

NEW PROGRAM PROPOSAL FORM

Sponsoring Institution(s): Northwest Missouri State University

Program Title: Liberal Arts and Sciences

Degree/Certificate: Bachelor of Arts

Options:

Delivery Site(s): main campus


CIP Classification: 24.0101 (Please provide a CIP code)

Implementation Date: Fall 2014

Cooperative Partners:

Expected Date of First Graduation: Spring 2016

AUTHORIZATION

<u>Douglas Dunham, Provost</u>		<u>January 27, 2014</u>
Name/Title of Institutional Officer	Signature	Date

<u>Gregory Haddock, Vice Provost</u>	<u>(660) 562-1145</u>
Person to Contact for More Information	Telephone

1.

Need (Form SE - Student Enrollment Projections)

Student Demand:

i. Estimated enrollment each year for the first five years for full-time and part-time students (Please complete Form SE.)

<i>Year</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Full-time</i>	<u>10</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>30</u>
<i>Part-time</i>					
<i>Total</i>	<u>10</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>30</u>

ii. Will enrollment be capped in the future?

There would be no plans to cap the enrollment in this program.

What method(s) or data were used to project student enrollment for this proposed program?

Numbers are based on program testing data in the Noel-Levitz Primary Research report extrapolated from the 448 undergraduate respondents and local retention rates of deciding students.

A. Market Demand:

. National, state, regional, or local assessment of labor need for citizens with these skills
Career opportunities in management, design, teaching, or social work are not only possible, it is how most liberal arts majors begin post-graduation careers, according to the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics BLS). Additional career opportunities exist in the areas of urban planning, international affairs, technical communications, and religiously affiliated organizations. The projected job outlook for "traditional" liberal arts disciplines range from -6% (moderate decline) to +41% (much faster than average) according to the BLS.

B. Societal Need:

i. General needs which are not directly related to employment

While all employers seek candidates with the ability to write, analyze and understand human behavior, a documented 25-30% of employers recruiting at Northwest are open to applicants of all majors. The liberal arts student will have significant opportunities to apply for internships, post-graduation employment as well as programs of advanced study.

Historically, the liberal arts and sciences were aimed at creating the well-rounded citizen who would be a productive member of society. Education, thus, entailed the framing of critical thinking (and by extension problem-solving) skills within the context of the disciplines of the Liberal Arts and Sciences. The major as it is

designed is as reflective of those seven core disciplines as possible given the variety of prerequisite requirements in the programs. Moreover, the program is designed to be adaptable to the needs of the student by giving them the opportunity to take electives in any of the discipline areas that appeal to them but still leaving enough room for electives outside the program. The goal is to introduce the student to the contextual framing of the many disciplines in the Arts and Sciences so as to achieve the broad humanistic training employers seem to be wanting.

C. Methodology used to determine "B" and "C" above.

Members of the university's leadership team and academic leadership suggested the development of the degree program based on the Noel-Levitz report and information gathered by the Provost and the Assistant Director of Advisement at the Missouri Completion Academy Fall 2013 Conference.

The program is designed to meet department and college goals to recruit students to department programs and improve retention, particularly among Northwest's deciding majors students. Research by Noel-Levitz suggests that such a program would meet both goals at Northwest based on market demand. A survey conducted by Noel-Levitz, determined that 56% of students surveyed find the major appealing (33% = "somewhat appealing"; 23% "very appealing") with 38% of those saying they would be "very likely" to pursue information about the program. Ten percent of the total surveyed population said they were "very likely" to inquire about the program. In terms of overall program appeal, a major in the Liberal Arts and Sciences was the third most appealing to those surveyed (behind Project Management and Organizational Behavior, respectively. Moreover, in light of budgetary constraints, a program which does not put any extra pressure on current resources is optimal. The program proposed uses existing courses and faculty at no extra cost to the university (apart from marketing materials. For deciding students, such a major will allow for the opportunity to expand and explore their own interests particularly if they have a desired career path that is not connected to an already existing major program. This should improve retention past the 30 credit-hour mark.

