

MINUTES OF THE APRIL 22, 2021, MEETING OF THE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

Present: Ray Chastain, Matt Church, Dwain Pruitt, Edna Ross, Karl Swinehart, Li Zeng

Guests: Judith Danovitch (PSYC), Danielle Dolan (A&S Advising), Joe Grant (CJ), Ann Hall (HUM), Deborah Keeling (CJ), Matt Ruther (UPA)

The meeting was convened at 10:02 AM.

The committee approved the March 8, 2021, minutes unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

035-20F: The Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences' proposal to close its Bachelor of Arts raised several concerns at the April 16th Faculty Assembly meeting. Most notable among these concerns were whether discontinuing the BA would disserve students by preventing them from pursuing double majors easily, whether the new BS degree reflects what students actually want from a Psychology degree, and whether shifting all future PSYC majors to the BS degree would harm other A&S departments that rely on PSYC BA students to generate student credit hours. Dr. Judith Danovitch attended the meeting on the department's behalf, discussing the raised objections with the committee. Departmental data and data derived from Cards Analytics demonstrate that some current majors would be adversely affected if the BA ceased to be an option; however, Dr. Danovitch reported, a larger number would benefit from the change. Cards Analytics data indicate that the number of A&S students attempting to double major with Psychology as one of their majors has trended downwards since Fall 2016, so, while it is inarguable that some students would lose a choice currently available to them, no evidence suggests that significant numbers of students would be harmed by the BA's closure. The Curriculum Committee therefore voted to reaffirm its support for the department's closure recommendation. The committee can find no curricular justification to deny the department's request and leaves it to the Faculty Assembly to debate matters not related to the committee's charge.

001-21S: The committee **APPROVED** UPA 691, "Urban Experiential Learning," upon reviewing its revised syllabus. The committee recommended line edits to be made in the syllabus forwarded for final University review and approval.

NEW BUSINESS:

010-21S: Assistant Dean for Advising Danielle Dolan presented a recommended revision to the College's graduation honors policy. The University wishes to establish common graduation honors requirements. A&S is currently an outlier, requiring that honors include the calculation of students' expanded GPAs (the inclusion of all collegiate grades, including grades earned on transfer courses) and not making *summa cum laude* designation available to students who do not complete honors theses. The proposed revision (see appendix) would eliminate the expanded GPA requirement and would allow students who have a cumulative UofL GPA of 3.90 or higher after 60 hours of residency to graduate *summa cum laude* without an honors thesis. The committee **APPROVED** this recommendation and will forward the matter to the Faculty Assembly for its discussion and vote.

011-21S: Drs. Joe Grant, Ann Hall, and Deborah Keeling presented a proposed BS in General Studies for the committee's review. If approved, the degree would be available beginning in Fall 2022 and would be completely online.

From the proposal:

We are proposing a BS in General Studies degree program that will be entirely online and designed for returning adult learners who have earned college credits but stopped-out of college and do not have a bachelor's degree. Admission to the program will be limited to adults with credits who stopped-out of school thus, the program will not be competing with existing programs for first time freshmen nor will it be appropriate for current students who have accumulated credits but have not completed a degree program. The program will be housed in the A&S Dean's Office (similar to the Liberal Studies program), and students admitted for this program will have the opportunity to earn credits through a Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) analysis and review. Following the strategy of successful existing online programs at UL that offer PLA, a program committee will work with students to determine the extent of PLA potentially awarded. The program will leverage existing online courses and recruiting and advertisement through the Delphi Center. The proposed program aligns with state adult learner initiatives as well as the mission of the College and the University strategic plan. The program is designed for maximum flexibility and affordability. Through a combination of targeted online coursework, already accrued undergraduate credits, and credit-worthy experiential learning, adult learners will be able to complete their bachelor's degrees. Adding a General Studies degree to UofL's portfolio will help the university signal to the community the institution's commitment to adult learning and degree completion across the state.

The program's curriculum appears below:

1. Required credit hours. Provide the information below.	
Provide a copy of the proposed program curriculum.	
<u>University General Education (Cardinal Core) requirements</u>	31
<u>College of Arts & Sciences Requirements:</u>	
Foreign Language or Modern Language Cultural Competency (including Area Studies courses)	6
Electives in Natural and/or Social Sciences OR electives in Humanities (depending on the area of concentration) at 300 level or above	6
WR Courses (two, 300 level or above; met by completing other required courses designated WR.)	
Total A&S requirements = 12	
Subtotal: University + A&S = 43 credits)	
<u>Degree-specific requirements:</u>	
GEN 305: PLA and Orientation to General Studies Degree Program (variable credit; 3cr for students seeking portfolio construction and PLA)	1 or 3
GEN 401 or other CUE-designated course	3
*Minor or certificate Requirements Area 1	9 - 33

*Minor or certificate Requirements Area 2	9 - 33
Total degree requirements = 22 - 72	
Subtotal: university (31) + A&S (12) + degree (22 - 72) = 65 - 115 cr	
Minimum Electives (note that up to 27 cr could be earned from PLA and applied to elective credits)	5 - 55
Total minimum credit hours	120

