



SACRAMENTO STATE

Attachment: FS 13/14-12
Approved by the Faculty Senate - Oct 3, 2013

Program Proposal
Form B



Academic Group (College): Arts and Letters
Date of Submission to College Dean: November 19, 2012
Academic Organization (Department): ALS Chairs?
Requested Effective: Fall __, Spring X, 20_14_
Department Chair: None
Contact if not Department Chair: Kimo Ah Yun, ALS Interim Associate Dean

Title of the Program (Please be specific; indicate minor, undergraduate or graduate degree, etc.):
Bachelor of Arts, Arts and Letters

Type of Program Proposal:

- Modification in Existing Program:
Substantive Change
Non-Substantive Change
Deletion of Existing Program
X New Programs
Initiation (Projection) of New Program on to Master Plan
X New Degree Programs
Regular Process
Fast Track Process
X Pilot Process
New Minor, Concentration, Option, Specialization, Emphasis
New Certificate Program

PLEASE NOTE: Form B is to be used only as a Cover Form. Additional information is requested for each of the above as noted in the corresponding procedure in the Policies and Procedures for Initiation, Modification, Review and Approval of Courses and Academic Programs found at http://www.csus.edu/umannual/acad.htm

Briefly describe the program proposal (new or change) and provide a justification.

Please see attached description and justification.

Approvals:

Department Chair: [Signature] Date: 2/6/13

College Dean: [Signature] Date: 2/6/13

University Committee: Kaci Chalmers Date: 6-12-13

Associate Vice President and Dean for Academic Affairs: [Signature] Date: 6/25/13

Form B: Arts and Letters Completion, Bachelor of Arts, pilot program, description and justification

Proposed pilot program description

The ALS BA program is a self-supported Arts and Letters BA degree completion pilot program administered by the College of Continuing Education for the College of Arts and Letters.

Faculty members in the College of Arts and Letters authored this proposal and will continue to be the driving force in all facets of this program, including the establishment of admission requirements and protocol for selecting instructors who teach courses in the program.

This pilot is designed for students who have stopped-out in good standing from the pursuit of any major within the disciplines of the College of Arts and Letters at Sacramento State. The major will only be open to former students who left the university with at least 84 units. Students currently enrolled will not be eligible. It is intended for stopped-out students who desire a bachelor's degree, have already largely completed general education, and are some way toward completing a degree program in Arts and Letters. **The ALS BA is a completion degree, not a replacement degree, and is designed to meet the needs of students for whom re-admission and enrollment in the regular campus curriculum is not possible.**

The ALS BA is a "general" Arts and Letters multidisciplinary major. It will not duplicate or overlap with any existing university degree program. Students will not receive a degree in any existing university discipline, no matter how many units toward a specific major they might have had before leaving the university.

The ALS major has 36 total units divided into three groups of 12 units. The BA requires 120 units, and students will work closely with program advisors to ensure completion of the program within 120 units. Students must have at least 12 units in residence.

I. Core courses (12 units): There are four new courses dedicated to the ALS BA program that allow students to learn about basic problems in the arts and humanities and link them to their personal and professional lives. These are high quality and intellectually demanding courses originally designed by CSUS faculty from the Humanities, History, Communications Studies, and Philosophy departments. They are intended to allow a wide variety of ALS faculty opportunities to teach in the program. (Form A course proposals and sample syllabi for each course are attached to this application.)

1. ALS 101: Texts Over Time
2. ALS 102: Individual, Community, and Citizenship

3. ALS 103: Creativity, Meaning, and Criticism
4. ALS 104: Happiness, Well Being, and the Good Life

II. Lower-division foundation (12 units). Lower-division courses from any Arts and Letters departments in any combination. Students may have satisfied this requirement before leaving CSUS; if not, existing lower-division courses in ALS will be adapted and made available for them.

III. Upper-division exploration (12 units). Upper-division courses from any Arts and Letters departments in any combination. Students may have satisfied this requirement before leaving CSUS; if not, existing upper-division courses in ALS will be adapted and made available for them.