National data is from United States Bureau of Labor Statistics.

2. Duplication and Collaboration: (Form CL – Collaborative Programs)

If similar programs currently exist in Missouri, what makes the proposed program necessary and/or distinct from the others at public institutions, area vocational technical schools, and private career schools?

There are other programs titled General Studies, and one titled Interdisciplinary Studies at other institutions in the state. Though often titled and organized differently, many of our peer institutions have such majors for the purpose of allowing students the opportunity to expand and explore their own interests particularly if they have a desired career path that is not connected to an already existing major program.

Does delivery of the program involve a collaborative effort with any external institution or organization?

No (If yes, please complete Form CL.)

3. Program Structure: (Form PS - Program Structure)

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

A. Total credits required for graduation: 124

B. Residency requirements, if any: NA

C. General education: Total credits: 42

Courses (specific courses OR distribution area and credits):

Language Hours (9)

D. Major requirements: Total credits: 59-61

Required Courses (13 cr.)

*HUM 26-102 Western Civilization 1: Ancient World to 1500 (3)

*HUM 26-103 Western Civilization II: 1500 to the Present (3)

*PHIL 39-1711 Introduction to Philosophy (3)

*SOC 35-108 General Anthropology (3)

OR *SOC 35-101 General Sociology (3)

HUM 26-401 Senior Seminar (1)

Discipline Areas (37-39 cr.)

Mathematics and Philosophy (6-7)

Literature (6)

Fine Arts (6)

Geography (6)

History and Political Science (6)

Life and Physical Sciences (7-8)

*Approved Electives in Arts and Sciences (9)

University Electives (8)

Discipline Area: Mathematics and Philosophy (6-7 cr.)

*MATH 17-114 General Statistics, I

*MATH 17-118 College Algebra

*MATH 17-117 PreCalculus (4)

*MATH 17-120 Calculus I (4)

Any Philosophy course 200-level or higher for which the prerequisites are met

3. Program Structure: (Form PS - Program Structure)

Discipline Area: Literature (6 cr.)

Any course 200-level or above in Literature for which the prerequisites are met; cannot count ENG 220 Introduction to Literature toward this requirement as it is a General Education Requirement

Discipline Area: Fine Arts (6 cr.)

*Any 300-level or higher course in Art History for which the prerequisites are met

Any 300-level or higher course in Music Literature and History for which the prerequisites are met

Any 300-level or higher History of Theater course for which the prerequisites are met

Discipline Area: Geography (6 cr.)

Any 300-level or higher course in Geography for which the prerequisites are met

Discipline Area: History and Political Science (6 cr.)

Any 300-level or higher History course for which the prerequisites are met

Any 300-level or higher Political Science course for which the prerequisites are met

Discipline Area: Life and Physical Sciences (7-8 cr.)

Choose one (1) track: either Life Sciences or Physical Sciences

Life Sciences Track:

BIOL 04-112 General Botany (3) and

BIOL 04-113 General Botany Laboratory (1)

BIOL 04-114 General Zoology (3) and

BIOL 04-114 General Zoology Laboratory (1)

Physical Sciences Track

*GEOL 27-110 General Geology (3) and

*GEOL 27-111 General Geology Laboratory (1)

OR

*GEOL 27-114 General Earth Science (3) and

*GEOL 27-115 General Earth Science Laboratory (1)

One 300-level or higher Geology Course (3-4)

*Cannot be used to fulfill any General Education Requirement

3. Program Structure: (Form PS - Program Structure)

E. Free elective credits: 21-23 (Sum of C, D, and E should equal A.)

F. Requirements for thesis, internship or other capstone experience:

HUM 26-401 Senior Seminar (1) is capstone

G. Any unique features such as interdepartmental cooperation:

Five departments contribute courses to this major.

