Proposed Revision to Associate in Arts in Liberal Arts

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I. Description and Rationale for Revision

The proposed revision of the Liberal Arts General Option is designed

- to provide a more structured and coherent pathway to degree completion
- to implement the high-impact practice of a first-year experience course that incorporates critical thinking and student success skills
- to introduce students to the foundational interpersonal and communication skills that employers value, and
- to clarify presentation language in the College catalog.

Therefore, the following nine recommendations are proposed.

Recommendation 1: Students will be required to take a first-year experience course that combines the academic skills approach with the learning strategies approach to college-level academic inquiry. This course is open to developmental and college-ready students and must be taken within the first 12 credits.

Rationale: Because "engaged learning within the first three weeks of the [initial] semester is critical for determining student success" (qtd. in Asera and Navarro 2), a required rather than optional first-year experience course will provide early and much-needed support for students as they develop and hone their ability to persist in and understand college culture. The course will also give those Liberal Arts students who "have survived in difficult communities and have a range of work and family responsibilities . . . the opportunity to learn and practice classroom behaviors such as attendance, punctuality, and participation" (Asera and Navarro 4) while drawing on their strengths and experiences to complete course assignments. The required first-year experience course will employ two of the high-impact practices identified by the Center for Community College Student Engagement (CCCSE) in *A Matter of Degrees: Promising Practices for Community College Student Success* because 1) such courses engage students in in-class and out-of-class activities that stress critical thinking, problem solving, and data interpretation, and 2) the course reinforces skills and strategies that will help students succeed in college (e.g., time management, presentation skills, study skills, and note-taking). Both practices create a sense of academic and social community within the larger campus, increase student, faculty and staff engagement, and provide information about campus support services and facilities, which facilitates completion.

The first-year experience course will also foster some of the fundamental skills that potential employers desire most in the workplace, such as "People Skills" and "Applied Knowledge" that the National Network of Business and Industry Associations identify in their report, *Common Employability Skills* (2014):

- Teamwork: Demonstrating the ability to work effectively with others
- Communication: Maintaining open lines of communication with others
- Respect: Working effectively with those who have diverse backgrounds
- Critical Thinking: Using logical thought processes to analyze and draw conclusions

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The course description and student learning outcomes that follow synthesize national thinking about student success, reflect similar courses at other community colleges, and recognize the needs of the College student population. The course engages students at both remedial and college skill levels and is connected to general education and core competencies.

Draft Course Description

> **FYE 101: First-Year College Experience**
> 3-0-3   Credit Hours: 3
>
> Open to all students, this course introduces first-year students to ideas and strategies required for college success, including critical thinking, communication, cultural literacy, and institutional knowledge. Students develop college readiness skills such as time management, note taking, study methods, test taking, library skills, and academic integrity. Students apply critical thinking and communication skills to areas such as cultural diversity, media literacy and financial literacy and gain an understanding of campus and community resources. Each semester, the course addresses a different theme. Liberal Arts students are required to take FYE 101 within the first twelve credits.

Draft Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate college readiness in areas such as time management, note taking, study methods, test taking, library skills, and academic integrity
- Demonstrate cultural literacy in areas such as diversity, media literacy, financial literacy, and community resources
- Describe and/or locate institutional policies, campus resources, and student organizations
- Identify strategies for effective oral and written communication
- Apply critical thinking in the areas of college readiness, cultural literacy, and institutional knowledge

Recommendation #2: Rather than continuing to present oral communication as one of several choices in the arts, students will be required to take one of the following communication courses:

> ENGL 115: Public Speaking
> ENGL 116: Interpersonal Communication
> ENGL 117: Group and Team Communication
> ENGL 118: Intercultural Communication

Rationale: Since in order "to do well in the different curriculum areas, pupils must speak with clarity and understanding" (Ediger 98), and "communication education encourages being a responsible citizen of the world, socially and culturally" (Morreale and Pearson 231), the communication requirement will increase students' ability to succeed in several areas, including other courses, baccalaureate-granting institutions, and the workplace. These courses also reinforce foundational "People Skills" that employers value:

Teamwork: Demonstrating the ability to work effectively with others
- Establish a high degree of trust and credibility with others
- Interact professionally and respectfully with supervisors and co-workers
- Develop constructive working relationships and maintain them over time
- Use appropriate strategies and solutions for dealing with conflicts and differences to maintain smooth workflow

Communication: Maintaining open lines of communication with others
- Demonstrate sensitivity and empathy
- Listen to and consider others' viewpoints
- Recognize and interpret the verbal and nonverbal behavior of others
- Speak clearly, in precise language and in a logical, organized and coherent manner

Respect: Working effectively with those who have diverse backgrounds
- Demonstrate sensitivity and respect for the opinions, perspectives, customs and individual differences of others
- Be flexible and open-minded when dealing with a wide range of people
- Value diversity of approaches and ideas

Requiring a communication course ensures that all students in the program have the opportunity to develop their communication skills.

