



國際發展書院

Residential College of
International Development

American Liberal Arts Education and Its Development in Taiwan

美國的博雅書院教育 及其在臺灣可能的發展

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I. Rankings of Liberal Arts Colleges: US News & World Report vs. Forbes

US News (08/17/2010)

National Comprehensive Universities

1. **Harvard**
2. Princeton
3. Yale
4. Columbia
5. Stanford

National Liberal Arts Colleges

1. **Williams**
2. Amherst
3. Swarthmore
4. Middlebury
5. Wellesley

Forbes (08/11/2010)

Combined Ranking

1. **Williams**
2. Princeton
3. Amherst
4. US Military Academy
5. MIT
6. Stanford
7. Swarthmore
8. **Harvard**
9. Claremont McKenna
10. Yale



II. Origin and Evolution of American Higher Education: From Liberal Arts to Professional Education

Liberal Arts College

(人文藝術學院)

(Harvard College in 1636 and Williams College in 1793:
theology, arts and humanities)



- Classical education focusing on “**whole education**” (全人教育), including broad academic knowledge, cultural cultivation, **self-identification and realization** (“安身立命”與“修身養性”), and even **moral/personality** (道德/品格教育) training curriculum.
- The term “liberal” refers to the nature of education for a **freeman** (自由人) as opposed to a **slave** who is intellectually blind (“識”盲的奴隸), while “arts” refers to the medieval, European disciplines of **grammar, rhetoric, logic, geometry, arithmetic, music, and astronomy** (文法、修辭、邏輯、幾何、算學、音樂和天文學).
- In the 17th Century America, liberal arts included the study of **theology, arts and humanities** (神學、藝術和人文學) only, as in the case of Harvard College.
- In the modern time, in addition to **theology, arts and humanities, mathematics, sciences, and social sciences** (數學、科學和社會科學) have been added to the liberal arts curriculum.



Two Historical Events that Challenged Liberal Arts Education in America

- Reconstruction Era after the Civil War (1861-65)
from 1865 to 1877
南北戰爭後的重建時期
- Great Depression from 1929 to the late 1930s (or
early 1940s) 經濟大恐慌
- Now with the global recession and the rise of
China?



Evolution: Becoming Liberal Arts Colleges and Comprehensive Universities

分道揚鑣:文理大學 vs. 綜合性大學

Liberal Arts College

(past: 人文藝術學院)

(Harvard College in 1636 and Williams College in 1793)

Liberal Arts (Sciences) College

(now: 文理大學)

(Williams: arts, humanities, sciences and social sciences)

(Comprehensive) University

(liberal arts college + professional schools)

(Harvard College + Engineering, Edu, Business, Law, and Med Schools)



Liberal Arts Education vs. Professional Education

文理大學的「通才教育」vs. 綜合性大學的「專才教育」

- Education in liberal arts colleges (including Harvard College) is to produce **generalists (通才教育)** (as exemplified in the original meanings of the degrees of BA, MA, Ph.D., etc) with a “whole education” provided by individualized instructions in a residential, intimate, small-class learning environment (usually 2,000 students or less), where extensive interactions between faculty and students and among students themselves foster a community of serious learning.
培養通才的精英(緻)教育包括個別化的指導、住宿學習、親密互動的學習、以及小班制的教學
(Elite education 精英教育: **Learn to be a well-informed 見識, enlightened 明識, and audacious 膽識 modern citizen 現代公民.**)
- Education in (especially public) comprehensive universities is to produce **specialists (專才教育)** with professional (專業), vocational (職業), technical (技能) and practical (實用) trainings in a much larger learning environment.
(Mass education 大眾教育: **Learn to be a working professional 專業人士.**)



Liberal Arts Education vs. General Education

博雅書院教育 vs. 通識教育

- The two are similar in that both are opposed to professional (專業), vocational (職業), technical (技能) and practical (實用) education, but they are not the same in that general education is part of or a more visible framework (形) of liberal arts education (神).
- While general education is a knowledge-based process of broad exposure to various general disciplines (知識之學) which, understandably, can be somewhat measured both qualitatively and quantitatively, liberal arts education, on the other hand, is a personality-oriented process of self-identification and self-realization (“安身立命” 與 “修身養性” 之學) that can hardly be measured in any way.
- Therefore, a good liberal arts college must have a solid general education (形神兼備), but a school even with a general education is not necessarily a provider of liberal arts education (有形無神).



Its Faculty Members

However, the very essence of liberal arts education goes much beyond a simple set of courses which can be “mechanically” offered; rather, it embraces a set of orientations, values, beliefs, and norms that require “human touches” by the faculty, such as, ideally, near unselfish devotion and commitment to liberal arts education.

書院教育的精華不在於一套「機械式」地提供的課程 而在於教授們對於書院教育「春風化雨」近於無私的承諾與奉獻



Liberal arts education blows like a wind

如清風拂面

無形無蹤

但受者自當心領神會



III. Goals of Liberal Arts Education

- Learn how to learn.
- Learn to be enlightened (明識) and audacious (膽識).
- Develop a “life-long love for learning”.



1. Learn how to learn

First and foremost goals:

- Critically (with a discerning eye on **standard of evidence** 明辨)
“Education must enable one to sift and weigh evidence, to discern the true from the false, the real from the unreal, and the facts from the fiction.” (Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., 1947, at age of 18)
- Logically
Therefore, to learn how to make logical arguments, both verbally and in writing, with strong evidence.

