Faculty of Arts and Sciences (FAS)
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John Meloy  Associate Dean
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Historical Background

The Faculty of Arts and Sciences was established in 1866, the same year in which the Syrian Protestant College, now the American University of Beirut, was established. On December 13, 1866, the first class was held, attended by sixteen students, and in 1870 the first five students graduated. Arabic, which was the language of instruction since the inception of the college, was replaced by English in 1882. In 1900 the School of Commerce was established and was later incorporated into the Faculty of Arts and Sciences.

AUB, in general, and the Faculty of Arts and Sciences in particular, have survived many crises since 1866, including two world wars, regional and local wars, student strikes, and economic crises. In spite of all these hardships the faculty has continued to develop and to maintain its high academic standards.
Mission

The Faculty of Arts and Sciences represents the core of the University and is its main gateway for higher studies and professional education. It follows a liberal arts program that stresses freedom of academic choice, integrity, ethical conduct, equal opportunity and respect for diversity. The faculty offers undergraduate and graduate programs committed to excellence in research and teaching in the most fundamental disciplines of the arts, humanities, and social, natural and mathematical sciences.

Vision

The Faculty of Arts and Sciences strives to have a governance system that is transparent and based on peer participation and review. The faculty encourages and supports high quality research and teaching. The curriculum is built on a pivotal and formative freshman year. Excellence is achieved at the undergraduate and graduate levels through a continuous revision of curricula, assessment of needs for equipment and facilities, and recruitment and development of faculty profiles. The faculty is committed to academic growth through the establishment of successful and sustainable Bachelor’s, Master’s and Doctoral degrees.

Graduate Study

Admission to the graduate programs in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences is competitive, based on the applicant’s academic record, achievements and research interests of the applicant. All applicants to graduate study need the recommendation of the academic unit concerned. Academic units may add additional requirements that would assist in their admission recommendations such as a writing sample, GRE (or GMAT, in the case of the Department of Economics) scores, and/or interview.

The following includes admissions information specific to the Faculty of Arts and Sciences. Additional requirements are described in the General section on Admissions in this catalogue.

I. Admission as a Regular Graduate Student

An applicant is considered for admission as a regular student to a graduate program if he/she meets the following minimum admission requirements:

An undergraduate average of at least 80 percent (or standardized equivalent from other institutions of higher learning) in the major field of study and a cumulative average of at least 75 percent (or standardized equivalent) for all work done at the undergraduate level leading to a Bachelor’s degree or its equivalent from AUB or other recognized institutions of higher learning. Applicants to the Environmental Policy Planning specialization in the Interfaculty Graduate Environmental Sciences Program (IGESP) are required to have an average of at least 80 percent in the last two years of undergraduate study or its equivalent at AUB or other universities as determined by the Faculty Graduate Studies Committee.

Further requirements for admission to graduate work are found in the General section on Admission in this catalogue.
II. Admission as a Graduate Student on Probation

An applicant is considered for admission on probation if he/she meets the following minimum admission requirements:

An undergraduate average of at least 77 percent (or standardized equivalent from other institutions of higher learning) in the major field of study and a cumulative average of at least 75 percent (or standardized equivalent) for all work done at the undergraduate level leading to a Bachelor’s degree or its equivalent from AUB or other recognized institutions of higher learning. Applicants to the Environmental Policy Planning specialization in the Interfaculty Graduate Environmental Sciences Program (IGESP) are required to have an average of 75 percent in the last two years of study or its equivalent at AUB or other universities as determined by the Faculty Graduate Studies Committee.

Further requirements for admission to graduate work are found in the General section on Admissions in this catalogue.

III. Admission as a Prospective Graduate Student

Applicants who hold a Bachelor’s degree in a major field of study other than the one to which they are applying, and who do not have sufficient academic preparation in the field, may be admitted as a prospective graduate student who must complete specified undergraduate course requirements.

To be considered for admission as a prospective graduate student, the applicant must have attained an undergraduate average of 75 percent (or standardized equivalent) in all work done at the undergraduate level leading to a Bachelor’s degree or its equivalent from AUB or another recognized institution of higher learning.

Further requirements for admission to graduate work are found in the General section on Admission in this catalogue: If an average of 77-80 percent is attained, the student may have his/her status changed to graduate student on probation pending department recommendation and approval of the Faculty Graduate Studies Committee.