Core courses will be cohort based for incoming admissions and will be offered in pairings of 2 courses per semester for potential completion in as few as 2 semesters. Students will be eligible for admission in fall and in spring semester.

Faculty for the core courses will be recruited from all ALS departments (Art, Communications Studies, Design, English, Foreign Languages, History, Humanities and Religious Studies, Music, Philosophy, and Theatre & Dance). If the pilot indicates that it would be advantageous to students, faculty from departments in related fields in other colleges (Anthropology, Government, Sociology, Women's Studies, Ethnic Studies, etc.) may also be asked to teach in the program. The 24 units of elective courses in the major are expected to come from Arts and Letters, but up to 6 units of substitutions from related courses in other colleges may be accepted on a case-to-case basis.

Students will be assessed and advised upon admission to the program to determine the best combination of coursework to ensure satisfaction of GE/GR and program requirements in addition to the mandatory 12 unit core. It is not anticipated that the ALS BA core courses will be put into GE unless experience in the pilot indicates that GE status may be advantageous for students in the major.

Proposed program justification

The ALS BA is designed as a **completion degree** and **multidisciplinary major** to serve the needs of former students who have left the university with at least 84 units but need a way to finish a degree while juggling family and work. Several universities, notably BYU and Sonoma State, have had success with such programs. We have studied these programs, consulted with CCE, and devised a major that we believe meets the needs and interests of such students and our institution. With this degree, we can allow such students to complete the BA without displacing existing students from regular courses or adding to existing resource challenges.

For former students, now community members, this major will allow them to finish a BA when they are unable to finish as regularly enrolled students. OIR estimates that 1200 undergraduates stop-out every year. Our research tell us that there is great need for a completion degree among people working full time, whether in the workplace or the home, but need a BA for professional or personal reasons. This will allow them to obtain promotions at work (today, BA degrees are required for many jobs that previously did not require them) or to build a culture of education in their families (parents often want to show children the meaning of a university education). The program is designed to be flexible, relevant to students' personal and professional lives, intellectually stimulating with high academic quality, and possible to complete in a timely manner.

For the university, the completion degree program offers a tool to improve graduation rates, create a stable revenue stream for the college, and build links to the non-traditional-student population and broader educated community as a form of outreach. The first two are well-known issues, and this program can provide a means to address both in one measure. Many students who disappear from the university without graduating have not lost interest in completing their degree; rather, competing life interests have merely taken precedence for a time. Yet such students count against our graduation rates. For each student that returns, enrolls in the completion program, and completes the 36-unit program, our graduate rates improve. Bridget Parsh from the CSUS Graduation Initiative subcommittee has expressed great interest in this program, and we are in consultation with them regarding their support.

We are also confident that the ALS BA can raise the profile of CSUS among members of the community. As stop-out students complete their degrees and reconnect with CSUS, they offer a conduit for the college and university to engage the professional and community base in the region. Students enrolled in ALS BA will be invited to events on campus that highlight student and faculty achievements in the college and have the opportunity to participate in commencement ceremonies upon graduation. In this way, we can enhance our connection to the community in ways that conventional programs cannot.

We would like to run this program as a pilot program to allow us to assess it against our expectations and adapt it to the conditions in the Sacramento region as these become apparent. CCE estimates that there is great demand for the ALS BA, but several factors may require us to make changes to the operation of the program. Only real experience will tell us how many students will apply, what exactly they will want from the program, how we can best serve them, how they progress through the degree requirements, and whether we should focus on our former students exclusively or to expand the program for interested and eligible students who have dropped-out of other CSUs.

Assessment

The goal of the assessment plan is to improve student learning. The program will use the assessment process to set standards for learning expectations and to determine how well student performance matches those expectations. Through this process, the program will be able to identify areas of strengths and weaknesses. Improvements may include changes to the curriculum, teaching practices and/or materials, and mediums used to deliver course delivery.

