

*See
Amendment UC10241 09S

To: CLASS Undergraduate Studies Committee
 From: Thomas Behr
 Re: Proposal for a New Bachelor of Arts Major in Liberal Studies
 Date: 26 January 2009

RECEIVED FEB 04 2009
 APPROVED APR 22 2009
Approved CLASS USE 1/29/09

Item: On behalf of the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, a proposal to create a new Bachelor of Arts degree with a Major in Liberal Studies

Brief Program Description: The Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies offers students an interdisciplinary, liberal arts Major built upon the successful completion of requirements for a Minor in each of three different fields within the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, two of which must be from programs that also offer a Major. Students must file degree plans for each of the three Minors, completing the 15 or 18 credit hours as required and all other requirements for each of the three Minors, take a capstone course in Liberal Studies (Senior Seminar, ILAS 4350) or in one of the Minor fields constituting the Major upon approval by the Director of Liberal Studies and the Office of the Dean of Academic Affairs, in addition to meeting all other Core, College, and University requirements for the Bachelor of Arts degree. Courses taken for each Minor cannot be counted toward either of the other Minors constituting the Major. Minors outside of C.L.A.S.S. that can count toward the Liberal Studies Major include the International Studies Minor from Bauer College of Business, with other such Minors to be considered upon approval by the Director of Liberal Studies and the Office of the Dean of Academic Affairs. Students may also petition to form one of their Minors out of relevant coursework from programs that do not offer Minors, again upon approval by the Director of Liberal Studies and the Office of the Dean of Academic Affairs.

Rationale: The new Major in Liberal Studies addresses a number of important educational objectives.

- 1) it would be attractive to current Undergraduate Scholar students who have taken a range of courses across the College curriculum and have not yet declared a Major;
- 2) it would be attractive to current students (for instance in Business, Theater, Music, among other programs) who have encountered roadblocks to completing requirements for that Major, but who would otherwise satisfy requirements for the Minor in that program or who have accumulated sufficient credits in that program equivalent to a minor, based on petition and approval of the Liberal Studies Director;
- 3) it would be attractive to current and incoming students who are looking to get a broad-based and rigorous Liberal Arts education in preparation for a wide range of professional pursuits, particularly considering the option of incorporating a technical field as one of the minors.

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Institutional Context: The new Major in Liberal Studies meets both interests of the University in helping students to graduate who have had difficulty deciding upon a Major or with meeting the requirements for the Major of their first choice, and also interests of the College in promoting Minors within the College, while offering a broad-based Liberal Arts program that does not cut corners on academic rigor. Students will be obliged to meet the requirements of each of their chosen Minors, and to complete a reading and writing intensive capstone course, in addition to meeting all other Core, College, and University requirements for the Bachelor of Arts degree.

Projected Student enrollments, based on discussions with Undergraduate Scholar administrators among other things, are expected to be high, from 250 in the first year up to 1000 potentially in year five.

Nationally, many other universities, including University of Texas at Austin, University of Central Florida, Portland State University, Arizona University, Northern Arizona University, University of Oklahoma, University of Arkansas at Little Rock, University of South Carolina at Columbia, Kentucky State University, University of Montana, University of Wisconsin at Oshkosh, Georgia College and State University, have introduced or expanded Majors in Liberal Studies, Liberal Arts, or the Humanities. Requirements vary widely, but our proposed program offers a maximum of flexibility and academic rigor, with minimal new costs.

The proposed Major in Liberal Studies builds on existing academic and administrative structures with a minimum of new staffing and organizational exigencies. A Program Director, anticipated as a 50% clinical position in Year 1, 100% thereafter, and an Undergraduate Advisor who would also handle some administrative tasks, minimal facilities, equipment and supplies, are the only costs envisioned in the five-year projection. Costs over the first five years of the new Program anticipated in the range of \$461,166 will be allocated from Houston Endowment, Achieving the Dream funds and ongoing grant and development sources.

Attachments:

- 1) New Program Request Form for Bachelor and Master's Degrees, with attachments
- 2) Catalog Program Description

Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies

Director: Thomas Behr

The Bachelor of Arts with a Major in Liberal Studies offers a broadly interdisciplinary liberal arts program that may be tailored to match a wide variety of educational and professional goals of students. In addition to fulfilling the Core, College and University requirements for the Bachelor of Arts degree, students majoring in Liberal Studies must satisfy the following:

1. All requirements for a Minor in each of three different fields within the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, two of which must be from programs that also offer a Major. One of the Minors may be from outside the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences upon petition and approval by the Director of Liberal Studies and the Office of the Dean of Academic Affairs. Students may also petition to form one of their Minors out of relevant coursework from programs that do not offer Minors, again upon approval by the Director of Liberal Studies and the Office of the Dean of Academic Affairs.
2. File degree plans for each of the three Minors, complete the 15 or 18 credit hours and all other requirements for each of the chosen Minors, for a total of 45 to 54 credit hours. Courses taken for any Minor cannot be used to satisfy requirements in either of the other two Minors.
3. A 3 hour Senior Seminar in Liberal Studies (ILAS 4350); students may petition to substitute a Capstone course in one of their Minors for this requirement upon approval by the Director of Liberal Studies and the Office of the Dean of Academic Affairs.
4. All other Core, College, and University requirements for the Bachelor of Arts degree.