Recommendation #3: Replace two general electives with prescribed courses. Since students will be required to take a first-year experience course and a communication course, the number of general electives will decrease from 7 to 5 courses.

> **Rationale:** This change maintains the openness and flexibility of the curriculum and at the same time recognizes the need to create a more navigable pathway through a clear, coherent educational experience leading to completion. Reflecting the converging research indicating that students benefit from more structure in their educational experience, a practice that Complete College America suggests "has the added benefit of eliminating common errors by students when choosing courses" (18), this change is compatible with the growing number of institutions committed to more structured pathways and intentional design, particularly Complete College America and Completion by Design colleges.

Recommendation #4: Create "circuit breakers" (triggers and milestones) to require students to take English Composition, Math, and technological competency courses before earning 24 credits.

> **Rationale:** This change is compatible with Complete College America's recommendation that "degree pathways contain critical milestone courses that must be completed each semester to certify students are on track", which "eliminates the problem of students putting off challenging courses" (22). This change requires students to develop writing, research, and quantitative reasoning skills as well as technological

competency early in their educational experience and is consistent with the College's 2013-17 Enrollment Management Plan to create a mechanism to enforce milestones in a program of study.

Recommendation #5: Eliminate the second global diversity requirement.

    Rationale: The current Liberal Arts curriculum requires two courses in global diversity and one in American diversity. The requirement of two global diversity courses is problematic in two ways:

        1) It has generated graduation waiver requests since there was confusion among students and advisors regarding how the Liberal Arts requirement differs from the College's General Education requirement.

        2) It emphasizes an international over a local focus when either is appropriate for the Liberal Arts.

Recommendation #6: Since students are required to take a course in communication, remove these courses from the "Artistic/Oral" list, leaving those in architectural history, art, literature, music, photography and theatre and change "Artistic/Oral" to "The Arts" in the course sequence grid and the Liberal Arts Course Selection Guide.

    Rationale: The change in designation reflects the removal of communication courses and uses language familiar to transfer institutions.

Recommendation #7: Change the wording of the current requirement in the course sequence grid from "MATH 118 - Intermediate Algebra (or higher)" to "MATH / FNMT 118 - Intermediate Algebra (or MATH 123 - Elementary Mathematics I or MATH 137 - Geometry for Design, or higher)".

    Rationale: This change in presentation will make the existing alternatives to MATH 118: Intermediate Algebra more transparent to Liberal Arts students. MATH 123: Elementary Mathematics I might better suit those students see themselves as future educators, and MATH 137: Geometry for Design may be more appropriate for those who are interested in design. Nationwide, "75% [of remedial students] don't complete their gateway math course" (9), so clarifying these alternatives may help students to make more informed choices about their required math courses and thus facilitate completion.

Recommendation #8: Drop "General Option" from the curriculum's title, which will now be "Liberal Arts."

    Rationale: The word "Option" is a vestige of the time when there were several areas of study within the Liberal Arts curriculum that eventually became independent programs

(Religious Studies, International Studies) or were discontinued (African Diaspora Studies, Humanities and Women's Studies/Gender Studies Options).

Recommendation #9: Replace the word "cluster" with the word "pair" in the Course Sequence and the Liberal Arts Course Selection Guide.

   Rationale: Since students are required to take two courses from the same or related discipline(s), the word "pair" is more accurate.

II. Current Catalog Page and Proposed Catalog Page
Liberal Arts - General Option (current)

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's 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. Compared to the other designated options, the General Option is the most flexible model, leaving the most choices open to students. It therefore makes students and advisors responsible for shaping the selection of courses to meet individual goals.

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. Students planning to transfer should be aware of foreign language requirements which may affect their acceptance into certain colleges and programs.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this program graduates will be able to:
- Demonstrate competence in both oral and written communication through a variety of means such as essays, research papers, presentations and class discussions.
- Demonstrate an informed understanding of cultural diversity, both in the United States and internationally.
- Demonstrate the ability to think critically about ideas and concepts in the arts, humanities, social and natural sciences, and mathematics.

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). Students with particular academic interests or plans to major in a certain subject after transfer should consider one of the more specialized options available within the Liberal Arts curriculum.