5. Program Characteristics and Performance Goals: (Form PG).

PROGRAM CHARACTERISTICS AND PERFORMANCE GOALS

Institution Name: Northwest Missouri State University

Program Name: B.A. in Liberal Arts and Sciences

Date: January 22, 2014

(Although all of the following guidelines may not be applicable to the proposed program, please carefully consider the elements in each area and respond as completely as possible in the format below. Quantification of performance goals should be included wherever possible.)

Student Preparation

- Any special admissions procedures or student qualifications required for this program which exceed regular university admissions, standards, e.g., ACT score, completion of core curriculum, portfolio, personal interview, etc. Please note if no special preparation will be required.

None beyond regular university admissions.

- Characteristics of a specific population to be served, if applicable.

The feedback from Noel-Levitz and the university Admissions office suggests that we will tap into a market of students who might have been looking at the traditional liberal arts colleges but will now consider Northwest as a more affordable option to pursue a general liberal arts degree. Existing Northwest students declaring the major may come primarily from undecided students, particularly those who might have otherwise left Northwest without a major declaration. The B.A option will accommodate those students who wish to pursue the language component.

Faculty Characteristics

- Any special requirements (degree status, training, etc.) for assignment of teaching for this degree/certificate.

Instruction provided by regular faculty already on campus.

- Estimated percentage of credit hours that will be assigned to full time faculty. Please use the term "full time faculty" (and not FTE) in your descriptions here.

95% full-time faculty

- Expectations for professional activities, special student contact, teaching/learning innovation.

NA

Enrollment Projections

5. Program Characteristics and Performance Goals: (Form PG).

- Student FTE majoring in program by the end of five years.
30
- Percent of full time and part time enrollment by the end of five years.
Expectation is 100% being full time students.

Student and Program Outcomes

- Number of graduates per annum at three and five years after implementation.
10 students per year at three years, 12 per year at five years.
- Special skills specific to the program.
- Proportion of students who will achieve licensing, certification, or registration.
none
- Performance on national and/or local assessments, e.g., percent of students scoring above the 50th percentile on normed tests; percent of students achieving minimal cut-scores on criterion-referenced tests. Include expected results on assessments of general education and on exit assessments in a particular discipline as well as the name of any nationally recognized assessments used.
Expectation is that more than 50% will achieve 50th percentile on general education assessment exam.
- Placement rates in related fields, in other fields, unemployed.
Expectation similar to university rates between 95% and 97.5%.
- Transfer rates, continuous study.
no impact

6. Program Accreditation

- Institutional plans for accreditation, if applicable, including accrediting agency and timeline. If there are no plans to seek specialized accreditation, please provide reasons.
NA

Alumni and Employer Survey

- Expected satisfaction rates for alumni, including timing and method of surveys
Expected satisfaction to be in-line with other programs from the Humanities and Social Science department which is high.
- Expected satisfaction rates for employers, including timing and method of surveys
Expected satisfaction to be in-line with other programs from the Humanities and Social Science department which is high. A major in Liberal Arts & Sciences is a must-have in a

5. Program Characteristics and Performance Goals: (Form PG).

world where employers are beginning to emphasize the necessity of broad training over specialized, technical training. According to a study done by Northeastern University ("Innovation Imperative: Enhancing Higher Education Outcomes," 2013), sixty percent of the business executives surveyed want graduates who can show an ability to think critically through articulate writing and speaking. They want to know if a prospective employee has the fundamental skill set (i.e. problem-solving and communication) that will enable them to learn the specific tasks necessary for that specific job.

7. Institutional Characteristics: Please describe succinctly why your institution is particularly well equipped or well suited to support the proposed program.

The curriculum is already in place with the exception of the one credit Senior Seminar course. Many students that change their majors in the first few terms would be well-served to have this option for a major course of study.

8. Any Other Relevant Information: