

School of Human Sciences

Educational Objectives

In line with the Educational Objectives of the University of Osaka, the School of Human Sciences, since its establishment in 1972, has continued to develop insights into new interdisciplinary fields emerging across the conventional boundary between the humanities/social sciences and natural sciences, in order to foster an integrated understanding of the real nature of humans and society by combining expertise and research methods in various relevant disciplines, such as psychological and behavioral sciences, sociology, philosophy and anthropology, education and *kyosei* studies. In so doing, the School of Human Sciences aims to foster the ability to make meaningful contributions to Japanese and international society. To meet this aim, the School of Human Sciences upholds three principles, “being interdisciplinary,” “being practical,” and “being global,” and strives to develop individuals who can live up to each of these principles by leveraging advanced specialized knowledge.

Advanced specialized knowledge and outstanding academic expertise

Acquire basic knowledge and way of thinking in human sciences across specialties of the school’s four divisions – Division of Psychological and Behavioral Sciences, Division of Sociology, Philosophy and Anthropology, Division of Education and Division of *Kyosei* Studies – in the first year, and develop expertise and way of thinking (specialized knowledge) and research skills in one of these divisions in the second and subsequent years.

Broad-based knowledge and critical thinking

Learn the basics of all disciplinary fields in the humanities/social sciences and natural sciences; acquire broad-based basic knowledge across the conventional boundary between these sciences; and develop the ability to think from an interdisciplinary perspective based on an understanding of knowledge and research methods in disciplines other than one’s specialization.

International mindset

Develop foreign language proficiency and communication skills necessary to play an active role in the international arena through internationally-oriented educational and research activities promoted in response to the globalization of society and universities.

Design prowess

Acquire academic skills in one’s specialty in human sciences through practical studies such as laboratory works, investigations and fieldwork; foster the ability to apply specialized knowledge and academic skills to the development of ideas and methods to identify and solve problems in given settings; and develop design prowess and practical skills to conduct higher-level research.

Individual educational objectives

Acquire expertise in various specialties, including psychological and behavioral sciences, sociology, philosophy and anthropology, education and *kyosei* studies; learn basic skills to conduct research by exploring a diverse range of themes from an interdisciplinary perspective; and acquire the basic ability to co-create knowledge through interactions within and outside of the University of Osaka and collaboration with various sectors of society.

With these educational objectives, the School of Human Sciences aims to “develop competent individuals with the ability to: consider humans and human society from a scientific perspective; delve into human nature; understand the very essence of humans; and contribute to a society where everyone lives with human dignity.”

Degree Awarding Policy (Diploma Policy)

Under the Diploma Policy of the University of Osaka, and with the aim of developing the ability to make meaningful contributions to Japanese and international society, the School of Human Sciences confers a Bachelor's Degree in Human Sciences on individuals who have achieved the following objectives, and who can live up to the three principles of the School of Human Sciences: "being interdisciplinary," "being practical" and "being global."

Advanced specialized knowledge and outstanding academic expertise

Foster a systematic understanding of basic knowledge in one of the following disciplines: psychological and behavioral sciences, sociology, philosophy and anthropology, education and *kyosei* studies.

Master research methods and skills with which to analyze and explore various aspects and themes relating to humans and society from the perspective of human sciences.

Broad-based knowledge and critical thinking

Acquire broad-based interdisciplinary knowledge in various aspects of humans and society.

Acquire multifaceted knowledge and presentation skills to explain and communicate one's thinking and decision-making process adequately to others.

International mindset

Acquire foreign language proficiency that enables one to make international contributions.

Acquire practical skills to communicate with others with different cultural backgrounds with enthusiasm.

Design prowess

Acquire the ability to identify social and academic problems through laboratory works, investigations and fieldwork and design prowess to develop methods and ideas to solve such problems.

Acquire the ability to integrate knowledge and develop research ideas for problem-solving and scientific studies.

Individual learning goals

Develop a deep interest in modern society and people, and an enthusiasm to work sincerely to meet today's academic and social demands through the perspective and methodology of human sciences.

In line with the Curriculum Policy of the University of Osaka, the School of Human Sciences aims to develop individuals with a deep understanding of humans and the ability to analyze various problems that face today's society from academic and practical perspectives, present a new scientific perception of humans to society, and contribute to better human lives. The School of Human Sciences therefore designs its curriculum under the following principles.

