

ASCC Social and Behavioral Sciences Subcommittee

Approved Minutes

Monday, May 12th, 2025

3:00PM – 4:30PM

CarmenZoom

Attendees: Dwyer, McKean, Nathanson, Neff, Raadschelders, Steele, Valle, Vankeerbergen, Xiao

Agenda

1. Approval of 4-14-25 minutes
 - a. Dwyer, Xiao; unanimously approved.
2. BA Liberal Arts (quick read through and initial questions/concerns; materials in email)
 - a. The Subcommittee is thinking of comparable programs at other institutions that offer specializations or thematic tracks within the degree. They recommend considering whether such options might provide useful structure to returning students whose prior credits are concentrated in specific areas.
 - b. The Subcommittee notes that the electives in the proposal are limited to courses within the College of Arts and Sciences. Since students are permitted to count up to 10 credit hours from outside the college toward their degree, the proposal should clarify how credits from outside of the college will be evaluated.
 - c. The Subcommittee finds the major to be somewhat fixed for a degree-completion program intended to serve students with diverse academic histories. Given the target population, the faculty recommend considering a more flexible design. For example, could students complete the degree by combining minors? Is a traditional “major” necessary at all for this degree? Perhaps a more open design would better serve the students in the program.
 - d. The Subcommittee is not entirely clear on how students will determine whether this program is the right fit for their individual circumstances compared to finishing their original program. The faculty anticipate many edge cases (i.e., borderline situations that make the decision to participation in the program less straightforward and require more nuanced guidance) and recommend that the proposal include a more detailed framework that advises these situations.
 - e. The Subcommittee notes that the 30 to 90 previously earned credit hours is quite broad, and implementation across such a wide span will present challenges. Students’ needs in terms of advising and curricular planning will vary greatly, so the Subcommittee recommends more detail in the proposal articulating how the program will accommodate such diversity.
3. Business Admin : Mgmt & HR 2200 (new course approved for 100% DL & requesting GEN Foundation Social and Behavioral Science) (return)

- a. The Subcommittee notes that the workload for this GE course appears relatively light. For example, the assigned readings are minimal, and the assessments rely heavily on team-based work. The Subcommittee requests that the course integrate more individual assignments and scholarly readings to strengthen its rigor and ensure alignment with GE expectations.
 - b. While the Subcommittee appreciates the additional context provided on the GE submission sheet, it remains unclear how this course aligns with the Social and Behavioral Sciences GEN Foundation. The course topics do not appear to be closely related to the core concepts of SBS, and the ELOs of the Foundation are not meaningfully integrated into the course structure, activities, or assignments. To move forward, the Subcommittee requests that the proposal clearly articulate within the syllabus itself how the course content is grounded in and contributes to the Goals and ELOs of the Foundation. For example, the Foundation questions sheet submitted by the department provides examples of how the ELOs will be accomplished (e.g., “through discussion of readings and research summaries, class and team discussion, analysis of relevant cases and film clips, and directed personal reflections”) that are not reflected in the syllabus itself.
 - c. The Subcommittee notes that some elements, such as the case study, may have disciplinary context that they are unfamiliar with. If these elements are central to demonstrating the course’s connection to the social sciences, the Subcommittee requests that the proposer make that connection more explicit.
 - d. The Subcommittee requests that the syllabus outline what students will be doing in the course on a week-to-week basis, particularly in terms of readings and activities. The syllabus lacks details about the specific materials students will engage with. With this, the Subcommittee requests that the contents of the course pack students are expected to purchase be included as a reading list in the syllabus to enhance clarity. [Syllabus p. 3]
 - e. The Subcommittee asks that the department add the link below to the end of the religious accommodations statement, as it is a part of the required text. Please feel free to copy and paste the link into the statement directly from the Subcommittee’s feedback. Otherwise, the full statement with the link can be found in an easy to copy/paste format on the [Office of Undergraduate Education website](#). [Syllabus p. 7]
 - i. **(Policy: [Religious Holidays, Holy Days and Observances](#))**
 - f. Declined to vote.
4. Computational Social Science BS (new major)
 - a. Comment: The Subcommittee notes that the program request sheet in curriculum.osu.edu lists the total number of credit hours required for the program as 47, but this includes the mandated minor credits. ASCCAS staff have adjusted this in curriculum.osu.edu so that it reflects the 35 minimum *major* credits.

