

BACKGROUND AND RECOMMENDATION

UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts

RECOMMENDATION

This program meets the Chancellor's minimum standards for baccalaureate degrees. There were no concerns identified in the review and approval is recommended.

Request: The University of Cincinnati (UC) requests approval for a Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts. The proposed Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts will provide multidisciplinary study across existing disciplines and will be administered by the Arts and Sciences Interdisciplinary Council (a faculty council) in collaboration with the departments participating in the individualized degree. Student advising will be provided by the College of Arts and Sciences.

Purpose: The proposed Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts provides students with the ability to combine existing minors or certificates to meet individual career interests and needs. The multidisciplinary major emphasizes in-depth exposure to three disciplines or certificates in the College of Arts and Sciences. There are currently more than 35 minors and certificates available through the college: one for nearly every major and special purpose certificates such as European studies, historical preservation, and creative writing. The proposed degree emphasizes the liberal education goals of "developing strong, transferable intellectual and practical skills, the knowledge and perspective to deal with complexity, diversity, and change, and the ability to apply knowledge and skills in real-world education ([http://www.aacu.org/leap/What is Liberal Education.cfm](http://www.aacu.org/leap/What%20is%20Liberal%20Education.cfm))."

The program is appropriate for students preparing for graduate study in interdisciplinary or multidisciplinary areas not currently incorporated into an existing degree program (e.g., linguistics, urban studies, religious studies) or students interested in a career for which multidisciplinary education would be appropriate or desirable (e.g., law, diplomacy, public service, environmental advocacy).

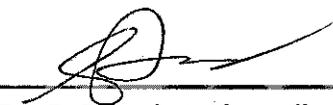
Curriculum: The total program of study requires 180 credits, including a minimum of 57 credit hours in three minor areas or certificate programs (typically 27-40 credit hours each). Students must complete at least one course that qualifies as a "methodology" course in the relevant discipline. Each certificate or minor must have courses at the 300 level or higher; the students must complete a capstone project, experience or course that is a part of one of the minors/certificates or an interdisciplinary capstone; at least two of the three minors or certificates must be offered by arts and sciences; and at least 15 credits of each minor/certificate must be applied only to that minor or certificate and not be used to fulfill the requirements of another minor or certificate.

Enrollments: The University of Cincinnati anticipates an initial class size of 45 students with anticipated increases to nearly 175 students by the fourth year of the program. It is unlikely that any single department will have a substantial increase in advising needs during the initial

years of the program. UC anticipates that the proposed program will be attractive to transfer students, students interested in creating an individualized baccalaureate degree following the completion of an associate of arts or science degree, and current university students.

Resource/Faculty Needs: The proposed program has strong institutional support. Existing resources (faculty, advising support, labs, and equipment) are sufficient to support the program during the initial year. The proposed program will use established minors and certificates taught by existing faculty of the College of Arts and Sciences. UC anticipates hiring an additional 1.5 to 2 FTE advisors to accommodate the need for individualized advising as the program grows.

End of Comment Period: March 2, 2010
No Comments Received, Recommend Approval

APPROVED	
	3/4/10
Eric D. Fingerhut, Chancellor	Date

mlc