Liberal Arts - General Option Course Sequence (current)

Course Number and Name	Prerequisites and Corequisites	Credits	Gen Ed Req.
First Semester			
ENGL 101 - English Composition I		3	ENGL 101
MATH 118 - Intermediate Algebra (or higher)		3	Mathematics
CIS 103 - Applied Computer Technology*		3	Tech Comp
Social Science or Humanities Elective		3	
Social Science or Humanities Elective		3	
Second Semester			
ENGL 102 - The Research Paper	ENGL 101 with a grade of "C" or better	3	ENGL 102, Info Lit
1st in Social Science Cluster		3	Social Sciences
1st in Humanities Cluster		3	Humanities
General Elective		3	
Science (at least one science must include a lab)		3/4	Natural Science
Third Semester			
2nd in Social Science Cluster		3	
2nd in Humanities Cluster		3	
General Elective		3	
Science (at least one science must include a lab)		3/4	
Artistic/Oral		3	
Fourth Semester			
General Elective		3	
General Elective		3	
General Elective		3	
General Elective		3	
General Elective		3	
Minimum Credits Needed to Graduate: 61			

General Education Requirements
All General Education requirements are met through required courses (as indicated above) except for the **Interpretive Studies**, **Writing Intensive** and **Am/Global Diversity** requirements. Therefore, in order to graduate, students in this program must choose **one** course that is

designated **Interpretive Studies**, **one** course that is designated Writing Intensive and **one course that is designated American Diversity and two courses designated Global Diversity**. The same course may be used to fulfill more than one of these requirements.

View the Liberal Arts Course Selection Guide to see which courses fulfill Liberal Arts requirements.

* Students with computer skills may apply for credit by exam through the Computer Technologies Department.

For More Information Contact:
The Division of Liberal Studies, Room BR-21, 1700 Spring Garden Street, Philadelphia, PA 19130, Telephone: (215) 751-8450 or the College Information Center (215) 751-8010.

Liberal Arts - Course Selection Guide (current)

American Diversity – select one of the following:
AH 116
ASL 101, 102, 201, 202
BHHS 103
ENGL 118, 221, 222, 250, 251, 260, 298H
HIST 101, 102, 103, 150, 170 (RS 170), 180, 220, 221
PSYC 202, 215
RS 170 (HIST 170)
SOC 101, 101H, 115, 212, 233
WS 101

Artistic/Oral – select one of the following:
ADC 109, 221, 222, 260
ART 101, 103, 104, 105, 109, 115, 120, 125, 150, 173, 183, 205
ENGL 114, 115, 116, 120, 131, 132, 135, 136, 137, 141, 142, 205, 208, 209, 241, 271, 272, 280, 281, 282 283
MUS 103, 105, 106, 107, 115, 120, 121
PHOT 101, 104, 111

Global Diversity – select two of the following:
ANTH 101, 112, 124, 202, 211, 215
ART 103, 104 120
ENGL 211, 212, 230, 241, 245, 246, 256
Foreign Language courses (American Sign Language may not be used for Global Diversity)
GEOG 180, 222
HIST 121, 122, 142, 297H
HUM 101, 101H, 102, 120, 130, 150, 170, 180, 190
JUS 251
MUS 103, 120
PHIL 151
RS 151, 175, 180

Humanities and Social Science Requirements

Humanities Clusters – select two courses from within the same cluster:
In order to assure sufficient depth, students are required to take at least two courses from a defined set of courses within the same humanities discipline (in some cases closely related disciplines are used to fulfill this requirement as indicated below).
- Art History: Any two of ART 101, 103, 104 or 104H, 120, 205
- English: Any two of 107, 137 190 and 200 level courses except 280, 281, 282, 283, 285
- Language/Foreign Language: Two courses in the same foreign language or two courses in American Sign Language (ASL)

- History: Any two of HIST 101, 102, 103 or 103H, 121, 122, 142, 150, 160, 170 (or RS 170), 180, 220, 221, 297H, 298H, IDS 150
- Humanities: Any two of HUM 101, 102, 120, 130, 150, 170, 180, 190, IDS 150, IDS 297H, IDS 298H
- Music History: Any two of MUS 103, 105, 106, 120, 121
- Philosophy: Any two of PHIL 101, 111, 151 (or RS 151), 152 (or RS 152), 202, 211, 215, 297H, 298H
- Religious Studies: Any two of RS 101, 151 (or PHIL 151), 152 (or PHIL 152), 170 (or HIST 170), 175, 180