As written, the curriculum requires students to seek minors or certificates from programs that are available completely online, limiting students' options. Thus, students are able to satisfy the degree requirements by completing two minors or two undergraduate certificate programs. One minor or certificate must be in A&S. The program also suggests that students will have an option to take cultural studies courses offered by CML in lieu of taking formal language study. During the committee's discussion with Drs. Grant, Hall, and Keeling, concerns were raised that the curriculum as outlined in the complete proposal is Eurocentric, that the name "General Studies" may have negative connotations and perhaps another name should be considered (Dr. Swinehart suggested a BS in Arts and Sciences), and concern that the curriculum is too complex and confusing. Responding to the latter, Dr. Keeling noted that the BS in General Studies would be "very advisor-dependent" since students would have to work closely with an advisor on PLA and developing their curricular pathways. The program budget calls for hiring a dedicated General Studies advisor by program year three. The committee **APPROVED** the proposal and will forward it to Faculty Assembly for its review.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:19 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dwain C. Pruitt, Ph.D.
Assistant Dean for Curriculum and Governance
Prepared April 23, 2021

College of Arts and Sciences
Curriculum Committee
April 22, 2021
10:00AM-12:00PM

AGENDA

- 1) Approval of Minutes of the March 8, 2021, Meeting
- 2) OLD BUSINESS:
 - 035-20F: Proposed Revisions to the Undergraduate PSYC major
 - 001-21S: Approval of UPA 691, “Urban Experiential Learning”
- 3) NEW BUSINESS:
 - 010-21S: Review of the College Graduation Honors Policy
 - 011-21S: Proposed BS in General Studies

APPENDIX:

[Current University Honors Policy Statement:](#)

University Policies: Graduation with Academic Honors

Baccalaureate degree students who have earned a minimum of 60 hours of letter-graded (i.e., not Pass/Fail) degree credit in residence at the University of Louisville will be eligible for consideration to graduate with honors.

Students who have re-entered the university under the fresh-start policy must have earned at least 60 letter-graded credit hours since their return to be considered for academic honors.

Commencement programs will list eligible students as “Candidates for Honors” based on their having earned both undergraduate and program grade point averages of 3.5 or higher prior to the semester preceding graduation. Final determination of a student’s eligibility to graduate with academic honors will be based on the student’s standing upon completion of the degree. The name of the honor is decided by the unit.

Minimum criteria for honors are as follows:

- Cum Laude or Honors: 3.50 undergraduate and program grade point averages
- Magna Cum Laude or High Honors: 3.75 undergraduate and program grade point averages
- Summa Cum Laude or Highest Honors: 3.90 undergraduate and program grade point averages.

In addition to these minimum criteria, units may specify additional requirements for grade point averages and additional work such as honors projects or honors theses. Students should consult their advisor concerning eligibility and requirements for graduation with academic honors. The dean’s office will make any final decisions concerning eligibility.

Students who were admitted to the University Honors program may be eligible to graduate as an Honors Scholar. Students who complete the necessary coursework with the required GPA will earn the designation of University Honors Scholar on both their transcript and diploma. Students who earn this distinction are awarded a medal and recognized at an awards ceremony prior to university commencement.

[Current A&S Honors Policy Statement](#)

College of Arts & Sciences

In determining eligibility for graduation with College Honors, the College takes into consideration not only the university cumulative grade point average (which must be at least 3.5), but also an “expanded cumulative grade point average” which is calculated only for the purpose of determining eligibility for graduation with College Honors.

The “expanded grade point average” is calculated based on grades earned in all college-level work. In the case of repeated courses, both the original grade and credit hours and the replacement grade and credit hours will be included in the calculation. Similarly, grades and credit hours excluded from the university grade point average through application of the academic bankruptcy provision and the Fresh Start program will be included in determining a student’s expanded grade point average. In the case of work done at other institutions, all grades and credit hours in all degree-applicable courses will be included in determining a student’s expanded grade point average.

Students should consult their advisor with any questions concerning eligibility and requirements for graduation with College Honors.

The minimum grade point average requirements for graduation with College Honors are:

Cum Laude: 3.50

Magna Cum Laude: 3.75 with no College honors thesis; 3.65 with College honors thesis

Summa Cum Laude: 3.75 with College honors thesis

All senior honors theses must be approved by the College of Arts & Sciences’ Honors Thesis Committee.

Further information about the requirements to graduate magna cum laude or summa cum laude—including eligibility, deadlines for the proposal, the completed project, and the defense of the project—can be found on the [University Honors Program website](#).

PROPOSED POLICY REVISION

College of Arts & Sciences

Outside of the university policy for graduation with academic honors, students in the College of Arts Sciences have additional eligibility for Latin honors with the completion of a Senior Honors Thesis.

Students should consult their advisor with any questions concerning eligibility and requirements for graduation with College Honors.

The minimum grade point average requirements for graduation with College Honors are:

Cum Laude: 3.50

Magna Cum Laude: 3.75 with no College honors thesis; 3.65 with College honors thesis

Summa Cum Laude: 3.90 with no College honors thesis; 3.75 with College honors thesis

All senior honors theses must be approved by the College of Arts & Sciences' Honors Thesis Committee.

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