Secondary goals

- Cross-culturally (global literacy/awareness)
- Inter-disciplinarily
- Civil engagement and community-based learning



2. Learn to be enlightened and audacious

- High School Education: Ordinary Person with Common Sense 常識
- College Education: Educated Person with Knowledge 知識
- General Education: Informed Person with Information 見識
- **Liberal Arts Education: Enlightened Person with Vision 明識**
- **Be an Audacious Person with Audacity 膽識**



What does it take to be **enlightened**
(如何把那盞燈打開)?

How to situate ourselves in the world as a **freeman** (安身立命的自由人) rather than a “blind” person walking in the dark (“識” 盲之人在黑暗中茫然而行)?

所謂人貴自知的「自知之明」

《老子》：「知人者智，自知者明」



What does it take to be **audacious**?

Taking actions

“The hottest places in hell are reserved for those who in the times of great moral crisis maintain neutrality.” Dante (1265 -1321)

“地獄裏的至熱之地 是保留給那些在重大道德危機之時 仍然保持中立之人。” 但丁

Therefore, taking actions through civil engagement and community-based learning.



3. Develop a “life-long love for learning”

Since learning is more **procedural** than substantial (learn how to learn rather than learn something substantial), and learning is **action-oriented**, learning will become a life-long experience.



IV. Performances of Liberal Arts College Graduates

Although liberal arts college graduates are very small in number when compared to those of larger public universities, they are disproportionately represented among leaders in many spheres of American society.

According to a 1998 study

(<http://www.collegenews.org/topliberalartscolleges.xml>), even though only **3 percent** (only 2% now) of American college and university graduates received education at a **liberal arts college**, alumni of these small colleges accounted for:

- **8 percent** of the nation's wealthiest **CEOs** in 1998
- **19 percent** of U.S. **presidents**, including Presidents **Nixon** and **Reagan**.
- **23 percent** of **Pulitzer Prize** winners in drama, 19 percent of the winners in history, 18 percent in poetry, 8 percent in biography, and 6 percent in fiction from 1960 to 1998
- **9 percent** of all **Fulbright scholarship** awardees
- **24 percent** of all **Mellon fellowships** recipients in the humanities
- **20 percent** of **Phi Beta Kappa**, the oldest and most **prestigious honor society** in the United States, inductions between 1995 and 1997



The same study of 1998 also suggests that liberal arts college graduates are disproportionately represented in the American scientific community. These colleges have produced nearly **twice** as many students who earn a **Ph.D. in science** as other institutions. Nearly **20 percent** of the scientists elected to the **National Academy of Sciences** in a recent two-year period were alumni of a liberal arts college.



V. Four Models of Liberal Arts Education in American Higher Education System

- Williams Model: A classic liberal arts college (Williams College) on its own.
威廉斯模式: 一所獨立的文理書院/大學 (無一遺漏)
- Harvard Model: A liberal arts college (Harvard College) within an university (Harvard University) that includes ALL undergraduates.
哈佛模式: 綜合性大學之中的文理書院 (包括整個大學部 ; 無一遺漏)
- MSU Model: An thematic elite college (James Madison College) within an university (Michigan State University) that includes a SMALL PORTION of the undergraduates.
密西根州大模式: 綜合性大學之中的精英書院
- UCSD Model: Six residential colleges within an university (University of California, San Diego) that include ALL undergraduates.
加州大學聖地亞哥分校模式: 綜合性大學之中的住宿學院 (包括整個大學部 ; 無一遺漏)
(Current model for Taiwan to develop liberal arts education---取法乎下.)



VI. Residential Colleges in China, Hong Kong and Macao

- Beijing University: 北京大學「元培學院」
Nanjing University: 南京大學「匡亞明學院」
Fudan University: 復旦大學「復旦學院」
Zhejiang University: 浙江大學「竺可楨學院」
Sun Yat-sen University: 中山大學「博雅學院」
Xian Jiaotong University: 西安交通大學「彭康書院」
... ..
- Honk Kong Chinese University: 香港中文大學五所新設的書院
- University of Macao: 澳門大學的住宿學院計劃



VII. Development of Residential Colleges in Taiwan

(similar to the UCSD Model of residential colleges)

- National Chengchi University: 政治大學「政大書院」(2008)
- National Tsinghua University: 清華大學「清華學院」(2008)
- Tunghai University: 東海大學「博雅書院」(2008)
- National Chungcheng university: 中正大學「紫荊書院」(2009)
- Asia University: 亞洲大學「三品書院」(2009)
- Chung Hua University: 中華大學「中華學院」(2010)
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VIII. Singapore Model (similar to Williams/Harvard Model)

Yale-Nus College 耶魯—國立新加坡大學學院 (with 1,000 students and 100 faculty members) will be established in July 2013 with the following visions:

- **Create a new model of residential liberal arts education, contextualized to Asia in the 21st century;**
- **Foster the habits of mind and character needed for leadership in all sectors of society; and**
- **Be a center for new thinking and scholarship and a catalyst for innovation and leadership in liberal arts education. (<http://www.ync.nus.edu.sg/Vision.html>)**

Yale-NUS College

The First Liberal Arts College in Asia





IX. Suggestions & Conclusions

**Taiwan should establish its own
“National Taiwan Liberal Arts College”.**



A Well Structured Liberal Arts College: 3 colleges and 14 majors with 100 faculty members and 1,000 students

- Arts and Humanities: Literature, History, Philosophy, Arts, and Music
- Sciences: Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, and Psychology
- Social Sciences: Politics, Sociology, Anthropology, and Economics

Q & A

