

From: David Pistole Liberal Studies Committee (LSC) and Gail Sechrist - UWUCC

To: Faculty, Deans, and A-deans

Re: Update on the new Liberal Studies Curriculum (this will also be available on the LS website)

1. The new Liberal Studies Curriculum begins in the Fall 2012 semester. Highlights of the new curriculum are:

- a. **No LBST 499 Synthesis.** If a student is graduating **on or before Summer 2012** they will have to take LBST 499 Synthesis. There will be Synthesis offerings during the Summer 2012 sessions. If a student needs to D/F repeat LBST 499 from this spring semester (or before) they will need to do it during one of the Summer 2012 sessions as the Synthesis course will not be offered beyond Summer 2012.
- b. **English 101 is going from 4 to 3 credits.** If current students have taken the 4cr English 101 and switch to the new LS curriculum, the current 4cr English 101 course will satisfy the new English 101 requirement.
- c. The **Mathematics** requirement in the new LS curriculum is going **from 3-6cr to 3-4cr**.
- d. **Natural Sciences is changing from 8-10cr** (4-4 (2 lab sequence) **or 4-3-3** (1 lab and 2 non-lab sequence) **to 7-8cr** (4-4 (2 lab) **or 4-3** (1 lab and 1 non-lab)). The 4-4 requirement in the new curriculum does not require the labs to be sequential or in the same department. Please note that if a student is in the current LS curriculum they cannot use the 4-3 option without opting to move completely into the new LS curriculum. You cannot mix and match the old and new LS curricula.
- e. **The Health and Wellness category is being renamed Dimensions of Wellness.** All courses in this category will continue to be numbered 143 (with a departmental prefix). Any 143 course in this category will continue to be able to be substituted for another in the category as well as being able to be used interchangeably for D or F repeats but will not be able to be counted for duplicate credit.
- f. **The Non-Western category is being renamed Global and Multicultural Awareness.** All of the courses in this area are grandfathered into the new LS curriculum and are scheduled for revision during the 2013-2014 year.
- g. **The LS Elective category now has a requirement of 3-9cr rather than 0-9cr.** Again, all of the current LS Elective courses have been grandfathered into the new LS curriculum and are scheduled for revision during the 2012-2013 year.
- h. **The Writing Across the Curriculum (Writing Intensive) requirement did not change.** Students will still need two W courses with at least one being in the major. All W courses have also been grandfathered into the new curriculum and are scheduled for revision during the 2013-2014 year.

2. Advising notes

- a. The Provost, UWUCC, and LSC all support the concept of program blocks for student advising as we transition to the new LS curriculum. Advisors can think of their major program requirements as one program block and the Liberal Studies Curriculum as another program block.
 - 1) For example, any departments that have had major program revisions in the last three-four years and may have students under both an old and new majors program could opt to have students use their “old” majors program with the “new” LS curriculum (as long as the total credits add up to 120).
 - 2) You may **not** mix and match within a program block. For example, you cannot combine courses/requirements from an old majors curriculum with those from a newer majors curriculum. The same would be true for LS curricula. You cannot use elements from the old curriculum with the new curriculum or vice versa.
 - 3) As with major program requirements you must opt for either the old LS curriculum or the new LS curriculum.
- b. Advisors should be checking with their departments to determine how they have decided to handle the various categories in the new Liberal Studies curriculum (program revisions). About $\frac{3}{4}$ of all of the program revisions have been received by the LSC/UWUCC.
- c. If possible, all current students should opt for the new LS curriculum. There are fewer credit requirements in the new LS program and LBST 499 will not be offered beyond Summer 2012. Remember that the total credits must be 120cr.
- d. The Liberal Studies website (www.iup.edu/liberal) has resources such as FAQ's, a framework for the new curriculum (and side-by-side comparison to the old curriculum), and other general implementation information.

3. New courses & the Fall 2012 schedule

- a. You have received a few e-mails about new/revised courses such HIST 195 being replaced by HIST 196, 197, 198 or BIOL 103-104 being replaced by non-sequential BIOL 103, 104, 106. The only new LS courses for fall 2012 are HIST 196, 197, 198 and ENGL 101 (3cr). All other knowledge area/learning skills courses that have been revised and are to be offered in the fall will be listed in the Fall 2012 schedule. Please use the Fall 2012 schedule to help guide you through what courses are available.
- b. History 196/197/198
 - 1) Students who need to do a D/F repeat for History 195 will be able to do so using History 196/197/198.
 - 2) History 195 will not be offered after this summer, but we do have History 195 sections scheduled for the summer, both podium and online.

- 3) Students who need to do a D/F repeat from a History 196/197/198 class will be able to do so with any of the 196/197/198 courses.
- 4) Regarding PDE, it is my understanding that the only education majors who have a PDE requirement for American History are Early Childhood PreK-4, Special Education PreK-8 & 7-12, and all Middle Level Programs. All other teacher education programs (e.g. Math Ed., Biology Ed., Business Ed. etc. . .) may select a history course of their choosing from our options based on their respective program's Specialized Professional Association (SPA) guidelines. I certainly urge you to check with your teacher certification liaison and the College of Education if you have further questions.
- 5) Based on projections for education majors needing History 196 and the large number of seats we provide each year, there is no need to advise students away from History 196 and into History 197 and History 198. In fact we created these three classes in an effort to allow students the opportunity to choose an area of history that they are more interested in, and hopefully resulting in more engaged students.
- 6) Regarding how these 3 new classes affect a minor in History – the History Department is in the process of revising the minor to bring it into compliance with the PASSHE requirements for minors. It will now require 18 hours, only 3 hours can come from a 100 level class, 6 hours must come from courses numbered 300 level or higher, and no more than 9 hours can be transferred in.

4. Program Changes catalog language

The following is the language in the catalog about program changes (p. 41):

“To insure their quality and relevance, academic programs at IUP are subject to review and change by duly appointed and responsible university groups. Because of this, the university recognizes that provisions must be made to prevent hardship to students already enrolled in programs if changes later occur in specific or general program requirements. Students affected by changes in programs, policies, and regulations are therefore given the option of following those requirements that are in effect when the student was first enrolled in the program or those in effect at the time of expected graduation. The student cannot, of course, combine chosen elements of the two. Should a question of rule interpretation arise with respect to changes the student, the student’s advisor, or both should petition the college dean for a decision about which requirements apply.”

Please feel free to contact the Liberal Studies Office (7-5715) if you have any questions or concerns.