Because this is a pilot for a new program, assessment in the first two years of the program will be done using a sampling of papers from all classes (about 10 papers per class). It is anticipated that once the assessment data begins to stabilize that data will be collected less frequently. Per university program review recommendations, future iterations of the assessment plan will ensure that data is collected on all learning outcomes for each cycle.

The four core courses of this program serve as the cornerstone and foundation for this program. A sampling of papers from each class will be collected for each class. Rubrics developed from AAC&U's value rubrics, Degree Program Qualifications (NILOA), as well local campus resources will be combined and used to evaluate student work. Given the robust nature of this program, each of the learning outcomes will be evaluated for all student papers.

Program Learning Goals and Outcomes

BLG: Knowledge of Human Cultures and the Physical and Natural World through study in the *sciences and mathematics, social sciences, humanities, histories, languages, and the arts.*

1. Knowledge of Human Cultures: Students majoring in the Arts and Letters, BA program should be able to demonstrate knowledge of human cultures, their values and forms of expression in ways that prepare them to understand, adapt, and succeed in increasingly diverse and complex contexts.
 - 1.1. Analyze cultural transformations through time, recognizing both persistent aspects and innovations, and proposing well-reasoned explanations for such.
 - 1.2. Compare two or more cultures, identifying common themes or issues along with those that are distinctive.

BLG: Intellectual and Practical Skills, including: inquiry and analysis, critical, philosophical and creative thinking, written and oral communication, quantitative literacy, information literacy, teamwork and problem solving, practiced extensively across the curriculum in the context of progressively more challenging problems, projects, and standards for performance.

2. Intellectual and Communication Skills: Students majoring in Arts and Letters, BA should be able to demonstrate analytical reading skills, critical thinking skills, and effective written and oral communication skills in order to facilitate clear understanding and articulation of subject matter in academic and professional pursuits.

- 2.1. Demonstrate comprehensive exploration of issues, ideas, artifacts, and events before accepting or formulating an opinion or conclusion.
- 2.2. Write clear expository prose that fulfills the intended purpose, is wholly appropriate for the intended audience, appropriately incorporates primary and secondary texts, and applies sophisticated analysis, coherent organization, suitable vocabulary, effective sentence structure, correct syntax and grammar, and accurate citation of reference sources.

BLG: Personal and Social Responsibility, including: civic knowledge and engagement—local and global, intercultural knowledge and competence, ethical reasoning and action, foundations and skills for lifelong learning anchored through active involvement with diverse communities and real-world challenges.

3. Lifelong Learning: Students majoring in the Arts and Letters, BA program should be able to acquire foundations and skills for lifelong learning for purposes of enhancing personal enrichment, intercultural awareness, and active engagement with the challenges and opportunities of the modern world.
 - 3.1. Apply the content of ALS 101 (Texts Over Time) to examine one's own cultural context and personal perspectives.
 - 3.2. Apply the content of ALS 102 (Individual, Community, and Citizenship) to reflect on what makes a responsible citizen.
 - 3.3. Apply the content of ALS 103 (Creativity, Meaning, and Criticism) to understand the meaning of art, literature, or performance.
 - 3.4. Apply the content of ALS 104 (Happiness, Well-being, and the Good Life) to reflect on what makes a good life.

BLG: Integrative Learning, including: synthesis and advanced accomplishment across general and specialized studies. All of the above are demonstrated through the application of knowledge, skills, and responsibilities to new settings and complex problems.

4. Integrative Learning: Students majoring in the Arts and Letters, BA program should be able to demonstrate ability to synthesize and undertake cross-disciplinary study and learning in order to understand holistically the place and relevance of these fields and their subject matter.
 - 4.1. Select and develop examples of life experiences, drawn from a variety of contexts (e.g., family life, artistic participation, civic involvement, work experience), to illuminate concepts/theories/frameworks of fields of study.
 - 4.2. Create wholes out of multiple parts (synthesize) or draw conclusions by combining examples, facts, or theories from more than one field of study or perspective.
 - 4.3. Identify and analyze the stylistic expression of specific ideas in art, architecture, music, literature, and philosophy and show how they vary across cultural boundaries and historical contexts.

