L&S Curriculum Committee

Overview
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. This work is described in greater detail online, at https://kb.wisc.edu/ls/page.php?id=20092. 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
LSCC guidelines regarding changes to requirements for academic programs remain in effect (https://kb.wisc.edu/ls/page.php?id=20013). 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 requirement or that they may transition to the new requirements without adversely affecting their progress.

Information about these undergraduate program and policy changes are emailed to the advising community through advisor-link, to better communicate recent changes to advising staff across campus. The changes were approved effective Fall 2017 unless otherwise noted.

African Languages and Literature: Undergraduate and Graduate Majors. Aligns the curriculum of both programs with the new focus of the department and new department and program names (African Cultural Studies). The programs’ focus is broadened to a more interdisciplinary approach to various modes of cultural expression. The program names will change to African Cultural Studies in Fall 2018, in a turnkey implementation for all students.

Biology – Undergraduate major. Better integrates the Biocore course sequence within the Biology major requirements in CALS and L&S. The first three Biocore lectures (381, 383, 485) and labs (382, 384) are required and will now apply towards the introductory and foundational requirements, and the other
Biocore courses (486 and 587) are optional and may be applied towards the Intermediate/Advanced level breadth requirement or a lab requirement.

**Digital Studies – Undergraduate Certificate.** Incorporates a newly created one-credit capstone course. Also renames a topical course requirement, from “Visuality in Digital Designs” to “Digital Forms.”

**Languages and Cultures of Asia: Undergraduate Major.** The currently closed Languages and Cultures of Asia undergraduate major will be reopened Fall 2019 with a new name, Asian Languages and Cultures. It will require an introductory ‘gateway’ course, Asian language study, breadth-related work in the humanities and social sciences, and a capstone course. Named Options in East Asian Studies, Southeast Asian Studies and South Asian Studies will be available.

**Languages and Cultures of Asia: PhD and MA Majors.** Both programs will require fewer courses specific to literature and linguistics. Students will be able to use more Asian-related courses offered by other departments to meet requirements, which will allow for greater amount of interdisciplinary study. Also, a non-thesis option was added to the MA program. The program will be changed to Asian Languages and Cultures in Fall 2018.

**Communication Arts: Undergraduate Honors in the Major.** Aligns the Honors in the Major curriculum to undergraduate, rather than graduate, tracks.

**Communication Sciences and Disorders: Undergraduate Major.** Removed entrance requirements, removed one required course, and updated the list of courses that may count in the major’s ‘related areas’ requirements.

**Computer Sciences: Undergraduate Major.** Incorporates the new programming courses; COMP SCI 300 and 400 replace COMP SCI 302 and 367 as major requirements). COMP SCI/ECE 352 has also been removed as a major requirement. The list of courses that may be used to meet elective requirements was also revised.

**Computer Sciences: Undergraduate Certificate.** Incorporates the new programming courses; students will now take COMP SCI 300 in lieu of COMP SCI 367. The list of introductory courses that may not count towards certificate electives was also revised.

**Gender and Women’s Studies: Undergraduate Major.** Removes the descriptive intermediate/advanced level requirements for courses in some areas, and will continue to allow GWS 200, which recently changed from intermediate to elementary level, to meet major requirements.

**Italian – Undergraduate Honors in the Major.** Reduces the number of Honors credits that students must complete.

**Material Cultures – Undergraduate Certificate.** Reduces the number of credits to 13 (from 15), replaces a core introductory requirement with a newly created course, and updates the list of electives.

**Neurobiology – New Honors in the Major.** Starting Fall 2017, qualified students have the option of pursuing Honors in the Major in the relatively new Neurobiology major.

**Philosophy: PhD and MA Majors.** Requires students to complete two additional seminar courses, and clarifies how the 701 reading seminar may meet requirements. The total credits required for the MA will increase by three credits, to 33.
Spanish: PhD Minor. Reduces the total credits required from twelve credits to nine.

Spanish: PhD and MA tracks in Linguistics. Relabels some requirements, reduces the literature course requirements, and adds options for the MA exam.

