LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES: WHO WE ARE

Tell me and I'll forget; show me and I may remember; involve me and I'll understand.

Chinese Proverb

The secret in education lies in respecting the student.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

The study of the Liberal Arts and Sciences creates a touchstone providing balance and options for students needing a place for beginning college-level learning, furthering themselves within a chosen profession, or taking classes as preparation for transitioning into specialized programs. Housed within the School of Arts and Sciences, the Liberal Arts and Sciences Associate degree programs at New York City College of Technology (City Tech) are divided into two distinctive majors: an Associate in Arts (LAA) and an Associate in Science (LAS). The degrees draw from the diverse course offerings as well as the faculty expertise from within the following eight departments: African American Studies, English, Humanities, Social Sciences, Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, and Physics.

Because of the variety of disciplines available, students can take comprehensive liberal arts classes that speak to growing and diverse academic interests. While some students take courses to develop skills geared towards direct entrance into the job market—e.g. critical thinking, inquiry, writing and comprehension—in many cases, students focus on coursework plans that prepares them for the pursuit of 4-year degrees. In all cases, the Liberal Arts and Sciences programs can provide an academic background geared toward individual interests and aptitudes. Analytical and critical thinking, communication, writing and research skills, along with the ability to work as part of a team, are just some of the learning outcomes associated with the Liberal Arts and Sciences programs.

Many of our students are entering college as part of the natural progression of continuing education. Through classes that are the backbone of traditional academia, Liberal Arts study reinforces understanding that learning isn't always about certainty. It is preparation for making well-informed choices as students advance toward new professional and life goals.

At first glance, the various courses offered in the Liberal Arts and Sciences programs may seem divergent. One soon discovers, though, that they cohere around collective skills and

direction needed for success in academia and beyond. Using the fundamentals of General Education as a bridge to developing an academic curriculum, LAA and LAS students sharpen knowledge in a range of disciplines and can mature into well-rounded scholars—individuals capable of competing in a variety of academic and professional fields.

For the LAS student, study is centralized around a core of sequential calculus and two sequences of science in addition to the General Education requirements. Students who choose this major either have an aptitude for math and science and are beginning their matriculation in LAS before eventually applying to a specific field of STEM-centered study or they know that they want to pursue a subsequent degree in a field that requires a strong footing in math and science.

LAA students study language and the humanities on top of the broad General Education requirements. Students who choose this major either have an interest in languages and are planning on continued study in English or a foreign language or are preparing for subsequent degrees in fields like Psychology, Anthropology, History, Economics, Early Childhood Education or in the arts.

Embedded within both degrees are free electives—course selections allowing students to venture into new arenas of study. Another major benefit of these electives is that they afford Liberal Arts and Sciences students the opportunity to take pre-requisites they might need to help fulfill a Bachelors degree program to which they are planning to continue.

The Liberal Arts and Sciences programs provide flexibility and adaptability, giving students opportunities to explore a range of fields of study and, eventually, to make appropriate academic and professional choices based on their newly acquired scholastic knowledge.