
College of Letters and Science Academic Planning Council Annual Report to L&S Faculty Senate (2020-2021)

The L&S Academic Planning Council advises the dean on strategic planning, as well as on programmatic matters (program review, expansion, alteration, and deletion) and fiscal matters. The council's operating procedures appear online in the L&S Administrative Gateway, at <https://kb.wisc.edu/images/group86/19956/APCGovernanceRules-2012rev.pdf>

Program Review

All UW-Madison Academic Programs must be reviewed every 10 years. Reviews are convened by the dean upon the recommendation of the associate dean, in consideration of the schedule for review maintained by the Provost. The program faculty prepares a self-study narrative that is provided to a faculty review committee and is used as the foundation for a report to the dean. The APC reviews and discusses the self-study, review committee report, and the program's response to the report. Members advise the dean and associate deans about program strengths, reflect on efforts to assess of student learning, and offer counsel on what might be done to promote improvement. The following departments completed program reviews in this year:

- Biology – BA/BS
- Economics - BA/BS, MS, PhD
- Political Science BA/BS, MA, PhD
- Public Humanities – Graduate Certificate
- Computer Sciences, “Professional Program” – MS
- Portuguese – MA, PhD
- English – BA/BS, MA, PhD
- Biology Core Curriculum – Undergraduate Honors Certificate
- L&S Honors Program

L&S Program Actions

L&S APC considers for approval proposals to create, rename, restructure/move, suspend admission to, or close programs.

New Programs, Minors, Named Options and Certificates approved:

- New BA/BS Named Option, “English Language and Linguistics,” in English
- New Capstone Certificate, “French Studies for Teachers”
- New Undergraduate Certificate in Economic Analytics
- New PhD, Gender & Women's Studies
- New Undergraduate Certificate, “Data Science”
- New Undergraduate Certificate, “Health Policy”
- New Doctoral Minor, “Medieval Studies”
- New Bachelor of Liberal Studies, with new Major in Applied Social Science

Rename:

- PhD, “Library and Information Science” to “Information”

Note: due to the connections between the doctoral program and the accredited master's program, this action eventually required creation of a new program, PhD-Information, and formal discontinuation of the PhD-Library and Information Science. These actions were considered to be consistent with the council's approval, and were endorsed in subsequent meetings.

- Doctoral Minor, MS, and PhD, "Zoology" to "Integrative Biology"

Discontinue (some additional program discontinuations are in the "Restructuring" section of this report):

- Named Option in CANES, MA and PhD, "Hebrew Bible" (CANES)

Other:

- Notice of Intent: New BA/BS, "Information Science,"
- Notice of Intent: New BA/BS, Chican@ and Latin@ Studies
- Updates to Undergraduate Programs:
 - Bachelor of Social Work
 - Undergraduate Certificate in Integrated Liberal Studies

Substantial Changes to L&S Departments/Academic Units

The council approved the following proposal:

- Discontinuing the Department of Comparative Literature and Folklore Studies
This action was presented to the Faculty Senate on December 7, 2020, and is recorded in the record of that meeting as Faculty [Document 2920](#).

Other L&S Items

The APC approved several other items, including:

- Postponement of implementation date of new Named Option "Data Science & Human Behavior" (MS – Psychology) (approved April 2020) to Fall 2022
- Notice that the shared L&S/CALS major in Environmental Sciences will no longer allow students to add a major in Environmental Studies, due to concerns about overlapping credits and coursework for the two programs.
This request was not taken, due to late objections presented by the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies, which manages the major for L&S. This issue has not yet been resolved.
- Adjustments to Guide Information for Graduate Programs
- Discontinuation of "Thesis of Distinction" and "Distinction in the Major" Sub-Plan Codes

Requests for Comment, Consultation, or Support

L&S is frequently invited to comment on the development of programs and policies outside of L&S, at the college, campus or UW System level. The council offered comment on the following proposals:

Request for Comment: UW-Madison programs

- School of Business, Marketing, "Marketing Online" – BBA
- School of Business, Management & Human Resources, "Management Online" – BBA
- School of Business, Management & Human Resources, "Human Resources Online" – BBA

- College of Engineering, Environmental Engineering – BS
- College of Engineering, “Machine learning and Data Science,” Computer Engineering – BS
- College of Engineering, “Machine learning and Data Science,” Electrical Engineering – BS
- School of Human Ecology, Human Development and Family Studies Named Option, “Human Development & Family Studies Online” – BS
- School of Human Ecology, Retail & Consumer Behavior Named Option, “Consumer Behavior & Marketplace Studies Online” – BS
- College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, Environmental Remediation and Management – MS
- College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, Certificate in Organic Agriculture
- College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, Graduate Certificate in Science Communication
- Nelson Institute, Center for Ecology and the Environment

Request for Comment: UW System Programs

- UW-Milwaukee, Neuroscience – BS (9/15)
- UW-Platteville, Community Development and Administration – MS
- UW-Green Bay, Public Administration – MA
- UW-Oshkosh, Professional Studies – BA

Other requests for comment or support:

- School of Human Ecology, name change from “Retail & Consumer Behavior” to “Consumer Behavior & Marketplace Studies” – BS
- Graduate Faculty Executive Committee Agenda Item of Note: Doctoral Breadth Policy
- College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Request to Discontinue “Development” – PhD

Other Items

The APC discussed other items, including:

- The Graduate Record Examination (GRE) and its role in graduate program admission requirements
- Updates to the Program Review process
- Discussions around challenges and responses to the pandemic, with a particular focus on the shift to remote instruction
- Review and updates of APC Operating Procedures

This report was approved by the L&S Academic Planning Council on October 19, 2021. Questions about the report, and the activities of the Council, may be directed to Elaine M. Klein, Associate Dean for Academic Planning (elaine.klein@wisc.edu).

Submitted by Elaine M. Klein, Associate Dean for Academic Planning