

The University of Kansas  
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences  
**Special Meeting**  
**COMMITTEE ON UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES & ADVISING**

**AGENDA**  
DECEMBER 13, 2011, 11:00AM  
STRONG HALL – ROOM 210

- I. College Degree Specific Requirements
- A. Recommendations to CUSA from the Curricular Changes/Degree Requirements Subcommittee regarding general education at the College level:
- 1. Establish outcomes.** i.e., what do we want these requirements to accomplish?
  - 2. Preserve electives at the pre-major level.** We want to preserve student flexibility and mobility between majors at the crucial 1<sup>st</sup>- and 2<sup>nd</sup>-year levels.
  - 3. Clarify credit hour maximums for co-/pre-requisites.** Note that with good advising, students will be able to use University-level and College-level gen eds to satisfy many prereqs. Co- and pre-requisites should not be allowed to expand to consume student elective hours; this reduces retention and flexibility.
  - 4. Clarify credit hour maximums for majors.** These should be established in conjunction with #3. It may be that a combined co/pre-req and major hours ceiling would be advisable.

**Subcommittee recommendations for BA degree in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences**

Specific requirements: 16 hrs foreign language; 6 hrs math; 9 hrs breadth; 6 hrs writing=37 hrs  
Likely scenario=16 hours of overlap with new U-level requirements; 21 hours total requirements for BA in addition to new U-level requirements.  
Total gen eds for U + CLAS=57.  
Net reduction=15 hours (approx. 1 semester of electives).

**Math:**

*U-level: at least one course*

**CLAS outcomes (based in part on CLAS gen discussion, 11/20):**

1. Ability to apply basic algebraic skills
2. Ability to apply mathematics and/or symbolic logic skills at higher level.

**Activities:**

1. Beginning course with at least 50% mathematical skills instruction.
2. Course with at least 50% logic or statistics instruction.

*\*see below for options for students with documented math disability*

**Foreign language:**

*May have overlap with U-level requirement*

**CLAS outcomes:**

1. Understanding of language structure in language other than English
2. Introductory-level familiarity with world culture

**Activities:**

4 semesters of a foreign language, with at least one language up to the second semester.

*\*see below for options for students with documented foreign language disability*

**Breadth:**

*U-level to have 4 methods courses in a department in arts, humanities, social science, and natural science*

**CLAS outcome:**

Familiarity with multiple disciplines within humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences

**Activities:**

Any course in each of three major areas, in addition to University-level and CLAS general education requirements.

**Writing**

*U-level: one*

**CLAS outcome:**

College-level English language writing competence.

**Activities:**

(First- and) second-semester English composition course, or course with at least 50% writing instruction.

**Communications:**

*U-level: one*

**Western civ and non-western:**

*U-level: world culture goal; may be achieved with U-level goal 3, 5, or 6.*

**\*Disability: for the sake of equity, we recommend to the University that all students should have access to disability testing for math and language.**

**Documented language disability:**

1. American Sign Language

Or

2. Linguistics: 2 semesters; culture courses: 2 semesters in addition to other gen ed requirements.

**Documented mathematics disability:**

1. Personal finance

2. Formal (symbolic) logic

**Subcommittee recommendations for BGS degree in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences**

Same general education requirements as BA

BGS: retain only LAS degree option.

Documented disability options as for BA.

**Subcommittee recommendations for BS degree in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences**

Same general education requirements as BA except:

Departments may choose specific courses appropriate to the degree that will fulfill the general education requirements.

Note: this is likely to add only one class (3 credits) to current BS degrees.

B. Recommendations from CUSA Chair regarding general education at the College level:

**University Wide General Education Goals**

**Goal 1: Build core skills of critical thinking and quantitative literacy (2 courses)**

**Goal 2: Strengthen written and oral communication (2 courses)**

**Goal 3: Develop a background of knowledge across fundamental areas of study (3 courses)**

**Goal 4: Gain the ability to integrate knowledge and think creatively (1-2 courses)**

**Goal 5: Respect human diversity and expand cultural understanding and global awareness (1-2 courses)**

**Goal 6: Practice social responsibility and demonstrate ethical behavior (1-2 courses)**

**Total courses – 10 to 13 (30 to 40 hours)**

### **Proposed BA General Education Requirements**

Mathematics (2 courses): These courses could satisfy general education goal 1. These courses would be chosen from a list of approved courses; choices from among current courses may include MATH 101, MATH 104, MATH 105, MATH 111, MATH 115, MATH 116, MATH 121, MATH 122, MATH 141, MATH 142, MATH 365, and BIOL 570.

English (2 courses): ENGL 101 and ENGL 102/105. These courses could satisfy general education goal 2.

Foreign Language (proficiency in one language through the fourth level<sup>1</sup>): two of these courses can satisfy the general education goal 5 of the university.

Non-Western Culture (1 course): this course could satisfy Goal 5. This course would be chosen from a list of approved courses<sup>2</sup>.

Natural Science (2 courses): At least one of these courses must contain a lab component. These courses could probably satisfy one or more of the goals of general education (1, 2, 3, 4, or 6). These courses would be chosen from a list of approved courses<sup>2</sup>.

