



# College of Humanities and Social Sciences

## What Distinguishes the College or its Programs?

As an integral part of the liberal arts and sciences mission at Western Washington University, the College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHSS) promotes collaborative learning, critical inquiry into diverse human experiences, and excellence in scholarly and creative activity.

CHSS contributes to the mission of the university by producing knowledge and by engaging students in distinctive, diverse programs that develop their capacities as citizens and as creators and collaborators in the workplace and their communities. Emerging from a vibrant liberal arts and sciences core, CHSS is a key pillar supporting the cultural and intellectual life of the university via collaborative learning environments that foster individual, social, cultural, creative, and scientific exploration. Students, faculty, and staff participate in research, creative activity, service, and community engagement to promote learning that contributes to equitable, just, and sustainable communities. Members of the CHSS community critically examine their world and themselves, embrace diverse perspectives, and devise innovative solutions to critical societal concerns. We consider the ethical implications of our actions and communicate effectively and responsibly in our professional and public lives.

## Recognition and Accreditation

The college has six nationally accredited professional programs: school counseling, mental health counseling, speech pathology, audiology, public health, and recreation management and leadership.

## Undergraduate Academic Programs

<https://catalog.wvu.edu/content.php?catoid=20&navoid=5702>

The College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Western's largest academic unit, is composed of two divisions: the humanities (communication studies, English, global humanities and religions, history, journalism, modern and classical languages, philosophy) and the social and behavioral sciences (anthropology, communication sciences and disorders, health and human development, linguistics, political science, psychology, sociology). These 14 departments offer 51 bachelor's degrees and 11 master's degrees, along with five interdisciplinary degree programs in East Asian studies; Latin American studies, multidisciplinary studies; women, gender, and sexuality studies; and student/faculty designed majors.

## Internship, Research, and Extracurricular Engagement

Most departments within CHSS have internship courses, and some have several, such as Anthropology, Kinesiology, Communication Studies and Political Science.

Students work on research in labs and the field with faculty members in Anthropology and Sociology and Political Science; in the Linguistics lab, Kinesiology Labs, Journalism in various campus publications, in various Psychology and Behavioral Neuroscience labs; and in Scholars Week paper and poster sessions sponsored by all the departments and programs in the college.

The college houses several research and service centers, including the Center for Cross-Cultural Research, the Center for Performance Excellence, the Office of Survey Research, and three community-based professional training centers: the Speech-Language Clinic, the Audiology Clinic, and the Psychology Counseling Clinic.

Student clubs include the Linguistics Club, Philosophy Club, The Anthropology Club, and the Neuroscience Research Driven Students (NeRDS) club.

## Equity and Diversity Initiatives

The College offers the most coursework focused on Equity and Diversity issues at Western in most of its programs and includes the Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies program.

## Application Process & Requirements

Application procedures vary by department. GPA is the decisive factor in some departments (Psychology and Kinesiology), whereas others use a portfolio. Information is available in the individual Programs of Study in the College of Humanities and Social Science Course Catalog.

CHSS Course Catalog: <https://catalog.wvu.edu/content.php?catoid=20&navoid=5702>

## Successful Alumni

- 2023 Outstanding Graduates - CHSS Humanities:  
<https://news.wvu.edu/2023-outstanding-graduates-chss-humanities>
- 2023 Outstanding Graduates - CHSS Social and Behavioral Sciences:  
<https://news.wvu.edu/2023-outstanding-graduates-chss-social-and-behavioral-sciences>
- For recent recognition and awards for Journalism students, see:  
<https://western.journalismalumni.online/student-features/>
- For recent English alumni awards and recognitions, see:  
<https://wp.wvu.edu/englishalumni/2023/05/30/wvu-alumni-news/>