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:

Political Economy, Philosophy and Politics: Undergraduate certificate. The program combines coursework and faculty from Philosophy, Political Science, and Economics to create a cross-disciplinary undergraduate certificate program, culminating in a writing-intensive and integrative capstone seminar. It will be administratively housed in the Department of Political Science, which will work with the coordinating committee comprised of faculty and staff from the three participating departments.

User Experience Design – Capstone Certificate. This ten-credit professional program will be coordinated by the School of Library and Information Studies, which will collaborate with the Department of Computer Sciences. The certificate will be available online, and is for working professionals who seek to develop expertise in the user experience and human computer interaction.

Curricular Policies, Procedures, and Guidelines
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:

- Proposed Workplace Experience Course Attribute
- Proposed Campus Policy on Honors Course Notation
- Draft Campus Credit Hour Policy

The L&S CC also discussed and approved:

- L&S Criteria for the Workplace Experience Course Attribute
- Departmental requests for a waiver for courses identified to be discontinued as a part of the obsolete course process.
- A request from the Chemistry Department to offer a Credit By Exam for CHEM 105 and CHEM 106.

Proposal to Create a Foreign Language and Retrocredit Attribute. The L&S CC reviewed and approved proposal to create a foreign language level and retro credit attribute, submitted by an ad-hoc working group that was convened by the chairs of Van Hise departments and programs. The proposal requests a new course designation to transparently communicate to students how foreign language courses meet their L&S undergraduate degree foreign language requirement, and also whether the course is eligible for retrocredit. The first phase of implementation was completed in May 2017, when the attribute was added to all foreign language level courses that currently meet L&S foreign language requirements. In
the future, departments that offer foreign language courses will review the designations to ensure their accuracy, and DARS will be revised across schools and colleges to use the course attribute to meet degree requirements, instead of the current course lists.

Course Related Issues

Proposals to Add, Change, or Delete Courses
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, course 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. During the 2015-2016 academic year, the LSCC reviewed and approved 251 course proposal: approved proposals to change 124 courses, create 93 new courses, delete 23 courses, and add L&S designations to 11 non-L&S courses. The L&S Curriculum Committee also reviewed two department’s requests to address prerequisites in their entire course array (Political Science and Computer Science).

Other Curricular Items

Comments on APC proposals. The L&S Curriculum Committee is often invited to comment on curricular proposals submitted to the L&S APC. The committee offered comments, and supported, the following proposals:

- Asian Languages and Cultures – A Request to restructure the undergraduate and graduate programs, rename programs to align with the department name and current focus of the department, and also to create two new subject listings (ASIAN and ASIALANG) to better administer courses that are currently in LCA LANG, LCA, E ASIAN.

Received follow-up report on implementation of the L&S Mandatory Major Declaration Policy. In Spring 2016, the L&S Curriculum Committee began enforcement of a policy that requires L&S undergraduate students to declare a major prior to achieving 86 credits. L&S Student Academic Affairs directs the process of communicating with L&S students about the policy, applying holds, and reviewing requests for exceptions to the policy.

L&S Curriculum Committee Members:
Chair: Dan Quint, Economics
Members:
Cécile Ané, Botany and Statistics
Seth Blair, Zoology
Lynn Keller, English
Nikki Lemmon, Computer Sciences
Rajiv Rao, Spanish & Portuguese
Peter Timbie, Physics
Michael Wagner, Journalism and Mass Communication

**Student Members appointed through ASM:**
Luke Moore
Quinn Wakley

**Ex Officio:**
Kimbrin Cornelius, L&S Administration
Elaine Klein, L&S Administration
Christopher Lee, L&S Student Academic Affairs
Jacqui Guthrie, L&S Honors Program
Michael J. Pflieger, L&S Student Academic Affairs
Nancy Westphal-Johnson, L&S Administration

**Assistant to the Committee:**
Joni Brown, L&S Administration

This report was approved by the L&S Curriculum Committee on October 10, 2017

Submitted by Kimbrin Cornelius, L&S, Curriculum Administration Specialist