Social Science Cluster – select two courses from within the same cluster: In order to assure sufficient depth, students are required to take at least two courses from a defined set of courses within the same social science discipline (in some cases closely related disciplines are used to fulfill this requirement as indicated below).
- Anthropology: Any two of ANTH 101, 112, 124, 125, 202, 211, 215
- Earth Science: Any two of EASC 111 or 111H, GEOG 101, 103, 180, 222 (EASC 111 may be used as either a natural science or social science elective, but not for both)
- Economics: Any two of ECON 112, 114, 181, 182, 291
- Geography: (See Earth Science)
- History: Any two of HIST 101, 102, 103 or 103H, 121, 122, 142, 150, 160, 170 (or RS 170), 180, 220, 221, 297H, 298H, IDS 150
- Political Science: Any two of POLS 101, 111, 112, 117 (or 114, 115, 116 which together are equivalent to 117)
- Psychology: Any two of PSYC 101 or 101H, 110, 167, 201, 202, 205, 209, 210, 211, 215 or 215H, 221
- Religious Studies: Any two of RS 101, 151, 170 (or HIST 170), 175
- Sociology: Any two of SOC 101 or 101H, 105, 115, 212, 215, 231, 233, JUS 171, WS 101

Interpretive Studies – Select one course from this category.

Writing Intensive – Select one course from this category.

Liberal Arts (<mark>proposed</mark>)

The Liberal Arts degree program provides a structured and coherent path for many students at Community College of Philadelphia. It is designed for students planning to transfer to baccalaureate programs after study at the College.

Students in the Liberal Arts curriculum take a required first-year experience course and complete most [General Education](#) courses in English, math, technological competency, social science, humanities, and natural science within the first 24 credits so that they are free to choose the courses that best fit their long-term educational goals for the remainder of the program. 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 make the most informed choices. The Liberal Arts curriculum contains a number of electives and allows students and advisors to shape the selection of courses to meet individual goals. Students who follow the Liberal Arts curriculum and plan to attend a specific four-year college after graduation should choose electives that duplicate as closely as possible those in the first two years of the program of that college.

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). Students planning to transfer should be aware of foreign language requirements that may affect their acceptance into certain colleges and programs.

Student Learning Outcomes:
Upon completion of this program, graduates will be able to:

- Demonstrate competence in both oral and written communication through a variety of means such as essays, research papers, presentations and class discussions.
- Demonstrate an informed understanding of cultural diversity, both in the United States and internationally.
- Demonstrate the ability to think critically about ideas and concepts in the arts, humanities, social and natural sciences, and mathematics.

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 in the first 24 credits 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).

Liberal Arts Course Sequence (proposed)

Course Number and Name	Prerequisites and Corequisites	Credits	Gen Ed Req.
First Semester			
FYI 101: First-Year Investigation		3	
ENGL 101 - English Composition I		3	ENGL 101
MATH 118 - Intermediate Algebra (or MATH 123 or MATH 137 or higher)*	FNMT 017 or MATH 118 (or higher) placement	3	Mathematics
CIS 103 - Applied Computer Technology**		3	Tech Comp
Social Science or Humanities Elective		3	
Second Semester			
ENGL 102 - The Research Paper	ENGL 101 with a grade of "C" or better	3	ENGL 102, Info Lit
Communication course (ENGL 115, ENGL 116, ENGL 117, or ENGL 118)	For ENGL 115 and ENGL 117: ENGL 101, which may be taken concurrently For ENGL 116: ENGL 101 or ENGL 114 For ENGL 118: No prerequisite	3	
1st in Social Science Pair		3	Social Sciences
1st in Humanities Pair		3	Humanities
1st Science course (at least one science must include a lab)		3/4	Natural Science
Third Semester			
2nd in Social Science Pair		3	
2nd in Humanities Pair		3	
2nd Science course (at least one science must include a lab)		3/4	
Social Science or Humanities Elective		3	
General Elective		3	
Fourth Semester			
The Arts		3	
General Elective		3	
General Elective		3	
General Elective		3	

General Elective		3	

Minimum Credits Needed to Graduate: 61

General Education Requirements
All General Education requirements are met through required courses (as indicated above) except for the **Interpretive Studies**, **Writing Intensive** and **Am/Global Diversity** requirements. Therefore, in order to graduate, students in this program must choose **one** course that is designated **Interpretive Studies**, **one** course that is designated **Writing Intensive**, **one** course that is designated **American Diversity** and **one course** designated **Global Diversity**. With careful planning, the same course may be used to fulfill more than one of these requirements.

