

**New Program Proposal
Bachelor of Arts
Jewish Studies
College of Charleston**

College of Charleston requests approval to offer a new program leading to the Bachelor of Arts/Artium Baccalaureatus degree in Jewish Studies to be implemented in Fall 2011. The proposed program is to be offered through traditional instruction methods on the College of Charleston campus.

The Program Planning Summary was submitted to the Commission in April 2010 and reviewed and voted upon favorably by the Advisory Committee on Academic Programs (ACAP) on July 14, 2010. The College of Charleston Board of Trustees approved the proposal on April 15, 2010. The full proposal was received by the Commission on November 15, 2010. The full proposal was reviewed and voted upon favorably by the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing (CAAL) on February 14, 2011.

According to the proposal, the purpose of the program is to provide an interdisciplinary undergraduate education that will provide students with an understanding of “the diversity and complexity of the Jewish experience” while providing them with interpretative and analytical skills that can be broadly applied across a wide range of disciplines. The institution believes the proposed degree complements the array of other interdisciplinary degrees it currently offers, including Women and Gender Studies and Latin American and Caribbean Studies, and will allow the institution to strengthen ties within the Charleston community in accordance with the institution’s strategic plan.

Presently, no South Carolina public institution of higher education offers an undergraduate degree in Jewish or Judaic Studies, Holocaust or Related Studies, or Hebrew. The College of Charleston is the only South Carolina institution which offers a minor in any of the fields identified above. The institution states that the University of South Carolina-Columbia intends to offer a minor in Jewish Studies. Information on the University of South Carolina website confirms this statement.

The proposal indicates that according to the Association for Jewish Studies, there are 175 academic programs and 90 undergraduate degrees in the field of Jewish Studies offered in the United State and Canada. A survey by CHE staff confirms the proposal’s claim that there are few regional undergraduate degrees in Jewish Studies. The proposal states that the only Southeast institutions which offer such degrees are the University of Florida, University of Miami, Tulane University and University of Virginia, Vanderbilt University, University of Tennessee, University of Texas, University of Memphis, and Florida Atlantic University. The proposal also states that University of North Carolina Chapel Hill and Duke University, which have established Jewish Studies programs, only offer minors in the field. None of the listed Jewish Studies programs listed are available to South Carolina students through the Academic Common Market.

The proposal states that the Jewish Studies program currently enjoys strong community and student support. Student support is indicated by the institution’s statement that the number of students who have declared a minor in Jewish Studies has increased from 10 to 23 over the past two years and that there were 215 students enrolled in eight sections of Jewish Studies courses for Fall 2010. Based on past enrollment patterns, the institution predicts a total of 480 students enrolled in Jewish Studies courses in 2010-2011. Most of these students

take Jewish Studies courses to meet general education or elective requirements of their major program. The College of Charleston believes that with the recent increase in student interest and increased faculty in the field, it can offer its student community an expanded program “without significant changes to current teaching patterns.”

At the July 14, 2010, Advisory Committee on Academic Programs meeting, the institution was encouraged to include economic development and employment data in its final proposal. Staff research has confirmed that there is no specific employment data or projections within the standard Bureau of Labor Statistics sources that apply to graduates of Jewish Studies degree programs. The program proposal states that graduates of the program will have critical thinking and communication skills that are common across the spectrum of Liberal Arts degrees and that are valued by potential employers. In addition, the proposal states the institution’s expectation that many of the proposed program’s graduates will choose to continue their education in graduate school.

In response to questions raised at the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing (CAAL) meeting of February 14, 2011, the institution provided staff with survey data supporting the employment potential of graduates of the College’s School of Language, Culture, and World Affairs (LCWA). The survey, taken for the first time in May 2010, asks all students (1643) going through the graduation ceremony to provide their employment status after graduation and their graduate education plans. Of the 78% of students who responded, 67% stated that they had either post-graduation employment (47%) or firm plans to continue their education (20%). Of graduates in disciplines within LCWA and the School of Humanities and Social Sciences (592) , 47.6% reported having employment, and 21% reported having firm graduate education plans. As the proposed program is interdisciplinary within these two schools, the institution maintains that similar levels of immediate employment and graduate education can be expected for its graduates.

According to the proposal, the proposed program will consist of 122 credit hours of course work, including a core course requirement of 36 credit hours. The core course requirement consists of four semesters of modern Hebrew (12 credit hours); a two-semester course in Jewish history (6 credit hours); a senior research seminar (3 credit hours); and additional coursework (15 credit hours, of which 9 credit hours must be in 300-level courses or above) in a variety of disciplines, including Jewish Studies, English, Political Science, History, and Religious Studies. The proposal further indicates that there will be five new courses added: a 200-level course, Introduction to Jewish-American Literature; three 300-level courses, Topics in Jewish History, Topics in American Jewish Culture, and Modern Jewish Politics; and a 400-level course, Research Seminar in Jewish Studies. Students wishing to receive an Artium Baccalaureatus degree in Jewish Studies must take an additional 18 hours in Classical languages and 18 hours in Classical civilization.

The proposal states that students transferring from a two-year institution will receive transfer credit under existing transfer and articulation agreements. It notes few courses would likely transfer to the proposed degree, but that it would be possible for a transfer student to complete the degree in two years if he or she took three Jewish Studies courses per semester.

The institution states that the proposed program is not eligible for special accreditation. CHE staff is not aware of any accreditation body for programs in the proposed CIP code 38.0206.

The proposal anticipates there will be five new students (5.1 FTE) in the program's first year, increasing to ten new students (10.2 FTE) in the second year, increasing to 15 new students (15.3 FTE) in the third year, increasing to 20 new students (20.4 FTE) in the fourth year and beyond of the program. If enrollment and program completion projections are met, the proposed program will meet the Commission's productivity standards.

The program proposal indicates that no new administration, faculty or staff will be hired specifically for this program. The proposal suggests that the six faculty members (3.5 FTE) already at the institution will be able to sustain all proposed degree coursework. The proposal identifies one administrator (0.25 FTE), a director "who is compensated with a course release each semester." The proposal also states that current support staff (0.5 FTE) will be sufficient to meet the needs of an expanded program.

The proposal states that during the first five years of the program there will be cost increases totaling \$5,000 for an expanded library budget, which will be paid with existing institutional funds. The expansion of the library budget results from the change of Jewish Studies from a concentration to a major and is consistent with other majors at the institution.

New costs and sources of financing identified by the institution for the proposed program are shown below.

ESTIMATED NEW COSTS BY YEAR						
CATEGORY	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	TOTALS
Library Resources	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$5,000
TOTALS	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$5,000
SOURCES OF FINANCING BY YEAR						
(Specify source(s) (e.g., special item appropriation, auxiliary enterprise funds, endowment income, special grant or contract, etc.)						
Reallocation of Existing Funds	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$5,000
TOTALS	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$5,000

As demonstrated in the chart above, the College of Charleston will meet new costs of the program through the reallocation of existing funds within the institution.

In summary, College of Charleston is proposing a program leading to the Bachelor of Arts degree in Jewish Studies. Designed to be interdisciplinary within the institution's "historical commitment to liberal arts education," the program will draw heavily from current resources and materials in the Jewish Studies concentration and in other liberal arts disciplines. The proposed program is intended to provide general undergraduate training and enable students to understand the diversity and complexity of the Jewish experience while gaining a thorough background in the Liberal Arts.

Recommendation

The Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing commends favorably to the Commission approval of the program leading to a Bachelor of Arts/Artium Baccalaureatus degree in Jewish Studies at the College of Charleston, to be implemented in Fall 2011, provided that no "unique cost" or other special state funding be required or requested.