The flexibility of putting together the three Minors, with the potential for petitioning in a Minor from outside of C.L.A.S.S. (such as the International Studies Minor from the Bauer College of Business), suggests that students should consult closely with the Liberal Studies advisor or the Director in formulating a coherent and practical program for this Major.

*Approved
CLASS U.S.C.
1/29/09
A*

New Program Request Form for Bachelor and Master's Degrees

Directions: An institution shall use this form to propose a new bachelor's or master's degree program. In completing the form, the institution should refer to the document *Standards for Bachelor's and Master's Programs*, which prescribes specific requirements for new degree programs. Note: This form requires signatures of (1) the Chief Executive Officer, certifying adequacy of funding for the new program; (2) a member of the Board of Regents (or designee), certifying Board approval, and (3) if applicable, a member of the Board of Regents or (designee), certifying that criteria have been met for staff-level approval. Note: An institution which does not have preliminary authority for the proposed program shall submit a separate request for preliminary authority. That request shall address criteria set in Coordinating Board rules Section 5.24 (a).

Information: Contact the Division of Academic Affairs and Research at 512/427-6200 for more information.

Administrative Information

1. Institution: **University of Houston**
2. Program Name – Show how the program would appear on the Coordinating Board's program inventory (e.g., *Bachelor of Business Administration degree with a major in Accounting*): **Bachelor of Arts with a major in Liberal Studies**
3. Proposed CIP Code: **24.0101.00.01**
4. Brief Program Description – Describe the program and the educational objectives:
See attachment, note 1.
5. Administrative Unit – Identify where the program would fit within the organizational structure of the university (e.g., *The Department of Electrical Engineering within the College of Engineering*): **The Liberal Studies Program within the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences**
6. Proposed Implementation Date – Report the first semester and year that students would enter the program: **Fall 2010**
7. Contact Person – Provide contact information for the person who can answer specific questions about the program:

Name: **Dr. Thomas Behr**

Title: **Director of Liberal Studies**

E-mail: **tbehr@uh.edu**

Phone: **713-743-3083**

Program Information

I. Need

Note: Complete I.A and I.B only if preliminary authority for the program was granted more than four years ago. This includes programs for which the institution was granted broad preliminary authority for the discipline.

- A. Job Market Need – Provide short- and long-term evidence of the need for graduates in the job market.
- B. Student Demand – Provide short- and long-term evidence of demand for the program.
- C. Enrollment Projections – Use this table to show the estimated cumulative headcount and full-time student equivalent (FTSE) enrollment for the first five years of the program. *(Include majors only and consider attrition and graduation.)*

*** See attachment, note 2**

YEAR	1	2	3	4	5
Headcount	250	500	750	1000	1000
FTSE	100	200	300	400	400

II. Quality

- A. Degree Requirements – Use this table to show the degree requirements of the program. *(Modify the table as needed; if necessary, replicate the table for more than one option.)*

Category	Semester Credit Hours	Clock Hours
General Education Core Curriculum <i>(bachelor's degree only)</i>	42	
Required Courses	48-57	
Prescribed Electives	6	
Free Electives	72-63	
Other <i>(Specify, e.g., internships, clinical work)</i>	(if not included above)	
TOTAL	120	

- B. Curriculum – Use these tables to identify the required courses and prescribed electives of the program. Note with an asterisk (*) courses that would be added if the program is approved. (Add and delete rows as needed. If applicable, replicate the tables for different tracks/options.)

Prefix and Number	Required Courses	SCH
ILAS 4350	Senior Seminar / Capstone (See attachment, note 3)	3
	Minor 1	15 - 18
	Minor 2	15 - 18
	Minor 3	15 - 18

Prefix and Number	Prescribed Elective Courses	SCH
	Foreign Language at 2000 level or above, or equivalent	6

- C. Faculty – Use these tables to provide information about Core and Support faculty. Add an asterisk (*) before the name of the individual who will have direct administrative responsibilities for the program. (Add and delete rows as needed.)