As a rule, the assessment strategy of this program relies on direct measurement of student learning. However, given the nature of this pilot study, it is important to also collect indirect data. As such, a survey to measure student perceptions at the conclusion of the core sequence of courses will be measured. Like other commonly used indirect assessment tools, the survey will provide useful informative data on student attitudes and perceptions of learning and program content. All students participating in this program will be required to complete the survey instrument.

As a reference point, below are the learning outcomes for each of the individual courses. These outcomes provide granular data that will inform the larger program assessment.

Course Learning Outcomes and Requirements

101: Texts Over Time

- Explain various objective and subjective approaches to defining “text”
- Critically evaluate the function of texts within their cultural contexts
- Demonstrate analytical reading skills, the ability simultaneously to extract and construct meaning when reading diverse texts
- Apply the content of this course to examine one’s own cultural context and personal perspectives

Requirements:

- Contribution to class discussions
- Six informal responses to readings
- Reflective essay on reading experiences
- Two assigned essays
- Final exam (take-home)

102: Individual, Community, and Citizenship

- Explain various approaches to conceptualizing the relationship between individual, community, and citizenship
- Critically evaluate these various conceptions through textual analysis
- Apply the content of this course to reflect on what makes a responsible citizen

Requirements:

- Read the assigned texts
- Complete quizzes and other assessments on the assigned readings
- Participate in discussions about the assigned texts and students’ ideas about those texts
- Accomplish all course assignments in a satisfactory manner

103: Creativity, Meaning, and Criticism

- Identify the sources of creativity and meaning
- Explain how creativity, meaning, and criticism varies across cultural contexts
- Identify the elements and processes involved in the critical assessment of creative production in the arts and humanities
- Apply the content of this course to understand the meaning of art, literature, or performance

Requirements:

- Examinations
- Visual journals
- Lifespan creativity biography
- Final project

104: Happiness, Well-Being, and the Good Life

- Explain various objective and subjective approaches to defining happiness, well-being, and the good life
- Critically evaluate the contributing factors empirically and theoretically associated with well-being and happiness
- Critically evaluate expressions of happiness as they are conveyed and communicated in various cultural media
- Apply the content of this course to reflect on what makes a good life

Requirements:

- Critical analyses
- Great Day project
- On-line discussion

Resource utilization

The program will be completely self-supporting financially since it will be administered through CCE for the College of Arts and Letters. Program revenue will compensate instructors following university guidelines and self-support policies. Instructors will be recruited from full-time tenured and tenure-track Arts and Letters faculty but faculty from other colleges may be asked to participate if the pilot indicates that this would be advantageous to students.

Class delivery format

This major is NOT an online program, nor is it designed or intended to become one. As with any other major, some required courses may be offered as fully online, hybrid, and/or evening/Saturday courses. The pilot and its courses will comply with all university e-learning policies. Academic Affairs will monitor the pilot (as it does all university programs) and seek any WASC approvals should they become necessary.

NEW PROGRAM

BA in Arts and Letters, Degree Completion Program

Eligibility Requirements:

This multidisciplinary major is designed for students who have stopped-out in good standing from the pursuit of any major at Sacramento State.

At the time of application, students must have met the following requirements:

1. Must not have been enrolled at the university for a minimum of one year and have left in good academic standing
2. Completed at least 84 units of coursework (may be upper and lower division units)
3. Completed all lower division General Education and Graduation Requirements. A condition of admission to the program is that students have completed all GE Area B requirements. If the GE Area B and other lower division GE/GR requirements (especially ENGL1A, ENGL20 and WJP, or their respective equivalents) are not completed at the time of application, they must be completed prior to beginning the program.
4. Have a minimum cumulative GPA not lower than 2.0

Major Requirements (36 units):

