



**Proposal to Revise the**  
**Liberal Arts – International Studies Option**  
**and the Consequent Creation of an International Studies Curriculum**

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## **I. Abstract**

The Liberal Arts (A.A.) Curriculum was established at the College in 1995 in part to replace the General Studies Curriculum. When the Liberal Arts Curriculum was approved, four options were created, one of which was the Liberal Arts – International Studies Option. The Option was designed for students who wished to pursue global studies and transfer as majors in such programs as foreign language or literature, international relations, international studies, area studies, world history, geography and other globally focused fields of study. This proposal recommends making the option an independent curriculum to be titled the International Studies Curriculum. It also recommends changes that will provide students with a more flexible yet focused range of elective choice options. With these changes, the curriculum will offer better opportunities for students transferring into a variety of international and global studies programs at the baccalaureate level and will better reflect both the expanded range of internationally focused courses created at the College since 1995 and current patterns of course offerings. This curriculum revision does not require the creation of any new courses and the number of credit hours remains unchanged.

The specific changes to the Curriculum are summarized as follows.

- 1) Create an International Studies Curriculum through a revision of the Liberal Arts – International Studies Option;
- 2) Increase the flexibility of the Curriculum by eliminating the category “Concentration Electives”, and requiring students to take a minimum of three Humanities Electives (one general Humanities Elective, and two Humanities Electives with an International Emphasis), as well as three Social Science Electives (one general Social Science Elective, one Social Science Elective with an International Emphasis and one Advanced Social Science Elective);
- 3) Change the requirement of one year of foreign language at the intermediate level or above to one year of a foreign language at the elementary level or above, and add the option of an additional year of foreign language at the intermediate level, or an additional year of a second foreign language, or two Humanities or Social Science Electives, International Emphasis.

## II. Overview of the Existing Program

The Liberal Arts Curriculum was created in 1995 in response to the need to replace the General Studies Curriculum, which was seen as lacking in focus and coherence. The Liberal Arts Curriculum was designed for liberal arts students planning to transfer to baccalaureate programs or professional schools after study at Community College of Philadelphia, for students seeking a non-specialized associate degree, and for students undecided about their long-term educational goals. It was designed to provide a more focused curriculum than the General Studies Curriculum and yet to allow students flexibility so they could choose elective courses that duplicate those in the first two years of programs at the transfer institutions. Currently the Liberal Arts Curriculum is the largest curriculum at Community College of Philadelphia.

The Liberal Arts Curriculum was created with four options: General, Humanities, Social/Behavioral Sciences and International Studies. All of these options share common core courses or requirements, including English 101, English 102, Math 118, a Lab Science, a second Science (lab or non-lab), CIS 103, Aesthetic Understanding/Oral/Creative Expression, and American Diversity. Students select one of the options based on transfer or career goals, although the majority of students are in the General Option. Each of the more specialized options requires additional program courses beyond those common to each of the options.

The Liberal Arts – International Studies Option was designed for students who wished to emphasize global studies, whether for transfer as majors in such subjects as foreign language or literature, area studies, international relations, geography, world history, or for personal interest. The current International Studies Option has four requirements beyond those found in the General Option: 1) completion of a foreign language through the intermediate level or above, 2) a two course sequence in Geography 101 or 103 and Geography 222, 3) a World History course (either History 120, 121 or 122), and 4) completion of three concentration electives involving study of international subject matter and approved by the International Studies Curriculum advisor. The requirement that students take designated courses in Geography and History was based in part on a limited range of global course offerings available in 1995 when the Curriculum was designed.