- Recent recognition and awards for Spanish students:  
<https://news.wvu.edu/wwu-students-win-awards-at-our-new-gold-international-digital-sdfgfdtorytelling-festival>
- Recent Psychology success stories (PDF):  
<https://chss.wvu.edu/files/2023-01/2022%20Newsletter.pdf>
- Recent Sociology graduates in the news:  
<https://chss.wvu.edu/sociology/alumni>
- Linguistics students in the spotlight:  
<https://chss.wvu.edu/linguistics/student-spotlight-0>
- Meet the CHSS 2023 Presidential Scholars:  
<https://news.wvu.edu/meet-the-2023-presidential-scholars>
- Meet CHSS 2023's Outstanding Graduate Students:  
<https://gradschool.wvu.edu/outstanding-graduates-2023>

**Here are CHSS graduates of note who have returned to campus to meet with students in our college:**

**Jesse Moore (2005 Political Science)** - Jesse is a strategic bridge builder and wordsmith by trade, and a systemic change maker for life. Jesse served under President Barack Obama for nearly a decade, joining his campaign team in 2008, and serving most recently as associate director for public engagement at the White House - and the President's primary liaison to celebrity activists and entertainment industry leaders. Jesse served as a White House speechwriter before leading the President's entertainment and creative partnerships portfolio, working to leverage his voice and leadership to drive change in national narratives around criminal justice, youth empowerment, and equity. Forging partnerships with major Hollywood and music industry figures and championing creative approaches to political, policy and social challenges, Jesse has emerged as a leading voice on how pop culture, social justice, and philanthropy intersect in American life. Before serving President Obama in the White House, he was a communications director at the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and served in state leadership roles for both of President Obama's national campaigns. He sits on the Board of Directors at Rock the Vote and has been featured as a political contributor on MSNBC and in the Huffington Post. Jesse worked early on in youth empowerment and college admissions at Western, where he studied Political Science and English.

**Gabe Galanda (1997 English)** - Gabe was recognized as one of 50 Native people who epitomize "the day-to-day struggle for [Indian Country] to regain what was taken...and that it's possible to achieve [our] dreams without sacrificing our strength and beauty." Gabe was dubbed "The Crusader" by ICTMN, in honor of his advocacy to "get Native inmates the right to worship in traditional ways" and "'find a cure' to the disenrollment epidemic." In 2011, Gabe caused the Washington State Department of Corrections to reform its religious practices policies to accommodate traditional Indian worship. In 2012 Gabe was named a Difference Maker Award by the American Bar Association, and in 2014 the Washington State Bar Association bestowed him the Excellence in Diversity Award, for his Indian prisoner religious rights advocacy.

As ICTMN observed, Gabe has also emerged nationally “as one of the most outspoken critics of the practice” of disenrollment, the “roots of [which] lie in colonialism, not indigeneity.” In 2015, he co-authored a 92-page law review article, “Curing the Disenrollment Epidemic: In Search of a Remedy (PDF). Gabe has defended nearly 600 Indians against disenrollment, including having kept the Nooksack 306 enrolled since 2013; obtained a “watershed decision” for 66 Grand Ronde Chief Tumult Descendants; and protected 132 Elem Pomo Indians from being exiled, which would empty their Reservation. Gabe, an enrolled citizen of the Round Valley Indian Tribes of California, is a founding Partner of Galanda Broadman, PLLC, an American Indian-owned law firm with office in Seattle and Yakima, Washington and Bend, Oregon, dedicated to advancing tribal legal rights, Indian civil rights, and Indian business interests. Gabe graduated from Western Washington University with a Bachelor of Arts in English and received his Law Degree from the University of Arizona.

