# http://www.ric.edu/webcommunications/images/SealWithText_Small_Black.pngUNDERGRADUATE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE (UCC)PROPOSAL FORM

## Cover page scroll over blue text to see further important [instructions](#instructions): please read.

**N.B. DO NOT USE HIGHLIGHT, please DELETE THE WORDS THAT DO NOT APPLY TO YOUR PROPOSAL**

**ALL numbers in section (A) need to be completed, including the impact ones.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| A.1. [Course or program](#Proposal) | **Liberal studies** |  |
| [Replacing](#Ifapplicable)  |  |
| A.2. [Proposal type](#type) | **Program: |** [**revision**](#revision)**|** |
| A.3. [Originator](#Originator) | **Thomas Schmeling** | [Home department](#home_dept) | **Liberal Studies /FAS** |
| A.4. [Context and Rationale](#Rationale)  | Experience with the first cohort of Liberal Studies majors has made it evident that the requirements for the major are too extensive and too rigid. The proposed changes will make the major more attractive to students, reduce unnecessary delays in graduation, and allow for more focus in the student’s curriculum. The Liberal Studies Major is currently 13 courses (41-52 credits). Since most courses are four credits, this significantly exceeds the 40-credit limit in the Curriculum Committee guidelines. In retrospect, this was a rather serious mistake. First, the Liberal Studies major is the only major where *courses* taken for General Education requirements may not also count for the major. Second, while the higher number of required credits was initially justified on the grounds that LIBS is an interdisciplinary major and that student’s would double-major, this has not been the case. Students have been dissuaded from declaring the Liberal Studies major because completing it would take significantly longer than completing another FAS major, even if they have had no prior courses in that major.The requirement that the student take courses from all five areas has forced students to take courses that are completely unrelated to their proposed program of study and has delayed their progress toward graduation. While the proposed change would reduce breadth slightly for some students, students may still take courses from all five areas if it benefits their program.The requirement that students may count no more than three courses from any one area interferes with them developing the in-depth knowledge needed for their projects. Frequently, the prerequisite courses needed to reach the necessary 300-level courses can’t be counted toward the major. This also delays progress toward graduation. |
| A.5. [Student impact](#student_impact) | **Allow more flexibility and focus in program. Speed time to graduation.** |
| A.6. [Impact on other programs](#impact)  | **No significant impact** |
| A.7. [Resource impact](#Resource) | [*Faculty PT & FT*](#faculty):  | **None** |
| [*Library*:](#library) | **None** |
| [*Technology*](#technology) | **None** |
| [*Facilities*](#facilities): | **None** |
| A.8. [Semester effective](#Semester_effective) | **Fall, 2018** | A.9. [Rationale if sooner than next Fall](#Semester_effective) |  |
| A.10. INSTRUCTIONS FOR CATALOG COPY: This single file copy must include ALL relevant pages from the college catalog, and show how the catalog will be revised. (1) Go to the “Forms and Information” page on the UCC website. Scroll down until you see the Word files for the current catalog. (2) Download ALL catalog sections relevant for this proposal, including course descriptions and/or other affected programs. (3) Place ALL relevant catalog copy into a single file. Put page breaks between sections and delete any catalog pages not relevant for this proposal. (4) Using the track changes function, revise the catalog pages to demonstrate what the information should look like in next year’s catalog. (5) Check the revised catalog pages against the proposal form, especially making sure that program totals are correct if adding/deleting course credits. If new copy, indicate where it should go in the catalog. If making related proposals a single catalog copy that includes all is acceptable. Send as a separate file along with this form. |

C. [Program Proposals](#program_proposals) **complete only what is relevant to your proposal Delete this whole page if the proposal is not revising, creating, deleting or suspending any progam.**

|  | [Old (for revisions only)](#old_program) | New/revised |
| --- | --- | --- |
| C.1. [Enrollments](#enrollments) | **5 majors** |  |
| C.2. [Admission requirements](#admissions) | **NA** | **NA** |
| C.3. [Retention requirements](#retention) | **NA** | **NA** |
| C.4. [Course requirements](#course_reqs) for each program option | ELEVEN ADDITIONAL COURSES chosen in consultation with a Liberal Studies Advisor.At least one course must come from each of the five areas listed below, and no more than three courses may come from any one area or department. At least five of the courses must be at the 300-level or above. Connections courses, and courses that have been used to fulfill the student’s General Education requirements may not be counted toward the major. | EIGHT ADDITIONAL COURSES chosen in consultation with a Liberal Studies Advisor.At least one course must come from four of the five areas listed below, and no more than four courses may come from any one area or department. At least four of the courses must be at the 300-level or above. Connections courses, and courses that have been used to fulfill the student’s General Education requirements may not be counted toward the major. |
| C.5. [Credit count](#credit_count) for each program option | **41-52** | **32-40** |
| C.6. Other changes if any | **NA** | **NA** |
| C.7 [Program goals](http://www-prod.ric.edu/curriculum_committee/documents/Program%20goals)Needed for all new programs | **NA** | **NA** |

## D. Signatures

* Changes that affect General Education in any way MUST be approved by ALL Deans and COGE Chair.
* Changes that directly impact more than one department/program MUST have the signatures of all relevant department chairs, program directors, and relevant dean (e.g. when creating/revising a program using courses from other departments/programs). Check UCC manual 4.2 for further guidelines on whether the signatures need to be approval or acknowledgement.
* Proposals that do not have appropriate approval signatures will not be considered.
* Type in name of person signing and their position/affiliation.
* Send electronic files of this proposal and accompanying catalog copy to curriculum@ric.edu and a printed or electronic signature copy of this form to the current Chair of UCC. Check UCC website for due dates.

##### D.1. Approvals: required from programs/departments/deans who originate the proposal. may include multiple departments, e.g., for joint/interdisciplinary prposals.

| Name | Position/affiliation | [Signature](#_Signature" \o "Insert electronic signature, if available, in this column) | Date |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Thomas Schmeling | Program Director of Liberal Studies |  |  |
| Earl Simson | Dean of Arts & Sciences |  |  |

##### D.2. [Acknowledgements](#acknowledge): REQUIRED from OTHER PROGRAMS/DEPARTMENTS IMPACTED BY THE PROPOSAL. SIGNATURE DOES NOT INDICATE APPROVAL, ONLY AWARENESS THAT THE PROPOSAL IS BEING SUBMITTED. CONCERNS SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO THE UCC COMMITTEE MEETING FOR DISCUSSION

| Name | Position/affiliation | [Signature](#Signature_2) | Date |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
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