As of the Fall 2007 semester there were thirty seven students identified as being enrolled in the Liberal Arts – International Studies Option. Students completing the Curriculum have transferred into global studies programs at a variety of local, national and international colleges and universities such as Temple University, the University of Pennsylvania, St. Joseph's University, Rosemont College, Shippensburg University, West Chester University, the University of Delaware, Arcadia University, the University of Alaska, Middlebury College, Sophia University (Japan) and the London School of Economics (United Kingdom). They have also earned a number of awards and scholarships. Two previous graduates in International Studies have been recipients of the Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship, the most prestigious transfer scholarship for community college students. The inaugural recipient of the Kathryn J. Engebretson Scholarship was a student in the International Studies Option. The International Studies Option was nationally recognized in 2003, along with the other international programs at the College, as an exemplary model for internationalizing the campus by NAFSA: The Association of International Educators.

### **III. Rationale for the Revision**

The International Studies Option has not been revised since its creation in 1995. Despite the academic success of students in the Program at the College and on transfer, a number of areas in the Curriculum can be improved. The need for these improvements is due to a number of factors.

1) The number and variety of globally focused courses at the College has increased since 1995, due in part to a series of grant-funded initiatives. The Curriculum as originally developed does not allow the student to make the best use of these resources. 2) Globalization and the need for an internationally literate workforce and citizenry have increased the number of academic fields and employment sectors requiring international study. Students in the option have increasingly diverse transfer goals, ranging from interests in foreign language and literature, to international relations, to area studies. Some of the current course requirements may not form the most coherent program of global study, and may not meet students' transfer and academic needs. 3) Having the Option under the large Liberal Arts Curriculum often makes it difficult for potential students to realize that the College offers a program of focused, international study. Revising the International Studies Option so that it exists with an independent identity will give the Curriculum greater visibility and better identify the students' course of study for transfer and career purposes.

In order to provide students with a more flexible range of elective choices, this proposal recommends the following:

1) The curriculum revision proposes the elimination of "Concentration Electives", allowing students to use the existing categories of guided electives, i.e. Humanities Electives, Social Science Electives, Humanities Electives with an International Emphasis, Social Science Electives with an International Emphasis and Advanced Social Science Electives. This allows students to tailor their course choices to their career goals and interests, and allows for greater ease in meeting transfer requirements.

This revision eliminates the requirement that students take World History and World Regional Geography. Given the wide range of interests and goals that students in this curriculum have, it is preferable to allow students some flexibility. Surely, many international studies students will elect and/or be advised to take world history or geography courses. However, depending on transfer requirements other students may choose courses such as World Religions, Introduction to Political Science or regionally focused humanities courses.

The College offers a wide range of courses with an international emphasis. Students are not required to, but may choose to concentrate on a specific region of the world, such as Asia, Africa, Latin America or the Middle East. Foreign Language courses in languages from these regions can enhance this concentration. Some students, however, might not have developed this notion of regional studies, and may choose to take a variety of courses dealing with many different regions of the world. The flexibility of this program appeals to both types of students.

All students in the Curriculum are required to take three Humanities Electives, one general, and two Humanities Electives with an International Emphasis, as well as three Social Science Electives, one general, one Social Science Elective with an International Emphasis and one Advanced Social Science Elective.

One may notice that the Humanities and Social Science requirements are slightly different. This asymmetry is largely due to the fact that course offerings here at the College vary by discipline. In social science disciplines such as Psychology, Sociology and Anthropology students typically begin with an introductory course and then proceed to 'advanced' (200 level) courses. Consequently, the College has numerous advanced social sciences and students will benefit from the depth and rigor of an advanced course.

Within humanities disciplines students often specialize in a period or region and these courses are not designated as 'advanced'. Most of the humanities courses which are currently designated 'advanced' are literature courses and there seems to be no compelling rationale for requiring all international studies students to take a literature course.

In addition, the option is available for students to take two additional Social Science or Humanities Electives with an International Emphasis instead of a second year of foreign languages. This requirement provides students with an opportunity to focus their study to meet both their personal interest and the requirements of transfer institutions. It will benefit those students seeking admission to more selective institutions for study in an international discipline or area studies field, and those applying for study abroad scholarships such as the Gilman and Freeman Asia Scholarships.