You can read more about the watershed decision here:

<https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/tribal-watershed-decision-in-oregon-could-influence-nooksack-case/>

You can read Gabe’s article here:

[https://www.nativeamericanbar.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/57arizlrev383\\_Galanda-AZ-Law-Review.pdf](https://www.nativeamericanbar.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/57arizlrev383_Galanda-AZ-Law-Review.pdf)

**Ijeoma Oluo (2007 Political Science)** - Ijeoma Oluo is a Seattle-based writer, speaker & internet ‘yeller’ that has emerged as one of Seattle’s strongest voices for social justice. She was named one of the most influential people in Seattle, by Seattle Magazine. She’s the Editor-At-Large at The Establishment - a media platform run and funded by women. Ijeoma’s words on racial, sexual, economic and gender issues have provoked conversation, opened eyes, and attracted a Twitter following (@ijeomaoluo) of nearly 46,000. Best of all, she gets her message across with incisive wit, remarkable humor, and an appropriate magnitude of rage. Her New York Times bestseller, So You Want To Talk About Race, was released in January 2018.

**College of Humanities and Social Sciences Alumni Award – Vini Elizabeth Samuel (’94)** - In 2015, attorney Vini Samuel was the first Indian American woman elected mayor of a city in the entire United States. She is also Montesano, Washington’s first female mayor, and was elected in a landslide. Her community involvement and experience on Montesano city council had made her a popular choice for mayor. She has been practicing law in Grays Harbor since 1997. She was born in Kerala, India and moved to Juneau, Alaska when she was six years old. She moved to Montesano after receiving her bachelor’s degree from WWU and her law degree from Seattle University Law School. Vini has served on the WWU Alumni Association board and has been a long-time scholarship supporter for Western.

**Seth “Hoby” Darling (History ’97)** - Hoby is originally from the small town of Cashmere, WA and graduated from Western with a degree in History in 1997. Hoby joined Skullcandy, a leading music, gaming and youth culture audio company in March 2013 as president and chief executive officer. Prior to joining Skullcandy he served as General Manager of Nike+ Digital Sport. During his tenure with Nike, he was also a member of the Nike Affiliates Global Leadership team and served as the head of strategy and planning for Nike Affiliate Brand. Prior to Nike, Hoby served as senior

vice president, strategic development and general counsel at Volcom, a leading youth culture, music and actions sports company, from its initial public offering until its sale to PPR. He was named to Sporting Goods Business' 40 Under 40 in Sports in 2010. Mr. Darling received MBA degrees from the University of California at Berkeley Haas School of Business and Columbia University in New York, and a Juris Doctorate from Northwestern University in Chicago. He currently serves on the boards of directors of Skullcandy, Ragnar Relays (the largest relay race running company in the world), and Special Operations Forces Warrior Outdoor Leadership for the Future (WOLF), an organization that provides leadership and mentoring for kids of fallen special forces operatives.

**Mitchell Eggers ('85)** - Dr. Mitchell Eggers is a longtime supporter and advocate of the Humanities and Social Sciences at Western. He serves on the College of Humanities and Social Sciences Advancement Council and continues to assist in outreach to fellow Western alumni and supporters. As the Chief Scientist for Global Market Insite, Mitchell created a test to ensure marketing data quality for his clients. His impressive background includes his positions as president of Island Consulting LLC, early investor and director of Intelispan Inc. and research demographer at the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, Geneva and Switzerland.

**The Veith Family** - The Veiths are a family whose traditions encompass career commitment, humanitarian work, community support, and Western. Family matriarch Barbara Veith became a single mother in the '60s, responsible for eight children between the ages of 17 and one, who drew on her resilience and determination. The 91-year-old matriarch didn't merely inspire her offspring but ensured that they all had access to higher education. No fewer than 11 members of the Veith family and extended family have experienced Western's culture as a result and went on to be physicians, IT experts, educators and beekeepers. All are humanitarians and the family recently established a scholarship endowment in honor of their mother: Barbara Ellen Maguire. Dr. Richard Veith ('69), the current Richard D. and Bernice E. Tutt Professor in the Neurosciences at UW who also sits on Western's College of Humanities and Social Sciences Advancement Council, accepted the Family Legacy Award and announced the endowment gift on behalf of the family. His brothers, David ('83) and Robert ('70), were present along with David's wife and fellow alumnus, Francine ('83.)