

# L&S Curriculum Committee Annual Report (2020-2021)

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## 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 2021 unless otherwise noted.

### Undergraduate Program Changes:

- **Asian Languages and Cultures BA/BS.** Adds Honors in the Major
- **Atmospheric & Oceanic Sciences BA/BS.** Removes requirement to complete a series of requisite courses before declaring the major.
- **Communication Arts BA/BS.** Removes restriction that students with more than 100 credits may not declare it as another major
- **Communication Sciences & Disorders BA/BS.** Adds Physical Breadth requirement (in the major) to match accreditor expectations.
- **Data Science BA/BS:** Allows COMP SCI 300 as an alternate to COMP SCI 220.

- **Economics BA/BS.** Reduces the number of ECON courses required to be admitted to the major (from two required in residence to one).
  - **Environmental Science BA/BS and Environmental Studies BA/BS.** Articulates overlap rule: students may not be enrolled in both majors.
  - **French BA/BS.** Allows one course taught in English to meet requirements.
  - **Health and Humanities certificate.** Articulates overlap rule: students may not be enrolled in this and Global Health major/certificate
  - **Integrated Liberal Studies certificate.** Reduces the number of required credits to 15 and substantially reorganizes requirements to include core, integrated breadth, integrated diversity, and capstone requirements.
  - **Jewish Studies BA/BS.** Renovates requirements on recommendation of program review. Reduces the amount of required Hebrew language courses, reduces the number of required credits (and number of courses in some requirement areas), replaces the Capstone Sequence with a “Core Seminar”, and redefines Intermediate and Advanced level courses in the major.
  - **Landscape Architecture BLA.** Removes LAND ARC 211 from the courses required to declare the major (it also no longer meets requirements).
  - **Latin American, Caribbean, and Iberian Studies BA/BS.** Reduces the number of credits required (to 30 credits), restructures requirements, and updates course lists.
  - **Medieval Studies certificate.** Changes quality of work requirement from 3.0 GPA to 2.0 GPA (which is more typical of certificates); updates courses that may meet requirements.
  - **Public Policy certificate.** Clarifies admission requirements and adds a new course that will satisfy the Policy Specialization component of the Certificate.
  - **Russian BA/BS.** Streamlines requirements, reduces the credits required, and retires unofficial tracks in favor of one set of major requirements.
  - **Social Work BSW.** Replaces two ‘tracks’ (that replicated a BA and BS) with one set of degree requirements.
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#### Graduate Program Changes:

- **Statistics MS, Data Science Named Option.** Removes GRE requirement for admission, offers some additional flexibility with course selection.
- **Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences Doctoral Minor.** Changes total credits required from 10 to 9
- **Chemistry PhD.** Adds an additional track (informal; not transcribed); updates to reflect newly unified assessment requirements
- **Chinese MA, PhD.** Updates to courses that can meet requirements to better reflect current course offerings
- **French MA, PHD.** Revises requirements with the goals of better reflecting the current discipline, recruiting top students, and preparing students for careers in academia and beyond.
- **French Studies MFS.** Reduces minimum number of required graduate-level courses, to 50%
- **Library and Information Studies PhD.** Increases flexibility to ensure the program accommodates broader student interests, which should also increase enrollments.

- **Physics MS, Quantum Computing Named Option.** Provides additional course options for greater flexibility, particularly to allow students the option of starting research in their first semester.
- **Statistics MS, Data Science Named Option.** Removes GRE requirement for admission, adds some additional flexibility with course selection.

## 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:

- **English BA/BS, New Named Option: “Language and Linguistics.”** The new named option is designed for the focused study of the structure of the English language itself, allowing students to explore the English language, including dialects of English, and the way it is learned and used. It replaces an existing ‘track’.
- **Data Science Certificate.** This 16-credit certificate will serve students who wish to develop abilities in data science such as data management, reproducibility, modeling strategies, and ethical considerations of data science to be paired with their knowledge gained from their major or domain area. (Statistics Department).
- **Economic Analysis Certificate.** Economists have a tradition of formally combining data analysis with economic models, giving a different perspective on data and how to think about data analysis. The Certificate will introduce students in other majors to this economic approach to data analytics.
- **Health Policy Certificate.** This certificate will prepare undergraduate students to understand, navigate and potentially shape health policy in Wisconsin and in the United States. Coursework will include an introduction to health policy; analytic skills for health policy; a specialization course from a rich slate of courses across campus that are relevant to health policy; and an applied fieldwork experience (LaFollette School of Public Affairs).

### New programs in planning stage

- **Permission to plan - Information Science BA/BS.** The proposed new major will focus on concepts and examine issues at the nexus of people, data, information, and computing, with emphasis on ethical, cultural, and social challenges inherent in the design and use of information technology-based and data-driven solutions. It emphasizes design of systems for the good of people, organizations, and society. This will be the first undergraduate program offered by the Information School.
- **Permission to plan - Chican@ Latin@ Studies BA/BS.** The proposed new major will focus on critical examination of issues relevant to the experience of Chicana/o and Latina/o peoples in the U.S. It

studies various cultural expressions, such as literature, music, film, dance, performance, visual art, and popular culture.

- **Authorization for Implementation – Bachelor of Liberal Studies in Applied Science (offered online-only).** The proposed new online-only degree is intended to serve as a degree completion program for returning adult learners who have some college credit and no degree. Students will be directly admitted into the degree. *Note: existing L&S majors for residential students cannot be offered with this degree.* Expected opening date is Fall 2022.

### New Graduate Programs:

- **Capstone Certificate of French Studies for Teachers:** This new post-baccalaureate certificate program is aimed at professional development for working French teachers.
- **Medieval Studies Doctoral Minor:** The new certificate provides a transcript credential for graduate students who have focused on this interdisciplinary area outside their doctoral research area.

## Additional L&S Approval Items

The L&S Curriculum Committee also approved the following items:

- New Department Placement Exams in Asian Languages and Cultures: Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Indonesian, Persian, Urdu, Tibetan, Thai, Hmong, Vietnamese, Filipino, and Hindi
- Discontinue L&S credentials of “Distinction in the Major” and “Thesis of Distinction”
- Updates to the L&S Policy on Offering Undergraduate Class Sections with Online or Hybrid Modality

## Requests for Comment

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:

- Changes to School of Business degree requirements
- Third Party Credit by Exam
- Clarifications on policy for online undergraduate degree programs
- New diversity & equity questions on Lumen Program proposal form

## Curriculum Committee Procedure, Policy, and Reports

The L&S Curriculum Committee occasionally discusses and determines new, or clarifies existing, committee operating procedure. The committee approved or accepted the following:

- Updates to current operating procedures
- Delegation review and approval of Full Course Array Requisite updates (“Requisite Amnesty”) to review of L&S Admin
- Updates to “Lumen/Guide Policy & Style Guidelines for Undergraduate Programs”
- Disabilities Curricular Accommodations Committee (DCAC) annual report on substitutions to the foreign language requirement for students with disabilities

## 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 305 course proposals to: create 113 new courses, change 109 courses, delete 37 courses, and consider 46 courses outside L&S for “Liberal Arts and Science” designation, level or breadth. In addition, the committee reviewed:

- Requests from departments to offer 2 courses online: SOC WORK 646, COMP SCI 403
- 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.

**Report approved by the L&S Curriculum Committee on 9/28/2021**