Upskilling in a Liberal Arts College

Why It Matters
What it Means
How Trinity is Leading

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Faculty Director of Innovation Initiatives
What’s a liberal arts education?

- Broad-based learning across arts, humanities, social sciences and sciences
- Emphasizes analysis, communication, and learning how to think critically.
- Subjects in the liberal arts can be studied on a theoretical level.
- In practice: general education + major

It’s not:
- Rote learning / just knowledge acquisition
- Strictly vocational
- Limited to one particular area of study.
Trinity at a Glance

- Est. 1823
- 2,098 full-time undergraduates
- 91 graduate students
- 50% women
- 21% domestic students of color
- From 47 states and 68 countries
- More than 900 courses in 41 majors


As the preeminent liberal arts college in an urban setting, Trinity College prepares students to be bold, independent thinkers who lead transformative lives.
Upskilling the PhD? UK Research Development Framework 2011 version

See also: The ‘Alt-Ac’ Movement
Leveraging the Liberal Arts

- Gateway Programs
- Liberal Arts Action Lab
- Public Humanities Collaborative, funded by Mellon
Employer-Institution Partnership: Trinity College and Infosys Applied Learning Initiative, est. 2018
“By investing in liberal arts graduates, we gain people with human-centered skills who can approach problems in entirely new ways, contributing to out-of-the-box thinking in a digital age.”

Ravi Kumar, President of Infosys

 Infosys
Est. 1981, based in India
220,000+ employees worldwide
Hartford hub opened 2018
1,000 Hartford employees by 2023
Trinity-Infosys

Business Analysis for Digital Transformation

Learning goals: critical thinking, leadership, communication

5 weeks at Trinity

• Business analysis fundamentals
• Design thinking
• Core Liberal Arts skills and values

+ 3 weeks at Infosys
Other Projects
- Internships
- Tech-Edge
- MedTech Accelerator
- Academy of Lifelong Learning

Questions? Ideas? jreganle@trincoll.edu