- 2) Change the requirement of one year of foreign language at the intermediate level or above to one year of a foreign language at the elementary level or above, and add the option of an additional year of foreign language at the intermediate level, an additional year of a second foreign language, or two Social Science or Humanities Electives with International Emphasis.

The International Studies Curriculum Option currently requires students to complete one year of foreign language study at the intermediate level or above. While a student with previous study or knowledge of a foreign language could fulfill this requirement, most students enter the Curriculum with prior foreign language education and almost always begin their foreign language studies at the introductory (101) level. Most students are required, therefore, to complete a four-semester sequence in a foreign language (101/102/201/202.) Since 1995 when the Curriculum was developed, the College has added five new languages: Chinese, Japanese, Arabic, Hebrew and Swahili. Most of these new languages have been successfully offered at the introductory levels; for example during Fall 2006, the College was running two sections of Japanese 101, two sections of Chinese 101, and three sections of Arabic 101. However, in the past few years only a few of these languages, especially Spanish and Japanese, have regularly run courses through the 202 level. This is probably due to a number of factors: no foreign language general education requirement at the College, no Intermediate Foreign Language requirement in any curriculum besides the International Studies Option, and few foreign language general education requirements at most transfer institutions.

Intermediate level courses for Arabic, Hebrew and Swahili have either not been written or have rarely attracted enough students to run. As a result, it has become very difficult for most international studies students to complete the requirement for language study through the 202 level. In addition, many baccalaureate international studies programs, such as the Asian Studies Major at Temple University, only require two years of a language. It is very ambitious to require students in an Associate Degree program to complete two years of a language. While students are encouraged to consider a second year of foreign language, they are not locked into this mandate and are offered the alternative of selecting potentially more relevant international studies courses.

#### **IV. Description of Proposed Program**

The course sequence followed by a student may vary depending upon such factors as course availability, student schedules and summer attendance. A student completing his/her degree in four semesters would take courses in the following recommended sequence.

The first semester includes general education requirements English 101, Math 118, a science elective and CIS 103. Students would also begin their foreign language study at an appropriate level as determined by previous course work and the Foreign Language Department, which, in most cases, is at the 101 level.

The second semester includes English 102, a Humanities Elective, a course that meets the Aesthetic/Oral/Creative Expression requirement and a Social Science Elective. Students would continue their foreign language study at the 102 level.

The third semester includes an American Diversity course and their second science elective. Students would continue their language study at the intermediate level, start a second language, or take a Social Science or Humanities Elective with an International Emphasis. Additionally students would take a Social Science course with an International Emphasis and a Humanities course with an International Emphasis.

In the fourth semester, students would conclude their language study at the intermediate level (strongly recommended when the language the student is studying is offered), continue a second language, or take a Social Science or Humanities course with an International Emphasis. Students would take an Advanced Social Science course, a Humanities course with an International Emphasis, as well as two general elective courses to complete the semester.

The following outlines the proposed revisions within a semester sequence:

**Fall**

1	ENGL 101 – English Composition I	3
2	MATH 118 – Intermediate Algebra or above	3
3	Foreign Language <sup>1</sup>	3
4	CIS 103 – PC Applications	3
5	Science Elective <sup>2</sup>	3/4

**Spring**

6	ENGL 102 – English Composition II	3
7	Humanities Elective	3
8	Aesthetic Understanding/Oral/Creative Expression	3
9	Foreign Language	3
10	Social Science Elective	3

**Fall**

11	American Diversity	3
12	Science Elective <sup>2</sup>	3/4
13	Foreign Language <sup>3</sup> or Humanities Elective, International Emphasis or Social Science Elective, International Emphasis	3
14	Social Science Elective, International Emphasis	3
15	Humanities Elective, International Emphasis	3

**Spring**

16	Foreign Language <sup>3</sup> or Humanities Elective, International Emphasis or Social Science Elective, International Emphasis	3
17	Advanced Social Science Elective	3
18	Humanities Elective, International Emphasis	3
19, 20	General Electives	6

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- <sup>1</sup> course level is based on placement
- <sup>2</sup> one course must be a laboratory science course
- <sup>3</sup> may be at the intermediate level or a second language at the elementary level

**V. Effects of the Revision**

**A. Student Experience with the Program**

Students will benefit from a more flexible program that will allow them to better meet their transfer and educational goals. Students will be able to select from a greater range

of appropriate courses, thereby completing the program on schedule and improving student retention and graduation rates.

