OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM:

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- Get Professional Experience in an Internship
  Learn with professionals with an on-the-job internship.

- Get Cultural Experience participating in a Study Abroad Course
  Learn with other students and faculty as you expand your horizons with study in another country.

- Get Scholarly Experience crafting an Undergraduate Research Project
  Learn with a professor doing an advanced research project in an area of inquiry of mutual interest.

- Get Community Experience by participating in a Service-Learning Course
  Learn with an area non-profit, civic or governmental organization and get hands-on experience with community and public service activities.

The College of Liberal Arts EDGE program provides the globally informed knowledge and skills needed to flourish in the 21st century professional world.

- Employers want students who know about our world, who are informed about the role of the United States in the world, and who are well-versed in cultural values and traditions.

- Employers also want the transferable skills that a liberal education imparts: written and verbal communication, the ability to think through complex problems and create solutions, to work well with others, and to adapt to a rapidly changing workplace.

- Finally, with its focus on applying knowledge and skills to real world contexts, the EDGE program helps you prepare for emerging professions in our global economy.

WHAT ARE THE LIBERAL ARTS?

UCA’s College of Liberal Arts includes: anthropology, African/African-American studies, Asian studies, English, Environmental Science: Planning and Administration track, French, geography, German, gender studies, history, international studies, Latin American and Latino studies, philosophy, political science, public administration, religious studies, social studies education, sociology, Southern and Arkansas studies, and Spanish. Advanced graduate study is also offered in English, history, Spanish and geographic information systems.

Traditionally, the liberal arts referred to areas of learning necessary for men and women to intelligently navigate their personal and social life and play a significant role in the world. But today, a liberal arts degree ensures broad knowledge, develops the arts of inquiry and cultivates social and personal responsibility through engaged learning both inside and outside the classroom. Educating for Diversity and Global Engagement means preparing students for today’s rapidly changing professional contexts and global economy—our EDGE.

What does the liberal arts mean for you?

IT MEANS:

- Becoming a “citizen of the world” through an education that expands your understanding of America and the world; an education that prepares you for participation in a global world.

- Developing your intellectual capacities through an education in the arts of inquiry: critical thinking, historical research, analysis of data and creative discovery.

- Opportunities to participate in at least one “outside the classroom” active learning experience. Such experiences help you see how classroom learning connects to the real world, to your life and your future professions.
Being aware of my intention to pursue graduate study in the fields of early African American literature, book history, and print culture studies, the College of Liberal Arts and its faculty encouraged me to apply for a statewide competitive fellowship funded by the Arkansas Department of Higher Education. This grant allows me to experience conducting independent research before graduate school. The University also offers annual conferences that inspire and motivate students to share their academic interests with their peers and faculty. I am thankful for the opportunity I was given to further advance my knowledge of the language and culture of Latin America. I now can appreciate another culture, the language it speaks and the values it possesses. I have benefitted greatly from the study abroad experience and would do it again in a heartbeat.

My study abroad experience helped shape my college career and my life as a whole immensely. By going to Costa Rica, I was given an opportunity to be completely immersed in a different culture and a second language. Without going to Costa Rica, my Spanish-speaking skills would not be close to where they are today. I am extremely thankful for the opportunity I was given to further advance my knowledge of the language and culture of Latin America. I now can appreciate another culture, the language it speaks and the values it possesses. I have benefitted greatly from the study abroad experience and would do it again in a heartbeat.

My experience within the College of Liberal Arts has been transforming. The Geography and Public Administration programs taught me how to think outside the box and how to dissect difficult information. I have had three internships that were orchestrated through the College’s EDGE program. The most recent internship with Southwestern Energy Midstream in Conway, for which I received the UCA Intern of the Year award, was the most rewarding educational experience of my life.