Principles of Curriculum Design

The curriculum focuses on three educational programs – Liberal Arts education, Global Literacy education and Academic Major education – which are organized in a manner that guides students to proactively study relevant subjects from earlier years consistently through to later years. Subjects offered in Liberal Arts education aim to foster broader perspectives beyond one's specialty based on basic knowledge acquired from general education subjects and develop the ability to think from a multifaceted, comprehensive viewpoint. Subjects offered in Global Literacy education aim to enhance foreign language proficiency and foster cross-cultural understanding in stages from basic to advanced. In Academic Major education, students are first guided to acquire basic knowledge and skills necessary to study their specialties, and then to foster an understanding of respective specialties in a step-by-step manner from basic to advanced. Students are also guided to acquire broad-based knowledge and critical thinking as well as an interdisciplinary perspective by studying subjects offered by other divisions and other schools. In later years, students study seminar-based subjects, laboratory works and practical training relating to their respective research themes to enhance their ability to identify problems and develop research ideas in line with the principle of “being practical.”

Contents and Methods of Education

Undergraduate students study subjects in Liberal Arts, Academic Major and Global Literacy education, as well as graduation-seminar and graduation-research subjects to write a bachelor's thesis under appropriate research guidance.

Subjects offered in Academic Major education aim to foster advanced expertise, perspectives of human sciences, and broad-based knowledge and critical thinking. In earlier years, students study lecture-based subjects in psychological and behavioral sciences, sociology, philosophy and anthropology, education and *kyosei* studies in an omnibus-style interdisciplinary course taught by instructors in different specialties in turn. These are offered as required subjects to develop the basic ability to study and explore humans and society from a scientific perspective based on interdisciplinary insights. Students also learn the basic knowledge and research method of each of these subjects by studying introductory subjects offered as elective required subjects. By studying these subjects in active-learning and practical training settings, students gain scientific, interdisciplinary and practical insights into humans and society and they are led to take an interest in particular academic topics, which helps them select the research field to pursue in later years. In later years, students are assigned to one of the following divisions of their choice – Division of Psychological and Behavioral Sciences, Division of Sociology, Philosophy and Anthropology, Division of Education or Division of *Kyosei* Studies – and acquire advanced expertise in their specialties and basic way of thinking (intellect) to conduct research, through lecture-based and seminar-based subjects as well as group work and fieldwork.

As part of Liberal Arts education, students also study knowledge and perspectives in various disciplines other than

their specialties and acquire broad-based knowledge and critical thinking in earlier years. In later years, students study lecture-based and seminar-based subjects offered by divisions other than their own, as well as subjects of their choice in the three educational programs – Liberal Arts education, Academic Major education and Global Literacy education – to gain interdisciplinary perspectives and multifaceted, broad-based knowledge and critical thinking. In this process, students are encouraged to pursue their academic interest on their own initiative.

In Global Literacy education, students study foreign languages using the e-learning method and the history and culture of the world's countries and regions in earlier years to develop communication skills based on foreign language proficiency and cross-cultural understanding. In later years, students study advanced Global Literacy education subjects and special lectures on human sciences taught in English to foster foreign language proficiency and cross-cultural understanding crucial for international communication skills. Students also study seminar-based subjects to read and introduce foreign literature to enhance foreign language proficiency.

The most distinctive feature of the curriculum of the School of Human Sciences is the laboratory-work session provided as a required subject (six credits) three times a week for the period of 18 months from the latter part of the second year to the latter part of the third year to foster basic design prowess. In the laboratory-work session, students learn highly specialized knowledge, theory and research skills necessary to identify and solve problems, while fostering communication skills, and develop the basic ability to conduct graduation research. Graduation research helps students acquire expertise and practical skills to conduct research on their own, whether in a laboratory, or on- or off-campus location, and foster the ability to pursue their research themes from an interdisciplinary perspective.

Academic Performance Evaluation Method

The academic performance of students in lecture-based and seminar-based subjects is evaluated by assessing the level of achievement of learning goals specified in the syllabus of each subject based on examinations, assignments and reports. The academic performance of students in practical-training-based subjects and fieldwork is evaluated by assessing the level of achievement of learning goals of each subject based on reports and research presentations.