

L&S Curriculum Committee Annual Report (2018-2019)

Overview

The L&S Curriculum Committee (LSCC) is comprised of faculty representatives from all L&S divisions, advisors, and ex-officio members from L&S Administration and L&S Student Academic Affairs. The LSCC advises the Dean on the curricular integrity of academic programs offered in the College of Letters and Science, from degree requirements affecting all L&S undergraduates, to changes to requirements for existing majors, certificates, and options. The committee reviews proposals to add, change, or delete courses from the L&S subject listings, after departmental approval and prior to final approval by the University Curriculum Committee. To maintain the integrity of the undergraduate Liberal Arts curriculum, the committee also considers requests to allow courses offered outside the college to count toward L&S undergraduate degree requirements by awarding them the designation of "Liberal Arts and Science" courses. At the Dean's request, the committee considers other issues related to undergraduate education for purposes of advising him, the faculty and L&S departments and programs, and the L&S division of Student Academic Affairs. Below are brief descriptions of issues addressed by the committee this past academic year.

Program Changes

LSCC guidelines regarding changes to requirements for academic programs remain in effect (<https://kb.wisc.edu/lc/page.php?id=20013>). The Committee and L&S Administration staff continue to work with departments to articulate the connections between requests for curricular changes and efforts to assess student learning in academic programs, to link changes to evidence, and to demonstrate more clearly effective student learning. As part of the approval process for changes to existing programs, implementation dates and teach-out plan are established to ensure that students on the "old" programs are still able to complete those requirements or that they may transition to the new requirements without adversely affecting their progress.

Information about these undergraduate program and policy changes are emailed to the advising community through advisor-link, to better communicate recent changes to advising staff across campus. The program and summaries of changes below were approved, effective Fall 2019 unless otherwise noted.

Undergraduate programs changes:

Afro-American Studies undergraduate major: Revised requirements to better reflect current course offerings and reduce bottlenecks. Students must now complete 2 courses from each category: Literature, History and Society, Arts and Culture, Seminars and Advanced courses, Electives.

Chemistry undergraduate major: Updated the list of courses that meet the advanced non-laboratory requirements and simplified the additional 3 credits of advanced work required for honors in the major.

Chinese undergraduate major: Revisions align requirements in Chinese and Japanese programs, create a structure of elementary, intermediate, and advanced level courses, and introduce more flexibility so students may take advantage of opportunities like study abroad, or complete the major if they do not start studying Chinese or Japanese language freshmen year.

Computer Science undergraduate major entrance requirements: New requirements are (1) COMP SCI 300 and either MATH 222 or 276; and (2) Grade of BC or higher COMP SCI 300 or 400 or COMP SCI/ECE 354; and (3) 2.25 GPA or higher among the first completed attempts of these courses: COMP SCI 300 and either MATH 222 or 276. If a student needs additional coursework to meet the 2.250 GPA requirement, COMP SCI/MATH 240, COMP SCI/E C E 354, and/or COMP SCI 400 may also be used.

Computer Science undergraduate certificate requirements: New requirements are (1) COMP SCI 300 and either MATH 222 or 276; and (2) Grade of BC or higher in COMP SCI 300 or 400 or COMP SCI/ECE 354.

English undergraduate major entrance requirements: Removed historical references to entrance requirements in Guide that had not be used by the department for some time.

History undergraduate major. Expanded course lists that can be used to complete requirements to include History of Science courses, to reflect the recent merger of the History and History of Science departments. The majors of History of Science and History of Science, Medicine and Technology will be closed.

Legal Studies: Updates to learning outcomes.

Japanese major. Aligned requirements in Chinese and Japanese programs, create a structure of elementary, intermediate, and advanced level courses, and introduce more flexibility so students may take advantage of opportunities like study abroad, or complete the major if they do not start studying Chinese or Japanese language freshmen year.

Music undergraduate BA/BS major – Clarification of requirements. Requirements are now more clearly articulated in Guide, and a degree audit is available. Named Options that weren't used were closed: History, Theory.

Spanish undergraduate major. Reduced bottlenecks and require more upper level coursework. A new introductory course is required, and the electives category was changed to primarily include courses numbered 400 and above. Students must also complete 6 credits of 400+ SPANISH coursework here on campus.

Zoology – Honors in the Major requirements. Changed requirements to increase student interest and participation. Students will now have greater flexibility in choosing the Honors coursework, and GPA requirements were modified.

Additional proposals:

The committee also discussed:

- Revisions to the Integrated Liberal Studies certificate. The changes were not approved, however discussions about the changes are expected to continue to the next academic year.
- Revisions to the Molecular Biology major and re-opening admissions. These changes were approved by L&S, however further conversations and clarifications at the campus level are not yet complete.

Graduate Program Changes:

African Cultural Studies MA: Removed information in Guide about a 'track' for which students are no longer admitted, also updated learning outcomes.

African Cultural Studies PhD: Removed information in Guide about a 'track' for which students are no longer admitted, also clarified dissertation process.

