

In the humanities, you learn about the many modes of human expression,

the systems of belief that shape values and behavior, and the significant developments in human history.

You can major in English literature, history, philosophy, or the classics — all major foundations of higher learning.

Other courses of study focus on language or nonverbal expression in the arts. We offer 11 major world languages: Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Hebrew, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Persian, Spanish, and Swahili. Study of these languages often combines with the study of the literature. Comparative literature is also available. So, too, is linguistics.

The Performing Arts Department offers dance and drama, and each year sponsors major productions on campus. The Department of Music has a dozen ensembles, from chamber to opera to jazz, open to all students at Washington University, regardless of your academic major.

Besides languages and the arts, the humanities at Washington University includes courses in textual and historical studies. If you're particularly interested in urban history, you can major in history and use the city of St. Louis as your laboratory. Or you can cast your gaze further back in time. As a classics major, you dissect the texts of the ancient Greeks and Romans in the languages of their time. Ancient studies majors examine those historical periods without the need for language training. Or you may choose art history and archaeology.

The Department of Philosophy has particular strengths in the philosophy of the law and of the mind, and the history of the field. Social and political matters at hand in today's world receive philosophical treatment in a course on contemporary moral problems. As a philosophy major, you learn to construct a clear, convincing argument — an essential skill in any walk of life.



Marissa Barnathan performed in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, William Shakespeare's most popular comedy.

MARISSA BARNATHAN

Class of 2012

Hometown: Havertown, Pennsylvania

Majors: Drama, Psychology

Minor: Ballet

Honors: Dean's List

Extracurricular Activities: Campus plays, All Student Theatre, Each One Teach One, Leadership Through Service, ArtSci Council

Career Goal: Theater performer

"I was looking for a school that had performing arts available, but within a liberal arts setting. That I definitely have found here.

"The professors have been making the drama majors and dance majors more well-rounded in performance studies, urging us to think about theater as more than just acting on a stage. It's pushing me to think about performance in our culture. I'm grateful for that.

"I think it serves me better to have a more holistic view of theater and performing. It will make me more marketable as a young person in the working world."