
Liberal Studies Bachelor of Arts

From Steele, Rachel <steele.682@osu.edu>

Date Fri 9/19/2025 11:04 AM

To Martin, Andrew <martin.1026@osu.edu>

Cc Dwyer, Rachel <dwyer.46@osu.edu>; Vankeerbergen, Bernadette <vankeerbergen.1@osu.edu>; Steele, Rachel <steele.682@osu.edu>; Neff, Jennifer <neff.363@osu.edu>

Good morning,

On Wednesday, Sept. 10th, the Social and Behavioral Sciences Subcommittee of the ASC Curriculum Committee reviewed a proposal to create a new undergraduate major in Liberal Studies.

I am happy to report that proposal was unanimously approved with the five contingencies and five recommendations:

- a) **Contingency:** The Subcommittee asks that the College include with the revision of the program a cover letter outlining the changes made to the proposal in response to the feedback below.
- b) **Contingency:** The Subcommittee asks that the College remove the word “soft” when discussing the types of skills cultivated by a liberal arts education (proposal p. 2).
- c) **Contingency:** The Subcommittee asks that the College include in the proposal more information about the limitations surrounding the 30-90 earned credit hour parameter for admitting students to the program, including the following:
 - i) The Subcommittee requests that the College provide further specificity about the “strictness” with which the parameters for entering the program will be applied. They are concerned that language in the proposal such as “This program is not *intended* for new students...” (proposal p. 1; emphasis added), “*targeted* population” and “It is *intended* to serve the population of Ohio that would not otherwise attend Ohio State” (proposal, p. 5; emphasis added) may open the door for an expansion of the program beyond the 30-90 credit hour limits or, for that matter, to students who have stopped out for less than three years or never attended an institution of higher education beyond high school graduation.
 - ii) Along the same lines, the Subcommittee asks that the College clarify what will be done for students who inquire about the program and are “close” to meeting the parameters (e.g. have 28 or 29 hours earned, have 91 hours that are not conducive to completing any other Ohio State program, have stopped out for 2.5 years, etc.). Will exceptions be allowed? What will be the process for evaluating such requests?
 - iii) The Subcommittee requests that the College clarify whether the 30-90 earned credit hours have to be approved for transfer to Ohio State. For example, could a student apply to the program and be accepted based on 36 hours earned at another institution, only to have those hours evaluated and found not to transfer to Ohio State or be applicable to a degree due to them being from a non-accredited institution, being classified as technical credit, etc.?
- d) **Contingency:** The Subcommittee observes that many of the program designers’ comments are still visible in the proposal, and they ask that these be removed.
- e) **Contingency:** The Subcommittee asks that the College provide a list of appropriate Data Analysis courses for each domain rather than relying on “previously approved data analysis embedded literacy course[s]” from ASC departments (proposal, pp. 5-6), as Embedded Literacy courses are approved within certain majors to meet the requirements of students *in that major*, and they are not necessarily intended for students in a broader, more dispersed major like the Bachelor of Liberal Arts. Additionally, the

Subcommittee notes that other major programs have asked to rely upon the choices of their colleagues in other units for this requirement (e.g. requesting to allow that a student with a double major be allowed to “count” their Data Analysis requirement for one major in another major) and this was not allowed.

- f) *Recommendation:* The Subcommittee asks that the College emphasize in the student-facing materials for the program (including the Major Information and Planning Sheet, Appendix A) that students must earn 39 upper-division hours in order to meet the requirements for a degree. As this program is tailored for students who will have likely taken many lower-division courses prior to coming to/returning to Ohio State, and the major itself only requires 22 upper-division hours, this requirement should be put forth as clearly as possible so that students may appropriately plan their degree.
- g) *Recommendation:* Given that the program will require an extraordinary amount of cooperation between a number of entities both inside and outside of the College of Arts and Sciences, the Subcommittee suggests that the College include in the proposal a plan to regularly assess not only academic aspects of the major, but also the administrative and operational aspects of the program.
- h) *Recommendation:* The Subcommittee recommends that the College re-phrase the requirement for students to take (in addition to ASC 2900 and 4900) “seven 3-credit courses” (proposal, pp. 6, 16) to read “seven courses of 3 credit hours or more totaling at least 21 credit hours” so that it is clear that students may take 4 or 5 credit hour courses should they wish to do so.
- i) *Recommendation:* The Subcommittee suggests that the College amend the Major Planning Sheet on p. 17 of the proposal to consistently refer to the Embedded Literacy: Data Analysis course as such, rather than as “embedded data” or “Embedded Literacy for Data”, as using slightly different terminology for the same requirement may be confusing for students.
- j) *Recommendation:* The Subcommittee recommends that the College include in the proposal (p. 10) the approximate number of advisees that the program’s academic advisor will be expected to provide support for before an additional advisor is hired.

I will return proposal via curriculum.osu.edu in a minute to enable the College to address the points above. Should you have any questions about the feedback above, do not hesitate to contact Rachel Dwyer (cc’d here), faculty Chair of the SBS Subcommittee, or me.

Best,
Rachel



Rachel Steele, MA

(Pronouns: she/her/hers / Honorific: Ms.)

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tribal nations and recognize the historical contexts that has and continues to affect the Indigenous peoples of this land.