- A. Required Lower Division Courses (12 units)
12 units of lower division coursework in any of the departments of the College of Arts and Letters, including: Art, Communication Studies, Design, English, Foreign Languages, History, Humanities and Religious Studies, Music, Philosophy, and Theatre and Dance.
- B. Required Upper Division Core Courses (12 units)
 - (3) ALS 101 Texts Over Time
 - (3) ALS 102 Individual, Community, and Citizenship
 - (3) ALS 103 Creativity, Meaning, and Criticism
 - (3) ALS 104 Happiness, Well-Being, and the Good Life
- C. Additional Upper Division Requirements (12 units)
12 units of upper division courses in any of the departments in the College of Arts and Letters, including: Art, Communication Studies, Design, English, Foreign Languages, History, Humanities and Religious Studies, Music, Philosophy, and Theatre and Dance.

Note: Students will work closely with the program advisors to ensure satisfactory completion of all University-wide General Education and Graduation Requirements. Where possible, these can be overlapped with courses taken to satisfy A and C above.

Advisors:

Christina Bellon, Philosophy

Jeffrey Brodd, Humanities and Religious Studies

Aaron Cohen, History

ALS BA FAQs

1. Is this an online program?

A: No, this program is administered for the College through CCE, and the 12unit of core coursework will be designed for an online format, but the program is not an online program. Students may take courses in any format available on campus, indeed the 24unit of lower division and upper division coursework will largely be done in a traditional delivery format.

2. What sort of major is this?

A: This is not a traditional major-based program. It is comprised of courses that are offered throughout the College of Arts and Letters, and as such it is a multi-disciplinary program.

3. Are any courses ineligible or excluded?

A: All courses taken through departments in the College of Arts and Letters can be used to meet the required 24u of upper and lower division courses, with the exception of ENGL1A, ENGL20 and ENGL109 and their respective equivalents (upon the recommendation of the Department of English).

4. How long does the program take to complete?

A: The program requires 36units, 12 of which are a specially designed core of four 3u courses, offered by faculty in the College of Arts and Letters. The remaining 24u can be satisfied by various courses in the College of Arts and Letters, some of which are likely double counted as GE courses. Ideally, students will be able to complete the program in as little as 2 semesters, if they come in with 108 units and all GE/GR complete. More realistically, students will be able to complete the program in 2-3 semesters, depending on their time and commitment.

5. Which students are eligible for this program?

A: Any students who were enrolled at Sacramento State who are officially stopped out for at least one year, who left the university with a minimum of 2.0 cumulative GPA, and have completed 84units. Additional eligibility requirements pertain to GE/GR requirements. We require all lower division GE and GR requirements to be completed, especially Area B requirements.

6. Why must Area B requirements be completed?

A: Since this program is intended for students who are returning to complete a BA degree, and the program is offered through CCE, given the challenges students face accessing lab and other area B courses, we will have the least ability to ensure students in the program access to area B courses such as to complete the requirement within the anticipated completion times of no more than 1.5 years. To be safe, we will require students to complete their lower division GE/GR requirements and all area B requirements before beginning the program.

7. Does this program compete with any other programs already available on campus?

A: Not directly, nor any more than any other program does. This program is intended specifically for students who have left the university due to changes in circumstances, but who would like to return to complete their degree for personal or professional/career reasons. The program is not disciplinarily based, and as such would not be appealing to students who really wanted a degree in History or Economics or Physics. It will appeal to, will be marketed toward, and will intend to draw back students who might otherwise never finish their degree at Sacramento State.

8. Why stopped-out for one year?

A: Research indicates that of students who leave for at least one semester, only 7% ever return to complete a degree. This negatively affects our graduation numbers when over 1500 students each year stop-out. This program is intended to offer such students an intellectually rewarding

opportunity to return and finish. Requiring that students be stopped-out for at least one year will reduce the possible competition between this program and others for students who might leave for a semester and then return to complete their physics or economics or philosophy degree. But, it also allows us to still bring these students back in order to complete their degree within the 6 year graduation window. Student graduation clocks start at matriculation and do not stop, despite leaving the system, until they graduate. If a student stops-out in their sophomore or junior year, is stopped-out for one year, then returns into this program, they could take the 1.5 years to complete the requirements and still graduate within 6 years. The short length of time required to complete this program is also an important element in ensuring as much as possible that students will graduate within the 6 years window.