Chinese MA: Changed minimum number of graduate courses to align with minimum campus policy (at least 15 out of 30 total credits)

Communication Arts, MA and PHD: Changed GPA minimum requirement for good standing to 3.0, from 3.75.

Economics MS, Graduate Foundations Named Option. Changed to 12 the allowable number of credits taken as a special student that may count towards their degree. (This will allow Economics Visiting International Students to use more credits towards their degree if they are admitted to Economic's Graduate Foundations Named Option.).

Japanese MA: Changed minimum number of graduate courses to align with minimum campus policy (at least 15 out of 30 total credits)

Mathematics PhD: Reduced number of credits required, from 54 to 51.

Physics Minor: Reduced the required credits from 12 to 9.

Physics MA, MS: Updated published learning outcomes.

Statistics MS, Data Science Named Option: Slightly restructured requirements, renamed requirement areas for clarity.

New Programs

New programs require L&S Academic Planning Committee (L&S APC) review and approval. As part of the L&S review process for new programs, the L&S Curriculum Committee typically reviews and provides advice to the L&S APC about the proposed curriculum, in particular whether it aligns with L&S curricular policies and can be smoothly administered. This year, the L&S Curriculum Committee reviewed the curriculum of the following programs, all of which have since received both L&S APC and UAPC approvals. The administrative home of the program follows the program name:

New undergraduate programs:

Data Science undergraduate major, BA/BS (interdisciplinary program committee; Administrative home:

Statistics)

Sports Communication undergraduate certificate (Journalism)

Planning and Landscape Architecture, BA/BS. This major previously existed in CALS. It was suspended as part of the merger to create the Planning and Landscape Architecture department in L&S. The proposal articulated the requirements that will be in place Fall 2019 when the newly renamed/recreated program opens in L&S.

New graduate programs and capstone certificates:

“Professional Program” Named Option in Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences, MS

“French Studies Summer Institute” Named Option in French Studies, MFS

The committee also reviewed a Notice of Intent to create a new Information MS (administrative home in the Information School) in L&S.

Curricular Policies, Procedures, and Guidelines

The L&S Curriculum Committee is frequently invited to comment on the development of campus policies. The committee commented on and supported the following proposals or policies:

- Creation of a new Sustainability attribute
- Topics course guidance

The L&S CC also discussed and approved matters specific to L&S including:

- Updates to the Literature and Humanities breadth criteria
- Revisions to L&S Curricular Guidelines
- L&S Curriculum Committee oversight for 4-year plans published in Guide, include creation of guidelines and advice to establish consistencies across undergraduate program 4-year plans in Guide
- A request from the Economics to offer a Credit by Exam for ECON 101 and 310 (after more discussions about credit by exam policy and details of the proposal at the campus level, the department withdrew the request).

Course Related Issues

Proposals to Add, Change, or Delete Courses

The LSCC is responsible for college-level review of proposals to add, change, or delete courses managed by L&S departments and programs. Proposals approved by department faculty are forwarded to the college-level Curriculum Committee for approval.

A review is conducted to evaluate whether the proposed courses or changes conform to technical requirements (e.g., valid course number, etc.) as well as the pedagogical goals of the College. New course proposals are carefully reviewed in terms of their syllabi, learning goals, and possible overlap/opportunities for cross-listing with existing courses. The LSCC chair and staff review all proposals to determine if they are ready for committee consideration, and committee members review all proposals online prior to the meeting. On any of these levels, questions may be asked of the faculty and units submitting the proposals; the committee chair and L&S staff work with departments to resolve questions

that come up before proposals are submitted to the University Curriculum Committee. This year, the LSCC reviewed and approved 242 course proposals: 81 new courses, 91 changes, 41 deletions, and 29 proposals to add or change L&S designations to non-L&S courses. Other course related issues considered by the L&S Curriculum Committee includes:

- Requests from departments to update requisites on their entire course array (via an expedited review process)
- Departmental requests to delay automatic discontinuation of an 'obsolete course' (has not been taught in 8 years) because of immediate plans to revive the course.
- Requests to create or change courses in Inter-L&S subject listing, for which the L&S Curriculum Committee is the Executive Committee.

L&S Curriculum Committee Members:

Chair: Seth Blair, Integrative Biology

Members:

Valerie Johnson, Psychology
Jelena Todorović, French & Italian
Susan Ridgely, Religious Studies
Jennifer Schomaker, Chemistry
Jean-Luc Thiffeault, Math
Louise Mares, Communication Arts

Student Members appointed through ASM:

vacant

Ex Officio:

Kimbrin Cornelius, L&S Administration
Elaine Klein, L&S Administration
Christopher Lee, L&S Student Academic Affairs
Jacqui Guthrie, L&S Honors Program / Sara Stephenson, L&S Honors Program
Michael J. Pflieger, L&S Student Academic Affairs
Shirin Malekpour, L&S Administration

Assistant to the Committee:

Joni Brown, L&S Administration

This report was approved by the L&S Curriculum Committee on Sept 24, 2019

Submitted by Kimbrin Cornelius, L&S, Curriculum Administration Specialist