L&S Curriculum Committee Annual Report 2025-2026

Overview of Committee Role

The L&S Curriculum Committee (LSCC) is composed of faculty representatives from all L&S divisions, advisors, and ex-officio members from L&S Administration and L&S Student Academic Affairs. The LSCC advises the Dean on the curricular integrity of academic programs offered in the College, including degree requirements and changes to requirements for existing majors, certificates, and options. The committee also reviews proposals to add, change, or delete courses from the L&S subject listings, as well as requests to allow courses offered outside the college to count toward L&S undergraduate degree requirements by awarding them the designation of "Liberal Arts and Science" courses. At the Dean's request, the committee considers other issues related to undergraduate education Below are brief descriptions of issues addressed by the committee this past academic year.

Program Changes

As part of the approval process for changes to existing programs, implementation dates and teach-out plans are established to ensure that students on the "old" programs are still able to complete those requirements or that they may transition to the new requirements without adversely affecting their progress. L&S Academic Information Management and TLA staff also work with departments that submit undergraduate program changes to ensure requirements are clearly articulated in Guide and can be coded in DARS.

The committee reviews proposals with a focus on undergraduate curriculum, and provides a recommendation to the L&S APC about whether the program should be approved.

Undergraduate Program Changes

- **Archeology Certificate.** Removing ability for special students to complete the certificate.
- **Applied Math, Engineering & Physics**. Restricts directed-study credits to six.
- **Atmospheric & Oceanic Sci, Changes to Honors in the Major,** streamlines options for programming and quantitative analysis.
- **Computer Sciences,** Adjusts total credits and updates course lists
- **French certificate** Small curricular updates.
- **Geology & Geophysics.** Added overlap language.
- **Health and Humanities certificate**. Updating declaration requirements
- **Health Policy Certificate**. Updating declaration requirements
- **Landscape Architecture BLA,** removing the restriction that prevented students from adding another major (when it is available as an 'additional major')
- **Integrated Studies in Science, Engineering & Society Certificate.** Rename to Science, Technology, and Society, effective Fall 2027; reducing credits from 15 to 12
- **Mathematics major.** Small updates

- **Music BA.** Students must now declare one of the three named options.
- **Public Policy Certificate.** Cannot also declare major.
- **Social Welfare major.** Small curricular updates.
- **Social Work BSW**. Admissions and curriculum revisions
- **Spanish major**. Cannot also declare Business Spanish certificate.
- **Business Spanish Certificate**. Revised admission requirements and cannot also declare Spanish

Environmental Studies proposal was also reviewed; the unit will likely resubmit a proposal next year

New Undergraduate Programs

- Geoscience, certificate
- Ethics of Data and Artificial Intelligence, certificate
- Law and the Humanities, certificate
- National Security Studies, certificate
- Music BA: “Music Studies” named option.

Graduate Program Changes:

- **Classical & Ancient Near Eastern Studies PHD**. Reduced credits from 69 to 63.
- **Chicana/o and Latina/o Studies grad minor.** Name change.
- **Communication Arts MA.** Reduced credits from 40 to 38; program moved to ‘non-admitting’ Master’s
- **Communication Arts PHD**. Revised PhD credit structure.
- **Quantitative Economics.** Revised electives list.
- **Gender & Women's Studies graduate certificate**. Curriculum updates
- **Information MS.** Learning outcomes and modality updates.
- **Music: Performance DMA**. Curriculum and credit pathway revisions.
- **Music: Education MM**. Summer admission and course additions.
- **Applied Statistics**. Curriculum reorganization.

New Graduate Programs

- Audiology, Au.D. (Replaces Consortial Program)
- Computer Sciences Kickstart Program for Professionals.

Suspend/Discontinues reviewed

Recommended Approval to the L&S Academic Planning Council for the following items

- Audiology Consortial Program with UW-Stevens Point
- Biochemistry L&S major
- Gender & Women's Studies graduate minor
- MS Information Online Program Named option
- Sociology Named Option in Analysis & Research
- User Experience Design CAP

Additional items:

- Discussion of Board of Regents Proposal “Core General Education Requirements” and its implementation at UW Madison
- Discussion and approval of revised L&S Degree Requirements
- Assignment of CGER designations to L&S courses
- Update and discussion the LAS Forward project
- New proposed subject ENG LANG, which will replace the subject listing “ESL”
- Move COMP SCI, L I S and STAT subject listings to the College of Computing & Artificial Intelligence (effective Summer 2027)
- Move Subject listings BOTANY, ZOOLOGY, BIOLOGY, MOL BIOL, BIOCORE to the new Department of Biology (effective Summer 2027)
- Updates to Liberal Arts and Science criteria

Course Related Issues

The LSCC is responsible for college-level review of proposals to add, change, or delete courses managed by L&S departments and programs. Proposals approved by department faculty are forwarded to the college-level Curriculum Committee for approval.

A review is conducted to evaluate whether the proposed courses or changes conform to technical requirements (e.g., valid course number, etc.) as well as the pedagogical goals of the College. New course proposals are carefully reviewed in terms of their syllabi, learning goals, and possible overlap/opportunities for cross-listing with existing courses.

This year, the committee reviewed requests from L&S departments to change 313 courses; create 175 courses; and discontinue 97 courses.

The committee also reviewed 43 requests for LAS credit for non-L&S courses. In addition, the committee reviewed departmental requests to delay automatic discontinuation of an ‘obsolete course’ (has not been taught in 6 years) because of immediate plans to revive the course.

Course Learning Outcomes Expedited Project

The Provost’s office has charged departments to submit and publish learning outcomes for all “Group Instruction” courses numbered 697 and below. CLOs are collected through an expedited process and do not require an individual course proposal. The L&S CC reviewed and approved with feedback the CLOs for the following subjects:

- African Cultural Studies
- Asian American Studies
- Biology
- Botany
- Communication Sciences and Disorders
- English and ESL
- Folklore
- French
- Gender & Women's Studies

- German, Nordic and Slavic
- History
- Italian
- Journalism
- Molecular Biology
- Nordic
- Philosophy
- Physics
- Political Science
- Sociology
- Zoology

Approved by the L&S Curriculum Committee, 10/13/2026