

**New Program Proposal
Bachelor of Arts in History
USC – Beaufort
North and South Campuses**

Summary

USC-Beaufort requests approval to offer a program leading to the Bachelor of Arts degree in History, to be implemented in the Fall of 2005 at both the North and South campuses.

The proposal was approved by the USC-Beaufort Faculty Organization, as well as the USC-Beaufort Provost, on September 6, 2002, and submitted for Commission review on February 17, 2004. The program was reviewed by the Advisory Committee on Academic Programs without substantive comment at the meeting on March 31, 2004. The program proposal was approved by the University of South Carolina Board of Trustees at its meeting on April 21, 2004.

The purpose of the program is to provide students through the study of history with an enriched awareness of humanity's common aspirations and diversity. The program also aspires to broaden cultural awareness and enhance students' abilities to read carefully, think critically, and write effectively. The proposed program leading to the Bachelor of Arts degree in History is consistent with USC-Beaufort's institutional mission to "offer baccalaureate degrees that respond to regional needs," to "promote acquisition of knowledge and, through it, the intellectual dispositions and skills that encourage depth of understanding, tolerance of others, and individual accountability," and to encourage students to "think analytically and abstractly, to explore options, to see similarities, to be open to differences, to communicate effectively, and to respect each individual."

A History major is considered a cornerstone of any liberal arts undergraduate institution. The curriculum would intentionally duplicate the History program delivered at USC-Columbia. Establishment of the program would result in termination of the existing History option within the Liberal Studies major. USC-Beaufort faculty have already been offering most of the courses required for the B.A. in History in order to meet requirements for four-year degrees at other USC campuses - through cooperative agreements with USC-

Columbia and USC-Aiken. USC-Beaufort estimates the need to add one FTE faculty member with a terminal degree in Caribbean/Latin American studies to deliver the program without altering current course loads or rotations.

The need for the program is expressed in the shifting demographics and projected population growth for the region. The population of Beaufort County grew by 40 percent from 1990 to 2000; Beaufort is currently the fastest growing county in South Carolina. Jasper County demonstrates similar growth patterns, and according to data from the South Carolina Employment Security Commission both counties project continued and significant growth over the next decade. It is noteworthy that census data indicate that 1990-2000 population growth was greatest among the 10-14 year-old age group, suggesting a significant and growing pool of potential students within the USC-Beaufort geographic region. The proposal notes that students seeking a similar baccalaureate-level History program within USC-Beaufort's geographic region (Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, and Jasper Counties) would require a minimum two-hour daily commute to Savannah, Charleston, or Columbia.

Program graduates will be prepared to pursue graduate degrees, but they will also acquire critical thinking and communication skills enabling them to succeed in journalism, banking, technical writing, public relations, and business. South Carolina Department of Employment Security data project annualized growth in employment opportunities in adult education, public relations, and journalism-related careers to range from 2.81 to 5.00 percent during 1996-2006.

There are no admissions criteria specific to the program although students must meet USC-Beaufort general admissions requirements. Since USC-Beaufort was only recently authorized as a four-year institution, predicted enrollment for the program is based, in part, on the estimated interest of students who would have previously pursued the Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies (B.A.I.S.) that was offered through a joint agreement with USC-Columbia. Based on the subject area concentrations of current B.A.I.S. students, enrollment is projected at 24 headcount students (23.5 FTE) in FY 2005-06, and is expected to increase by at least five percent annually based on projections of regional population growth, leading to an estimated enrollment of 35 headcount students (34 FTE) in the fifth year. If met, these projections would meet the CHE productivity standards.

The curriculum consists of 120 credit hours, including 32-45 credits in general education, 21-24 general education credits specific to history, 36 hours in major courses, and 15-32 credits in electives.

No specialized accreditation is available for this program. No state licensure is required for the operation of this program.

The program will utilize existing classroom, library, and laboratory facilities. There are no additional physical plant or equipment requirements associated with the program. Library resources (books, journals) for History are deficient according to American Library Association standards although USC-Beaufort does participate in inter-library loan programs with the Cooper Library at USC-Columbia. The proposal recognizes the importance of continuing to focus library resources on collection development in the area of History.

New costs for the program are estimated to begin at \$77,363 in the first year, rising to \$76,472 in the second year, \$81,231 in the third year, \$86,439 in the fourth year, and \$88,197 in the fifth year. Categories of costs over the first five years of the program's implementation include program administration (\$79,226); faculty salaries (\$221,676); supplies and materials (\$5,300); library resources (\$50,000); equipment (\$6,000); and other (\$47,500). Total estimated new costs for the program during the first five years will be \$409,702.

Shown below are the estimated Mission Resource Requirement (MRR) costs to the state, and new costs not funded by the MRR associated with implementation of the proposed program for its first five years. Also shown are the estimated revenues projected under the MRR and the Resource Allocation Plan as well as student tuition.

Year	Estimated MRR Cost for Proposed Program	Estimated New Costs	Total Costs	State Appropriation	Tuition	Total Revenue
2004-05	\$221,887	\$0	\$221,887	\$0	\$133,722	\$133,722
2005-06	\$236,050	\$0	\$236,050	48,781	\$142,395	\$191,176
2006-07	\$261,543	\$0	\$261,543	51,863	\$157,890	\$209,753
2007-08	\$297,423	\$0	\$297,423	57,438	\$179,194	\$236,631
2008-09	\$321,028	\$0	\$321,028	65,399	\$193,846	\$259,245

These data demonstrate that if the institution meets the projected student enrollments and contains costs as they are shown in the proposal, the program will not be able to cover new costs with revenues it generates during the first five years of the program.

In summary, the institution will offer a program leading to the B.A. degree in History that will serve as a cornerstone of a traditional Liberal Arts curriculum. Program graduates will acquire the requisite skills for successful careers in

journalism, public relations, business, adult education, public relations, and technical writing.

Recommendation

The Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing recommends that the Commission approve USC-Beaufort's proposed program leading to the Bachelor of Arts degree in History for implementation in Fall 2005 at both the North and South campuses, provided that: 1) the existing History option within the Liberal Studies program is discontinued; and 2) no "unique cost" or other special state funding be required or requested.