9. What is the fiscal cost of this program? Who will cover it?

A: This program is will be administer by CCE and will be run as a self-sustaining program. We anticipate that there will be no cost to the college or department for participating in their program. Indeed, as all the courses will be offered through CCE, there is not specific state-side cost. Faculty will teach through CCE in addition to their regular state-side load. Departments will not have to cover the WTU for offering courses or agreeing to allow faculty to teach the core courses.

10. What about advising or coordinating the program? Who will do that and where will the funds come from?

A: One of the benefits of establishing the program as self-sustaining is that it will cover the cost of advising and coordinating the program. Faculty advisors will assist CCE in identifying and marketing the program to eligible students. They will also assist students in finding the best pattern of courses to facilitate their completion in a timely and intellectually rewarding way, depending on the student's particular academic and other circumstances. This program is advising intensive, intentionally so, as students will come with an array of qualifications and needs. In addition to the core 12u of coursework, students will be advised by faculty advisors in the College as to the best pathway toward completion, given the courses they already have completed, and requirements they yet have to complete.

11. What about students who need more courses to complete the 120 units or to meet the 24u requirements? Will they take courses state-side?

A: They could take courses already offered through CCE, of which the College or Arts and Letters offers many. Or, they could enroll in a course offered stateside, if this suits their needs and interests. It is quite likely, however, that courses which are in demand in the program – say a writing intensive course – could be developed and run through CCE. This would benefit not only the student sin THIS program, but quite feasibly, the students in the other CCE administered degree programs for Criminal Justice or Business. The program coordinators, together with CCE, will monitor the pattern of needs for such high-demand courses, and offer the opportunity to faculty to develop courses which satisfy these needs.

12. What if a student has more than 84 units?

A: They would still have to complete, at the least, the 12 u core courses – ALS 101, ALS 102, ALS 103, ALS 104. If they have completed enough additional upper and lower division courses offered by department sin the College of Arts and Letters to satisfy the remaining 24u, then they will be complete. If they do not, then they will have to make up additional coursework to satisfy this requirement, even if that takes them over the 120 units. This, however, is a problem which ANY program on campus would face with a student who transferred to them with units that would exceed 120 in the course of completing the major.

13. Are any of the core courses likely to be proposed for inclusion in the GE?

A: No, the balance of GE courses offered through CCE is adequate, from our assessment, to afford students in this program sufficient opportunity to complete their remaining GE courses in a timely fashion. However, it is likely that ALS 104 will be revised to meet the writing intensive requirements in Fall/13. It serves as the last of the courses to be completed. This allows students who have been away from academic writing for a while the opportunity refresh and hone their skills while completing ALS 101, ALS 102, and ALS103. It is also quite likely, given the students to be accepted into the program, that they will not have completed their writing intensive requirement. Designating one of the core courses as writing intensive would be a valuable contribution to the program and to ensuring timely completion of GE/GR requirements. It would help many and harm none.

14. Will this program help the university's graduation rate?

A: Yes, this is fully the intension of offering such a program. The College of Arts and Letters has the curricular resources within and across the GE and GR and is in an exceptional position to offer students who would otherwise never return, or who might be tempted to go elsewhere, to return and complete a meaningful, intellectually rewarding, BA degree. That we are looking at generating interest from students who have stopped-out in the 1-3 year range, their completion in 1.5 years could make significant inroads into improving the 6 year graduation rate. Also, for students who have been stopped-out longer, this offers them the opportunity to return and, within a reasonable amount of time, complete a degree... for their personal or professional satisfaction and advancement.