

Frequently Asked Questions for Faculty

Q. Is there a limit to the number of courses a department can submit for cluster approval?

A. No, but there is a limit to how many courses students can take in a particular department or program as a part of their 36-credit cluster program. It is doubtful that many students will be able to take more than two or three courses within a particular program in this initial part of the LA&S curriculum. The 12 credit options may use any LA&S courses, not just courses in particular clusters. Courses that have not been approved for clusters but are LA&S approved may be used for these options.

Q. Does the fact that this new curriculum reduces the number of LA&S program credits from 60 to 48 mean that fewer students will take courses in LA&S departments or that students will take fewer LA&S courses?

A. Some students will take fewer LA&S courses as they explore classes outside of the traditional Liberal Arts and Sciences. However, some students may well take more courses in particular LA&S programs because they are freer to explore programs outside of their major in the Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Q. What about the courses approved for the current LA&S curriculum? Can they be used in the new curriculum?

A. Yes. Any course approved under the present LA&S program will be grandfathered into the new curriculum. However, those courses for which departments wish to have cluster approval must be submitted for that approval. Otherwise the course will simply be LA&S. It may be used for the three options, but not for the 36-credit initial core.

Q. Will newly proposed courses be able to receive simply LA&S approval without needing to receive particular cluster approval.

A. Eventually, yes. The LA&S council will be working through the fall of 2007 to develop an approval process for courses to receive a general LA&S designation.

Q. When will the new LA&S curriculum go into effect?

A. The new curriculum goes into effect in the Fall of 2008.

Q. What about students who are already here? Do they have to change?

A. Our current students may choose to switch to the new curriculum. It is likely that many sophomores will opt for the new curriculum. It is far less likely that next year's juniors and seniors will opt to change, as they will already have completed much or all of the present curriculum. However, if they choose to do so, they can.

Q. Does this mean that we will be working with two LA&S programs for a while?

A. Yes. This is typical when a curriculum changes. Until the students who have come in under the present curriculum have completed their programs and are ready to graduate, we will have to maintain both curricula. However, after most of these students have graduated, in three or four years, it will be possible to remove the current LA&S designations from the catalog and seats lists.