#### **B. Graduation Requirements**

To qualify for the A.A. degree in International Studies, students will be required to complete a minimum of 61 credits and achieve a minimum GPA of 2.0. These requirements are the same as in the current Liberal Arts – International Studies Option.

#### **C. Personnel Implications**

No additional full-time faculty members will be needed for this curriculum revision.

#### **D. Program Support**

The present support structure offered by the Learning Labs, the Library and the Center On Disability will remain unchanged.

#### **E. Program Accessibility**

These revisions will make the curriculum more accessible to students; it will be easier to find in the College catalog and course selection is simplified.

### **VI. Current Catalog Pages**

#### **Liberal Arts – International Studies Option**

The Liberal Arts degree program is for liberal arts students planning to transfer to baccalaureate programs or professional schools after study at Community College of Philadelphia; for students seeking a non-specialized associate degree; for students planning to enter certain select programs at a later date; and for students undecided about their long-term educational goals. Students are expected to consult with an academic advisor or counselor upon entry to the program and in subsequent semesters. Transfer planning should begin early, so that the student can gain the most benefit from the curriculum. Students who follow the Liberal Arts Curriculum and plan to attend a specific four-year college after graduation should choose elective courses that duplicate as closely as possible those in the first two years of the program of that college.

The International Studies Option is appropriate for students who wish to emphasize global studies, whether for personal interest or with the goal of transfer to major in such subjects as foreign language or literature, area studies, international relations, geography, world history or comparative literature.

Note: Many, but not all, transfer institutions require some knowledge of a foreign language (from one semester to two years of study at the college level or the equivalent.) Some accept American Sign Language and some allow non-native speakers of English to count proficiency in their primary language, or to count English as their language (as does the College). Students planning to transfer should be aware of foreign language requirements which may affect their acceptance into certain colleges and programs.

*Program Entry Requirements:*

Students are typically required to take the College's placement tests at their time of entry. Students identified as needing developmental course work must satisfactorily complete the appropriate English and mathematics courses as a part of their degree program.

*Program of Study and Graduation Requirements:*

To qualify for the Associate in Arts (A.A.) degree in Liberal Arts, a student must complete a minimum of 61 credit hours as prescribed and attain a grade point average of 2.0 (C average).

<b>Recommended Course Sequence</b>	<b>Course Number and Name</b>	<b>Prerequisites</b>	<b>Credit</b>
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**Program Core Courses and Electives - Liberal Arts - International Studies Option**

1	ENGL 101 – English Composition I	English 098 or placement	3
2	MATH 118 – Intermediate Algebra or above <sup>1</sup>	Math 017 or 117 or placement	3/4
3	Humanities or Social Science Elective or Foreign Language <sup>2</sup>		3
4	CIS 103 – PC Applications <sup>1</sup>		3
5	Lab Science Elective <sup>1</sup>		4
6	ENGL 102 – English Composition II	English 101	3
7	GEOG 101 – Physical Geography or GEOG 103 – Cultural Geography		3
8	Aesthetic Understanding/Oral/Creative Expression <sup>1</sup>		3
9	Humanities Elective, International Emphasis or Foreign Language <sup>2</sup>		3
10	Science Elective <sup>1</sup>		3/4
11	American Diversity <sup>3</sup>		3
12	World History <sup>1</sup>		3
13	Advanced or Sequential Humanities Elective, International Emphasis <sup>1</sup>		3
14	GEOG 222 – World Regional Geography	GEOG 101 or 103	3
15	Intermediate Foreign Language		3
16, 17	General Electives <sup>1</sup>		6
18, 19, 20	Concentration Electives <sup>4</sup>		9

**Total to Graduate:** 61 credits minimum

<sup>1</sup> See page 106 (Course Selection Guide).

