L&S Curriculum Committee Annual Report (2019-2020)

_____

Overview of Committee Role

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

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. L&S Academic and Information Management staff also work with departments that submit undergraduate program changes to ensure requirements are clearly articulated in Guide in a and can be coded in DARS.

The program and summaries of changes below were approved, effective Fall 2020 unless otherwise noted.

Undergraduate Program Changes:

African Cultural Studies major: Requirements allow an additional 200-level course to meet requirements, with additional changes to give students greater flexibility in choosing upper-level coursework.

Asian Languages and Cultures major: Changed breadth requirements to articulate number of credits required, rather than number of courses.

Asian American Studies certificate: Decreased total credits required, to 12 credits. Removed the tier-structure system to reflect the program's interdisciplinary and comparative nature, and to make the certificate easier to complete.

Astronomy-Physics major: Added thesis of distinction and distinction in the major.

Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences major: Changed entrance requirements to no longer require Chemistry

Chinese Professional Communication certificate: Added an additional upper course requirement to progress language proficiency. This in response to the reduction of credits in Chinese introductory language courses, from 6 to 4 credits.

Classical Humanities major: A variety of small adjustments were made align Guide and DARs, and to update course lists.

Folklore certificate: Reopened for admission; Requirements have been clarified and simplified.

French major: Changed to allow a program requisite course to now meet program requirements, which makes the program easier to complete.

Health and Humanities certificate: Updated list of courses that may meet capstone requirements (effective Spring 2020).

Legal Studies major: Added thesis of distinction and distinction in the major. Also clarified the Non-US Legal System course requirement.

Molecular and Cell Biology major: Reopened for admission, and name changes (from Molecular Biology). Curricular revisions better distinguish it from other biological science programs and emphasize laboratory and research experiences.

Japanese Professional Communications certificate: Added an additional upper course requirement to progress language proficiency. This in response to the reduction of credits in Japanese introductory language courses, from 6 to 4 credits.

LGBTQ+ Studies certificate: Restructured certificate to have breadth and depth categories, and to no longer have a capstone requirement, which was a bottleneck for the certificate.

Polish major: Added new courses to reflect recent cultural/scholarly developments, streamlined the program structure, reduced the number of required credits, with an overall goal of making the major easier to complete.

Portuguese major: Removed the additional Romance language requirement, reduced by one credit the total number of credits required, and updated requirements to better align with what is currently offered.

Psychology major: Added thesis of distinction and distinction in the major. Also made changes to capstone course requirements.

The committee also reviewed and provided feedback on two proposals that may be reviewed in the future, after feedback has been addressed:

- **Latin American, Caribbean, and Iberian Studies undergraduate major.** Committee members provided feedback of making course lists more focused, especially for the cases where the regional content of a course might vary widely from term to term. They requested 'focus' areas be changed to a requirement that can be coded in DARS (currently it cannot be).
- **GNS proposed to create new Named Options in the Russian major undergraduate major:** Given the number relatively small number of students and limited distinctions between the Named Options and the major, the committee recommended that Named Options not be created. Instead the major could be modified to accommodate informal pathways of focus.
- **Integrated Liberal Studies.** The committee was concerned about an overreliance of topics courses to meet program requirements and provided feedback on how that could be addressed.

Graduate Program Changes:

Cartography and Geographic Information System: GIS Development, MS: Total number of credits required was reduced by two credits, which standardizes the requirements for both named options under Cartography and GIS.

Classical and Ancient Near Eastern Studies, MA and PhD: Changes made to the distribution and arrangements of credits and qualifying exams to increase flexibility for students to meet requirements. Students can also begin work on these requirements earlier in their graduate study, allowing for an even distribution of coursework over time.

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:

History certificate: New 15-credit certificate built around the methodological core of HISTORY 201 and offers students four different types of capstone course options.

New Named Options in Mathematics major: The named options convert and formalize previous focused tracks related to computer science, economics and finance, statistics and actuarial sciences, the physical sciences, and secondary education.

The L&S Curriculum Committee also approved "additional majors" (majors offered outside of L&S that L&S degree students may declare as an additional major):

- **Health Education and Health Promotion Policy major** (School of Education)
- **Global Health major** (College of Agricultural Life Sciences)

New Graduate Programs:

Information, MS: Program will have two named options (Campus and Online) to be housed in the Information School within the School of Computer, Data, and Information Sciences. This program provides master's level education for students seeking entry into a data/information management and some applied computing professions.

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:

Course Related Issues

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 committee reviewed 264 course proposals to: create 123 new courses, change 100 courses, delete 12 courses, and consider 29 courses outside L&S for "Liberal Arts and Science" designation, level or breadth. In addition the committee reviewed:

- 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.