View the Liberal Arts Course Selection Guide to see which courses fulfill Liberal Arts requirements.

*Students planning to attend baccalaureate programs should choose math courses that transfer.

** Students with computer skills may apply for credit by exam through the Computer Technologies Department.

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Liberal Arts Course Selection Guide (==proposed==)

American Diversity – select one of the following:

> ADC 176
> AH 116
> ASL 101, 102, 201, 202
> BHHS 103
> ENGL 118, 221, 222, 250, 251, 260, 298H
> HIST 101, 102, 103, 150, 170 (RS 170), 176, 180, 220, 221
> PSYC 202, 215
> RS 170 (HIST 170)
> SOC 101, 101H, 115, 212, 233
> WS 101

Global Diversity – select one of the following:

> ANTH 101, 112, 124, 202, 211, 215
> ART 103, 103H, 104, 104H, 120
> ENGL 211, 212, 230, 241, 245, 246, 256
> Foreign Language courses (American Sign Language may **not** be used for Global Diversity)
> GEOG 103, 180, 222
> HIST 121, 122, 142, 297H
> HUM 101, 101H, 102, 120, 130, 150, 170, 180, 190
> JUS 251
> MUS 103, 120
> PHIL 151 (RS 151)
> RS 151 (PHIL 151), 175, 180

The Arts – select one of the following:

> ADC 221
> ART 101, 103, 103H, 104, 104H,105, 109, 111, 115, 120, 125, 150, 151
> ENGL 120, 131, 135, 137, 141, 190, 205, 211, 212, 221, 222, 230, 232, 241, 245, 246, 250, 251, 256, 260, 265, 271, 272
> MUS 100, 103, 105, 106, 115, 120, 121
> PHOT 101, 104, 111

Humanities and Social Science Requirements

Humanities Pair– select two courses from the same or related discipline(s):
In order to assure sufficient depth, students are required to take at least two courses from a defined set of courses within the same humanities discipline (in some cases closely related disciplines are used to fulfill this requirement as indicated below).

- Architecture, Design, and Construction: ADC 176 (with any History course listed below)
- Art History: Any two of ART 101, 103 or 103H, 104 or 104H, 120, 205
- English: Any two of 107, 137, 190 and 200 level courses except 280, 281, 282, 283, 285
- Language/Foreign Language: Two courses in the same foreign language or two courses in American Sign Language (ASL)
- History: Any two of HIST 101, 102, 103 or 103H, 121, 122, 142, 150, 160, 170 (RS 170), 176 (ADC 176), 180, 220, 221, 297H, 298H, IDS 150
- Humanities: Any two of HUM 101, or 101H, 102, 120, 130, 150, 170, 180, 190, IDS 150, IDS 297H, IDS 298H
- Music History: Any two of MUS 103, 105, 106, 120, 121
- Philosophy: Any two of PHIL 101, 111, 151 (or RS 151), 152 (or RS 152), 202, 211, 215, 297H, 298H
- Religious Studies: Any two of RS 101, 151 (PHIL 151), 152 (PHIL 152), 170 (HIST 170), 175, 180

Social Science Pair– select two courses from the same or related discipline(s): In order to assure sufficient depth, students are required to take at least two courses from a defined set of courses within the same social science discipline (in some cases closely related disciplines are used to fulfill this requirement as indicated below).

- Architecture, Design, and Construction: ADC 176 (with any History course listed below)
- Anthropology: Any two of ANTH 101, 112, 124, 125, 202, 211, 215
- Earth Science: Any two of EASC 111 or 111H, GEOG 101, 103, 180, 222 (EASC 111 may be used as either a natural science or social science elective, but not as both)
- Economics: Any two of ECON 112, 114, 181, 182
- Geography: (See Earth Science)
- History: Any two of HIST 101, 102, 103 or 103H, 121, 122, 142, 150, 160, 170 (RS 170), 176 (ADC 176),180, 220, 221, 297H, 298H, IDS 150
- Philosophy: PHIL 151 (RS 151) (with any Religious Studies course listed below)
- Political Science: Any two of POLS 101, 111, 112, 117
- Psychology: Any two of PSYC 101 or 101H, 110, 167, 201, 202, 205, 209, 210, 211, 215 or 215H, 221
- Religious Studies: Any two of RS 101, 151 (PHIL 151), 170 (HIST 170), 175
- Sociology: Any two of SOC 101 or 101H, 105, 115, 212, 215, 231, 233, ANTH 101, 112, JUS 171, WS 101

Interpretive Studies – Select one course from this category.

Writing Intensive – Select one course from this category.

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