Humanities and Western Civilization (2 courses): these courses could probably satisfy one or more of the goals of general education (1, 2, 3, or 4). These courses would be chosen from a list of approved courses<sup>2</sup>.

Social Sciences (2 courses): these courses could probably satisfy one or more of the goals of general education (1 through 6). These courses would be chosen from a list of approved courses<sup>2</sup>.

### **Proposed BS General Education Requirements**

Mathematics (2 courses): These courses could satisfy general education goal 1. These courses would be chosen from a list of approved courses; current choices may include MATH 101, MATH 104, MATH 105, MATH 111, MATH 115, MATH 116, MATH 121, MATH 122, MATH 141, MATH 142, MATH 365, and BIOL 570.

English (2 courses): ENGL 101 and ENGL 102/105. These courses could satisfy general education goal 2.

Non-Western Culture (1 course)<sup>3</sup>: this course could satisfy Goal 5. This course would be chosen from a list of approved courses<sup>4</sup>.

Natural Science (2 courses): At least one of these courses must contain a lab component. These courses could probably satisfy one or more of the goals of general education (1, 2, 3, 4, or 6)<sup>3</sup>.

Humanities and Western Civilization (2 courses): these courses could probably satisfy one or more of the goals of general education (1, 2, 3, or 4). These courses would be chosen from a list of approved courses<sup>4</sup>.

Social Sciences (2 courses): these courses could probably satisfy one or more of the goals of general education (1 through 6). These courses would be chosen from a list of approved courses<sup>4</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> An alternative would be to allow for multiple languages. Perhaps one language through the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester and then other languages as desired by the student? This could be more in-line with increasing the flexibility of the requirements.

<sup>2</sup> CUSA will likely be the first body to establish the mechanism by which departments/programs can apply to have courses listed. I suspect that CUSA would also have authority over these lists since these are college specific requirements.

<sup>3</sup> This would be a new requirement for all BS degrees and may require altering current requirements to maintain the constant number of credit hours.

<sup>4</sup> CUSA will likely be the first body to establish the mechanism by which departments/programs can apply to have courses listed. I suspect that CUSA would also have authority over these lists since these are college specific requirements.

### **Proposed BFA General Education Requirements**

English (2 courses): ENGL 101 and ENGL 102/105. These courses could satisfy general education goal 2.

Non-Western Culture (1 course)<sup>5</sup>: this course could satisfy Goal 5. This course would be chosen from a list of approved courses<sup>4</sup>.

Humanities and Western Civilization (2 courses): these courses could probably satisfy one or more of the goals of general education (1, 2, 3, or 4). These courses would be chosen from a list of approved courses<sup>4</sup>.

Social Sciences (2 courses): these courses could probably satisfy one or more of the goals of general education (1 through 6). These courses would be chosen from a list of approved courses<sup>4</sup>.

### **SUMMARY**

The BA, BS, and BFA degrees in CLAS will have a common set of core degree requirements. The BS and BA degrees will have additional separate requirements.

#### **Common General Education Requirements for BA, BS, and BFA Degrees**

English (2 courses): ENGL 101 and ENGL 102/105. These courses could satisfy general education goal 2.

Non-Western Culture (1 course): this course could satisfy Goal 5. This course would be chosen from a list of approved courses.

Humanities and Western Civilization (2 courses): these courses could probably satisfy one or more of the goals of general education (1, 2, 3, or 4). These courses would be chosen from a list of approved courses.

Social Sciences (2 courses): these courses could probably satisfy one or more of the goals of general education (1 through 6). These courses would be chosen from a list of approved courses.

#### **Additional Requirements for BS Degrees**

Mathematics (2 courses): These courses could satisfy general education goal 1. These courses would be chosen from a list of approved courses; current choices may include MATH 101, MATH 104, MATH 105, MATH 111, MATH 115, MATH 116, MATH 121, MATH 122, MATH 141, MATH 142, MATH 365, and BIOL 570.

Natural Science (2 courses): At least one of these courses must contain a lab component. These courses would be chosen from a list of approved courses

#### **Additional Requirements for BA Degrees**

Mathematics (2 courses): These courses could satisfy general education goal 1. These courses would be chosen from a list of approved courses; current choices may include MATH 101, MATH 104, MATH 105, MATH 111, MATH 115, MATH 116, MATH 121, MATH 122, MATH 141, MATH 142, MATH 365, and BIOL 570.

Natural Science (2 courses): At least one of these courses must contain a lab component. These courses would be chosen from a list of approved courses

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<sup>5</sup> This would be a new requirement for all BFA degrees and may require altering current requirements to maintain the constant number of credit hours.

Foreign Language (proficiency in one language through the fourth level<sup>6</sup>): two courses can satisfy the general education goal 5 of the university and then an additional 2 courses must be taken.

Additional question to consider: should we incorporate courses in the School of the Arts directly into these requirements? If so, should that requirement stand alone or be grouped with another?

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<sup>6</sup> See earlier note about flexibility with this requirement.