- b. **Contingency:** Major proposal will not advance to ASCC until all new courses in the major are fully approved by the SBS subcommittee.
- c. **Contingency:** The Subcommittee kindly requests that the following issues be addressed in a revised version of the proposal to ensure clarity and coherence:
 - i. There are 5 Learning Outcomes listed for Goal 2 on page 5 of the proposal, but only the first 3 appear in the Section 7 tables [Proposal pp. 20-21]. Please ensure that all outcomes are consistently listed throughout the proposal.
 - ii. The term “proficiencies” is used in the proposal (pp. 6-7 & also p. 20) in relation to assessment. Please replace this term with “learning outcomes” for consistency and clarity.
 - iii. The assessment plan states that “proficiencies” (learning outcomes) embedded in 4 of the 5 goals were assessed across three CSS core courses, but only goals 2 and 3 appear in Table 1: Example one year assessment plan. [Proposal pp. 6-7]
 - iv. The sample assessment plan outlined on pp. 6-7 of the proposal lists courses and assessment tools that do not align with those presented in the table in Section 7 on page 20. Please ensure consistency between these sections, particularly for Goal 3, Outcomes C and E.
 - v. The implementation timeline for the assessment plan should note that all learning outcomes will be assessed once every three years, in accordance with the Office of Academic Affairs requirements. Please incorporate a clarifying sentence to that effect. [Proposal p. 7]
 - vi. The references to “co-directors” is confusing, as the operating budget includes only one director. This should be resolved for clarity. [Proposal pp. 7, 9, 11]
 - vii. The proposal refers to the program as a “Bachelor of Science in Computational Social Science,” which may imply a tagged degree. Consider reworking to avoid confusion (e.g., “Computational Social Science Bachelor of Science”). [Proposal p. 11]
 - viii. The statement in the Track A CSS Program Requirements chart states that the credits for the Social Science minor count exclusively in the selected minor and do not apply to the CSS major. However, university policy allows coursework exceeding the 12-hour minimum for a minor to overlap with the major. Additionally, in the advising sheets, it is stated that the courses for each minor are not counted towards major hours. Please revise the language in these sections to reflect university policy. [Proposal p. 12; Track A Advising Sheet p. 2; Track B Advising Sheet p. 2]
 - ix. Please review all course listings in the proposal to ensure that cross-listed designations are included where applicable. For example, the listings

throughout the proposal for ANTH 4706 should be ANTH/HISTORY 4706, as the course is cross listed in the Department of History.

- x. The paragraph beginning “An additional 6 credit hours are required from a list of approved electives” is currently located under the heading for CSS Major Core Classes, which creates confusion and suggests that these credits are part of the core coursework. Please reposition this text to fall under the CSS Elective Classes heading, eliminating any repetitive language in the section, to distinguish elective requirements. [Proposal p. 12]
- xi. The stated range of credit hours listed for the Social Science Minor should be corrected from “12” to “12-15.” [Proposal p. 13]
- xii. All mentions of ANTH 5505 in the proposal include an unclear note (“move here instead of the list of CSS electives”). Please clarify or remove the language. (Also note that ANTH 5505 is cross listed in the Department of Food, Agricultural, and Biological Engineering (FABENG) & the Dept of EEOB.)
- xiii. GEOG 2200 has a new title starting in AU25: “How to Map Your World: Visualizing Space and Place”.
- xiv. The four-year sample plans list two slots for the Citizenship for a Diverse and Just World Theme category. As PHILOS 2332.01 is an approved Citizenship course and one Themes course is allowed to overlap with major requirements, please revise the plan to include only one additional slot. [Proposal pp. 18-19]
- xv. SOCIOL 3488, a required course the Sociology minor, is not included in the Track A sample plan. Please remove one of the four Sociology electives and replace it with 3488. [Proposal p. 18]
- xvi. Please remember that the course CSS 4999 needs to be created. This note is not for program approval but serves as a reminder since the course is in both sample plans.
- xvii. Students are encouraged to take their Reflection Seminar (GENED 4001) in their penultimate semester rather than their last. Consider reorganizing the last semesters in the sample plans to reflect this. [Proposal pp. 18-19]
- xviii. The curriculum map should include not only required courses, but also the electives and track options for the program. Additionally, as outlined in Appendix 10 of the [ASC Curriculum and Assessment Operations Manual](#), it should indicate the level at which each learning outcome is addressed (beginning, intermediate, or advanced).
- xix. There are some courses listed in the proposal that are withdrawn or currently in limbo and should be removed from the proposal and advising sheets:

1. ECON 2001.02
 2. ECON 2002.02
 3. SOCIOL 3410H (please note that while the honors version is in limbo, the regular version can remain listed as simply SOCIOL 3410)
 - xx. On the Track B advising sheet, the CSS methods requirements intended only for Track A are mistakenly listed and should be removed.
 - xxi. The top of the advising sheets list “47-50” and “48” credit hours for Track A and Track B, respectively. Please consider specifying the credit hours separately for the major and minor rather than presenting them as a combined total.
 - d. *Recommendation:* The Subcommittee notes that several GE courses from the School of Environmental and Natural Resources have been included in Track B. The Subcommittee recommends that concurrence from ENR be sought to ensure they are aware of the use of their courses within the program.
 - e. Raadschelders, Dwyer; unanimously approved with one comment, **two contingencies**, and *one recommendation*.
5. ASC 2310 (new course)
- a. Raadschelders, McKean; unanimously approved.