to a single area of study. I needed to find a **program that allowed me to craft my own academic path, and find my passion along the way.** ACS did exactly that. This program offered me **the freedom to mix and match courses** until I found what I really loved.*

*Throughout my years in ACS, my course selections ranged from philosophy to politics, and everything in between. I am now in my final semester at Ryerson, completing a major in the ACS Global Studies option. My **interdisciplinary education** has helped me grow into a well-rounded individual, with diverse skills, capable of adapting to any situation.*

*In winter of 2015 I set out on a **6-month exchange program to Nanyang University, in Singapore.** The ACS staff helped ensure a smooth transition to the partnering school, and before I knew it, I was living in Southeast Asia. My **semester abroad** was an experience of a lifetime, which not only exposed me to an entirely different culture and allowed me to gain new lifelong friendships; **it helped me clarify what was next for my future.** Upon my return from Singapore, I got involved with a non-profit organization specializing in International Development called CESO (Canadian Executive Services Organization). I have secured a **summer internship with CESO** and continue to pursue my other professional interests including social innovation and food securities."*

- Tea Forenbacher, class of 2016

Program Structure

The ACS program is the result of a collaborative effort centered on a vision of creating a program that would strike a **balance between theoretical and practical education**. ACS's **core interdisciplinary curriculum**, combined with the various Major options and Minor choices, ensures that students graduate with a wide array of professional choices and opportunities. A rich training in the **Humanities** as well as a performance driven curriculum in the **Social Sciences** provides ACS students with an in-depth understanding of social groups, historical events, and a broad range of ideas that have shaped Western and global cultures.

Typical First Year

| Semester 1 - FALL | Semester 2 - WINTER |
|---|---|
| Critical Thinking I - SSH 105 | Academic Writing and Research - SSH 205 |
| Ideas That Shape the World I - ACS 100 | Ideas That Shape the World: Antiquity - ACS 210 |
| Introduction to the Humanities - ACS 103 | One of the following: Introduction to Language - ACS 106 or other language course: French, Spanish, Arabic, Chinese or Sign Language |
| In addition to that you must choose 4 Electives (2 each semester) for your first year. | |

Careers

Understand the significant ideas that have shaped the world and draw connections across disciplines to make contributions to **media, entertainment, education, non-profits; arts and public service sectors, business, communications; intercultural relations, mediation, cultural and consumer advocacy, public relations, advertising.**

Or, pursue **teachers' college, law school** or **graduate studies** in various disciplines.

Career Paths include:

- Research Analyst
- Culture Specialist
- Policy Analyst
- Art Historian/Critic
- Diplomacy Consultant
- Not-for-profit Director
- Lawyer
- Museum Exhibit Specialist
- Editor
- Content Specialist (Writing)
- Teacher

and more...

How to Apply

Academic Requirements

Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) or equivalent with a minimum of six Grade 12 U or M courses including the following program specific requirements.

Typically, a minimum overall average of 70% establishes eligibility for admission consideration; subject to competition individual programs may require higher pre-requisite grades and/or higher overall averages:

- a minimum grade of 70% or higher will be required in Grade 12 U English/Anglais (ENG4U/EAE4U preferred).

Arts and Contemporary Studies welcomes applications from prospective students of all nationalities and gender identities, regardless of age, disability, race, religion, or sexual orientation.

For more information visit:

ryerson.ca/programs/undergraduate/arts-contemporary-studies

Contact



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I graduated from the Arts and Contemporary Studies program, which allowed me to really have the flexibility of taking on, exploring and learning diverse subject matter."

- **Siddhartha N.**, Alumni, Arts and Contemporary Studies