<sup>2</sup> One year of foreign language study at the intermediate level or above is required. Students who enter the College without the equivalent of 101/102 level competency in a foreign language, or who wish to begin a new language, must also complete six credits of first-year foreign-language study. These first-year courses may be taken as either humanities or general electives. See page 106.

<sup>3</sup> See page 36.

<sup>4</sup> To be approved by the curriculum advisor or counselor. Must provide a unifying focus and involve study of international subject matter.

For More Information Contact:

The Division of Liberal Studies, Room BR-21, 1700 Spring Garden Street, Philadelphia, PA 19130, Telephone 215-751-8450, 8451 or 8771; or the College Information Center, 215-751-8010.

## **VII. Proposed Catalog Pages**

### **International Studies**

The International Studies Curriculum provides a strong foundation in global and international studies. The Curriculum is designed for students planning to transfer to baccalaureate programs with an international or global focus in such subjects as foreign language or literature, area studies, international relations, and international studies. The courses required in the International Studies Curriculum are designed to be transferable to other colleges and universities.

Students are expected to consult with a counselor or an academic advisor upon entry into the program and in subsequent semesters. Transfer planning should begin early so that the student can gain the most benefit from the Program. Students who follow the International Studies Curriculum and plan to attend a specific four-year college after graduation should choose elective courses that duplicate as closely as possible those in the first two years of the program at that college.

Note: Some international programs at transfer institutions require foreign language proficiency at least through the intermediate level. It is recommended that students complete, if possible, a foreign language through the intermediate level. Students should consult with the Career and Transfer Center about foreign language requirements at transfer institutions.

#### ***Program Entry Requirements***

The program is open to all interested students. New students are required to take the College's placement test at the time of entry. Students identified as needing developmental course work must satisfactorily complete the appropriate English and mathematics courses as a part of their degree program.

#### ***Program of Study and Graduation Requirements***

To qualify for the Associate in Arts (A.A.) degree in International Studies, a student must complete a minimum of 61 credit hours as prescribed and attain a grade point average of 2.0 (C average.)

Recommended Course Sequence	Course Number and Name	Prerequisites	Credits
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**Program Core Courses – International Studies**

3	Foreign Language <sup>1</sup>		3
7	Humanities Elective <sup>2</sup>		3
8	Aesthetic Understanding/Oral/Creative Expression <sup>2</sup>		3
9	Foreign Language <sup>1</sup>		3
10	Social Science Elective		3
11	American Diversity <sup>3</sup>		3
13	Foreign Language or Social Science International Emphasis or Humanities Elective International Emphasis <sup>1,2</sup>		3
14	Social Science Elective, International Emphasis <sup>2</sup>		3
15	Humanities Elective, International Emphasis <sup>2</sup>		3
16	Foreign Language or Social Science International Emphasis or Humanities Elective, International Emphasis <sup>1,2</sup>		3
17	Advanced Social Science <sup>2</sup>		3
18	Humanities Elective, International Emphasis <sup>2</sup>		3
19, 20	General Electives		6

**General Education Courses**

1	ENGL 101 – English Composition I		3
2	MATH 118 – Intermediate Algebra or above		3
4	CIS 103 – PC Applications		3
5, 12	Science Elective <sup>4</sup>		7/8
6	ENGL 102 – English Composition II	English 101	3

**Total to Graduate: 61 credits minimum**

<sup>1</sup> One year of foreign language study is required. Students may do so at the elementary or intermediate level. It is recommended that students study a foreign language through the intermediate level.

<sup>2</sup> See the Liberal Arts Course Selection Guide. Note, course selection should be made in consultation with an advisor.

<sup>3</sup> See listing of American Diversity courses in this catalog.

<sup>4</sup> One course must be a laboratory science course.

For More Information Contact:

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