



Research leader.

As NIU's head of research and scholarship efforts, we consistently earn the most external funding on campus. Our departments and labs are actively conducting game-changing research that's making a difference well beyond our home in northern Illinois.

Today, our research spans all seven continents, with the work of our faculty in Cerne, Switzerland; Southeast Asia; Antarctica; and Madagascar widely featured in research publications.

We're leading the way on a wide range of topics — including voting accessibility, climate change and best practices in criminal justice reform.

The research we're doing is helping expand the world's scientific knowledge. We're working on bio recognition, cellular and molecular biology, climate change, ecology, clean energy, high-performance computing, medicinal chemistry, particle accelerators, detector technology and more.

Our accomplished faculty also conduct research, which in many cases becomes an opportunity for students to engage outside the classroom. These efforts are funded by grants from the National Institutes of Health, National Science Foundation, U.S. Department of Defense, U.S. Department of Education, U.S. Department of Energy and Argonne National Laboratory.

Across the natural sciences, social sciences and humanities, our faculty and students also publish renowned books and research articles, as well as create groundbreaking works of art. When it comes to STEM education, we're at the forefront as well — identifying ways to improve student graduation rates and elevate STEM curriculum.

Community engagement.

We not only set out to make a difference for the students who come to our college, we also work to make a difference in the communities around us. This work brings together our students, faculty and community, and leads to real change being made.

We have particular expertise in:

- Local government.
- Nonprofit management.
- Local and state services.
- Criminal justice.
- Outreach to public schools.
- Severe weather preparedness.
- Sustainability.
- Democratic institutions.
- Public affairs programming.

CHALLENGING PERSPECTIVES. CREATING SOLUTIONS.



NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
**College of Liberal Arts
 and Sciences**



WELCOME TO CLAS.

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences is the largest and most diverse college at NIU. Our focuses include the applied and natural sciences as well as the social sciences and humanities.

While we're a diverse community of scholars and disciplines, we're also committed to a universal experience — one that provides students with both an excellent education and inclusive environment, and fuels a spirit of inquiry that's fundamental to expanding knowledge and confronting societal challenges.

In addition to undergraduate and graduate degree programs, we have six interdisciplinary centers that bring together faculty from across the college and university. They provide students with the opportunity to earn academic credentials while exploring the many facets of an interest area such as Black Studies; Nonprofit and NGO Studies; Environmental Studies; Latino and Latin American Studies; Southeast Asian Studies; and Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies.

CLAS is also home to secondary education teacher licensure programs. Students in this program can earn a full degree in their subject area and take additional courses and clinicals to earn licensure.



The liberal arts and sciences:

- Are the bedrock of society, democracy and American higher education. Citizens with a background in the liberal arts are more engaged in their communities and tend to vote more often.
- Provide important context into our global society. Students learn about people and cultures from the past and present that make our world what it is.
- Allow students to pursue their interests and strengths while building skills that are always in demand across every type of career.
- Create a solid foundation for furthering education and pursuing new careers.

Beyond the classroom.

Our aim is to help students discover more while they're here so that they can have a greater impact throughout their careers. That starts with engaged learning — which takes place outside the classroom and allows students to gain hands-on experience practicing the discipline they're studying. It's built from and reinforces classroom learnings, and is shaped by our accomplished faculty and staff.

- Internships.
- Student research.
- Clinicals and student teaching.
- Study abroad.
- Competitions and conferences.



Diversity and inclusion.

Fostering diversity and building broad cultural competency is at the heart of liberal arts. We're committed to creating an inclusive, equitable educational environment; and supporting faculty, staff and students from diverse backgrounds and with differing perspectives, interests and goals. Our efforts, combined with the university's overall plan, include measurable outcomes to create a place where everyone — no matter what — can learn, grow and thrive.

But a welcoming space is not all we're striving for in CLAS. We're also contributing to research and scholarship in the areas of anti-racism, diversity and inclusion. Whether it's exploring race and inequity in STEM fields and classrooms, examining identity management in the workplace, decolonizing museum exhibits or looking at criminal justice reform, we want to play a part in both the conversation and the solutions.

DIVERSITY CREATES DIFFERENCE MAKERS.