

Western Carolina University Liberal Studies Program
Western Carolina University
Liberal Studies Program 2.0
Approved on April 13, 2020

Executive Summary

toward academic achievement, engaged citizenship, and career success.

cultivate skills

strategic plan, *Vision 2020*, emphasizes the importance of developing intellectual, creative, cultural and personal outcomes so that they can meet the challenges of the 21st century. To that end, the Liberal Studies program forms the foundation around which the university builds this academic excellence and enriches the student experience.

Liberal Studies curriculum requires 42 hours and is divided into three parts: **Core** Courses (21 hours), **Perspectives** Courses (18 hours), and a **First Year Seminar** (3 hours). The Core includes writing, mathematics, oral communication, wellness, and physical and biological sciences, while the Perspectives center on social sciences, history, humanities, fine and performing arts, and world cultures. One of the Perspectives courses must be upper- Finally, First Year Seminars (FYS) enable students to experience intellectual life at the university from a variety of disciplinary contexts, many of which are directly connected to the major experience.

The Liberal Studies program educates the whole person, preparing people for work, family life and civic engagement, while the curriculum also provides students with the intellectual tools for understanding contemporary issues in their local, national, and global communities.

Table of Contents

1. Introduction and Background.....	2
2. Program Learning Goals	2
3. Program Requirements	
Core.....	3
First Year Seminar	4
Perspectives	5
4. Program Assessment	8
5. Program Administration.....	9
6. References.....	11

1. Introduction and Background

The Liberal Studies

verbal and non-verbal messages, demonstrate competency in public speaking, and demonstrate competency in interpersonal communication. The Communication Liberal Studies course focuses on the *Means of Expression* learning outcome.

C4 - Wellness (3 hours): The Wellness requirement provides students with a foundation for lifelong wellness. The Wellness course includes an integrated fitness activity, emphasizing the crucial role of physical fitness in lifelong wellness. Students will be challenged to make thoughtful and voluntary behavioral changes that promote their lifelong health, including work/life balance. Lifestyle factors such as stress and stress management, recognition of obsessive or addictive behaviors, and the development of healthy interpersonal relationships will be examined. Health and wellness decisions are lifelong considerations for any human being, and healthy people have the best chance of contributing fully to society. The Wellness courses focuses on *Awareness of Self, Critical Thinking* and

P1: Social Sciences (6 hours; courses must be taken in two different disciplines)

Courses in Social Sciences provide systematic study of observational and analytical methods and findings of those disciplines that focus on the interpersonal functioning and institutional creations of human beings. Courses in this category may focus on the scientific study of the mental and behavioral characteristics of individuals or groups, or may focus on the description and explanation of political, economic, or legal institutions. Included will be inquiry into basic social scientific concepts such as mind, behavior, class, society, culture, freedom, government, property, equality and rights. The study of the Social Sciences should provide students with opportunities for experiential and applied learning (Goals 1.3, 1.4), and should reflect the diversity

P6: World Cultures (3 hours)

World Cultures courses will involve the study of significant contemporary issues in a global and multidisciplinary setting. Specifically identified issues of study which might include the consideration of ethnicity, gender, religion or race should illustrate the nature of cultural diversity and global interdependence, foster awareness of diversity and issues of equity and inclusion across national and cultural divides (Initiatives 2.1.1 and 3.2.1). The study of world cultures should actively engage students in developing core abilities synthesizing information from a variety of disciplines (which might include the natural and social sciences, history, the humanities and the arts) and communicating effectively (Goal 1.2). *Relevant Student Learning Outcomes for these courses could include Inquiry; Information Literacy; Critical Thinking; Problem Solving; Awareness of Cultural Diversity; and Awareness of Impact.*

Upper-level Perspective

Upper-

allowing them to explore any LS Perspective as juniors or seniors, when they have matured in their thinking and aptitudes. Students take three hours from any upper-level (300 or 400) course in any

cannot satisfy major requirements. Selected existing upper-level course in departments may be approved as Perspectives courses in Liberal Studies, and these courses will satisfy this requirement. The LS program also encourages the development of new upper-level LS courses that involve broad, even interdisciplinary, experiences and d0 G[(C)4(ri)-SG[(1)-o/F1 11.0ca0 .nd aptit5s50ca0 1.04 Tf1 l(pr)-3(oe(pr)-3(oe(pr.04 (