Name of <u>Core</u> Faculty and Faculty Rank	Highest Degree and Awarding Institution	Courses Assigned in Program	% Time Assigned To Program
e.g.: Robertson, David Asst. Professor	PhD. in Molecular Genetics Univ. of Texas at Dallas	MG200, MG285 MG824 (Lab Only)	50%
Behr, Thomas Director	J.D. & Ph.D. in Intellectual History, State University of New York at Buffalo	ILAS 4350 (see attachment, note 3)	50%

Name of <u>Support</u> Faculty and Faculty Rank	Highest Degree and Awarding Institution	Courses Assigned in Program	% Time Assigned To Program

- D. Library – Provide the library director’s assessment of library resources necessary for the program. Describe plans to build the library holdings to support the program.
- E. Facilities and Equipment – Describe the availability and adequacy of facilities and equipment to support the program. Describe plans for facility and equipment improvements/additions.
- F. Accreditation – If the discipline has a national accrediting body, describe plans to obtain accreditation or provide a rationale for not pursuing accreditation.

III. Costs and Funding

Five-Year Costs and Funding Sources - Use this table to show five-year costs and sources of funding for the program.

Five-Year Costs		Five-Year Funding	
Personnel ¹	\$448,622	Reallocated Funds	\$0
Facilities and Equipment	\$8,400	Anticipated New Formula Funding ³	\$0
Library, Supplies, and Materials	\$4,144	Special Item Funding	\$0
Other ²	\$0	Other ⁴	\$461,166
Total Costs	\$461,166	Total Funding	\$461,166

1. Report costs for new faculty hires, graduate assistants, and technical support personnel. For new faculty, prorate individual salaries as a percentage of the time assigned to the program. If existing faculty will contribute to program, include costs necessary to maintain existing programs (e.g., cost of adjunct to cover courses previously taught by faculty who would teach in new program).
2. Specify other costs here (e.g., administrative costs, travel).
3. Indicate formula funding for students new to the institution because of the program; formula funding should be included only for years three through five of the program and should reflect enrollment projections for years three through five.
4. Report other sources of funding here. In-hand grants, "likely" future grants, and designated tuition and fees can be included.

Signature Page

1. Adequacy of Funding – The chief executive officer shall sign the following statement:

I certify that the institution has adequate funds to cover the costs of the new program. Furthermore, the new program will not reduce the effectiveness or quality of existing programs at the institution.

Chief Executive Officer

Date

2. Board of Regents or Designee Approval – A member of the Board of Regents or designee shall sign the following statement:

On behalf of the Board of Regents, I approve the program.

Board of Regents (Designee)

Date of Approval

3. Board of Regents Certification of Criteria for Commissioner of Assistant Commissioner Approval – For a program to be approved by the Commissioner or the Assistant Commissioner for Academic Affairs and Research, the Board of Regents or designee must certify that the new program meets the eight criteria under TAC Section 5.50 (b): The criteria stipulate that the program shall:

- (1) be within the institution's current Table of Programs;
- (2) have a curriculum, faculty, resources, support services, and other components of a degree program that are comparable to those of high quality programs in the same or similar disciplines at other institutions;
- (3) have sufficient clinical or in-service sites, if applicable, to support the program;
- (4) be consistent with the standards of the Commission of Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and, if applicable, with the standards or discipline-specific accrediting agencies and licensing agencies;
- (5) attract students on a long-term basis and produce graduates who would have opportunities for employment; or the program is appropriate for the development of a well-rounded array of basic baccalaureate degree programs at the institution;
- (6) not unnecessarily duplicate existing programs at other institutions;
- (7) not be dependent on future Special Item funding
- (8) have new five-year costs that would not exceed \$2 million.

On behalf of the Board of Regents, I certify that the new program meets the criteria specified under TAC Section 5.50 (b).

Board of Regents (Designee)

Date

Attachment

New Program Request: Bachelor of Arts, Major in Liberal Studies

1. Brief Program Description

The Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies offers students an interdisciplinary, liberal arts Major built upon the successful completion of requirements for a Minor in each of three different fields within the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, two of which must be from programs that also offer a Major. Students must file degree plans for each of the three Minors, completing the 15 or 18 credit hours as required and all other requirements for each of the three Minors, take a capstone course in Liberal Studies (Senior Seminar, ILAS 4350) or in one of the Minor fields constituting the Major upon approval by the Director of Liberal Studies and the Office of the Dean of Academic Affairs, in addition to meeting all other Core, College, and University requirements for the Bachelor of Arts degree. Courses taken for each Minor cannot be counted toward either of the other Minors constituting the Major. Minors outside of C.L.A.S.S. that can count toward the Liberal Studies Major include the International Studies Minor from Bauer College of Business, with other such Minors to be considered upon approval by the Director of Liberal Studies and the Office of the Dean of Academic Affairs. Students may also petition to form one of their Minors out of relevant coursework from programs that do not offer Minors, again upon approval by the Director of Liberal Studies and the Office of the Dean of Academic Affairs.

2. FTE's calculated on an assumption of 40% full-time rate.

3. The capstone course in Liberal Studies, ILAS 4350 Senior Seminar, will be a Great Books course with a Socratic discussion approach and weekly writing assignments. Its objective is to assist students to hone skills for effective reasoning, communicating and life-long learning. The CBM for ILAS 4350 will be submitted for Fall 2009.