

**Coastal Carolina University
Conway, South Carolina**

**Proposal to the
South Carolina Commission on Higher Education
to establish a
Bachelor of Arts in Integrated Humanities**

October 15, 2013

**Program Contact Information:
Dr. Carol Osborne
Associate Dean, Edwards College of Humanities and Fine Arts
osborne@coastal.edu
(843) 349-2658**

Signature Available on Original

**Edgar L. Dyer, Executive Vice President/Chief Operating Officer
For David A. DeCenzo, President**

PROGRAM PLANNING SUMMARY

CLASSIFICATION

Program title:	Bachelor of Arts in Integrated Humanities
CIP Code:	24.0103
Designation, type, level of degree:	New baccalaureate, 4-year
Proposed date of implementation:	August 2015
Supplemental STEM awards:	No
Delivery mode:	Traditional, online, and hybrid

JUSTIFICATION

Need for the program within the state:

In its Mission Statement, Coastal Carolina University identifies itself as a “mid-sized regional comprehensive university with a tradition of a strong liberal arts core” that “maintains a broad range of contemporary technologies, programming, support services, and innovative course offerings and delivery methods.” The mission also emphasizes CCU’s commitment of resources to building baccalaureate degrees in the humanities. In keeping with this goal, the Edwards College of Humanities and Fine Arts proposes a Bachelor of Arts in Integrated Humanities, an undergraduate program that will allow students to combine humanities disciplines in unique ways to meet their individual interests and career goals while also developing professional skills (research, writing, and presentation) vital in today’s workforce. With its emphasis on exploring the connections that exist between traditional disciplines, this degree will model cross-disciplinary collaboration in the design and instruction of the four required courses in the major and in some of the elective courses. Following a trend in interdisciplinary programming within the humanities occurring at other universities across the nation, a trend which is also apparent in the recent formation of interdisciplinary minors within our own college, this new program also offers students who switch majors within our college the opportunity to graduate with an employable degree without incurring as much debt and delay as they would were they to fulfill all the requirements of their newly selected major late in their career. With new financial aid restrictions making it much more difficult for students to declare and pay for a minor, and with approximately 50% of the students in this college electing a minor in the past (with 80% of those minors being within our college), the formation of a B.A. in Integrated Humanities provides the opportunity for students to combine two areas of study and still graduate with a useful degree in four years. It will provide a core of professional skills to enhance existing curricular strengths.

Relationship of proposed program to existing programs at proposing institution:

The administration of two proposed interdisciplinary B.A. degrees, the B.A. in Integrated Humanities and the B.A. in Digital Content Development, will be housed in a newly formed Department of Humanities within the Edwards College of Humanities and Fine Arts. This Department will be the home for the First-Year Experience Program and the Master of Liberal Studies Program, both featuring an interdisciplinary approach. Unlike Coastal Carolina’s existing B.A. in Interdisciplinary Studies, housed in University College, the proposed B.A. in Integrated Humanities requires students to complete two minors within the College of Humanities and Fine Arts and four courses that focus on interdisciplinary connections and the skills of reading, writing, research, and presentation. While the B.A. in Integrated Humanities may pull some students from the ranks of existing Humanities and Fine Arts majors, we anticipate that the result of offering a more flexible curriculum, tailored to students’ individual interests and career goals, will result in an overall growth in majors within the college. We hope this degree will help us retain the 8% of students in our college who switch to a major outside of the humanities and fine arts, and more importantly, help retain the 28% of our majors who leave Coastal Carolina University before ever earning a degree.

Extent to which the proposed program duplicates existing programs in the state:

The proposed B.A. in Integrated Humanities differs from similar degrees offered at other institutions across the state in that it focuses only on disciplines within the humanities and fine arts, helping students explore the newer and potentially more productive intersections of these traditional areas of study. Anderson University offers a B.A. in Humanities and the Law, and Columbia International University offers a B.A. and B.S. in Humanities. At Charleston Southern, an Interdisciplinary Degree can be pursued with a concentration in the Humanities and Fine Arts or a B.A. in Humanities/Humanistic Studies; at Bob Jones University, the Humanities major “offers exposure to a variety of courses in the arts and sciences”; and at Wofford, students design their own degrees, supervised by a faculty committee. Charleston Southern University’s program is distinct from the proposed program in that students combine courses across colleges. The Humanities program at Wofford most closely resembles the proposed Bachelor of Arts in Humanities at Coastal in offering a series of required interdisciplinary classes, but it is designed strictly for highly motivated, successful students. To enter the program, students are required to have a 3.0 GPA for three semesters or recommendations from three faculty members from different disciplines, and they are expected to work independently at times in completing the degree. The proposed B.A. in Integrated Humanities at Coastal is being designed to accommodate the needs of all students, not just those in the honors program. Finally, in addition to the traditional IDS degree, the University of South Carolina offers a B.A. in Liberal Studies as a part of the “Back to Carolina” degree completion program. This program targets former University of South Carolina students who did not finish their degrees, offering them a flexible multidisciplinary degree that can be completed online. (The Beaufort branch campus also offers the B.A. in Liberal Studies.) Because Coastal Carolina’s proposed program is open to everyone and has a different focus, we see it as following the example of USC’s completion program, but not duplicating it. This program can provide a path for those students who, for one reason or another, switch majors within the humanities but also attract advanced students who want to pursue a viable course of study more tailored to their individual needs.

PROGRAM DEMAND AND PRODUCTIVITY

In fall 2013, surveys were administered to students within the Edwards College of Humanities and Fine Arts to determine interest in the proposed B.A. in Integrated Humanities. In the paper survey of freshmen, 76% (207) were interested in learning more about the degree, and 67% (182) were either likely or very likely to consider pursuing such a degree. (This survey had a 98% return rate, with 280 of 286 freshmen completing the survey). Of the 71 juniors within the Edwards College who responded to an online survey in Fall 2013, 67% (48) were interested in learning more about the degree, and 58% (41) were either likely or very likely to consider pursuing such a degree. Overall, 90% (64) of the juniors agreed or strongly agreed that Coastal Carolina University should offer a B.A. in Integrated Humanities. In all of the surveys, students expressed interest in combining a wide variety of disciplines, with Communication/Journalism, Intelligence and National Security Studies, Political Science, and Graphic Design slightly outnumbering the others. In the largest survey (280), all 28 existing minors were selected as representing two disciplines the students would most likely combine in a B.A. in Integrated Humanities. These survey results illustrate the potential for a solid growth in enrollment in this program; therefore, a conservative estimate of 1/10 of the students surveyed entering the program would yield an anticipated enrollment of at least 72 by the fourth year of the program. Annual completions after that point would likely equal 15-20.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR GRADUATES

Integrated Humanities graduates would be qualified for positions typically filled by students with liberal arts backgrounds. Students with training in research, presentation, writing, critical thinking, and cultural awareness typically find work in the private sector as well as in education,

government, and the culture industry. A recent labor-market analytics study of about 4 million entry-level job openings found that “a new graduate with a liberal arts degree qualifies for about 955,000 jobs, about 25% of those available. Liberal arts graduates with complementary technical skills in one or more of those eight categories could compete for an additional 862,000 jobs, most of them in fast-growing fields.”¹ The integrated humanities model fosters that combination of technical *and* humanistic skills, creating opportunities for students to pair disciplines, such as English and graphic design, or political science and new media, in order to create emerging, flexible courses for students that are responsive to our state’s economic needs and labor trends.

CURRICULUM

As this degree exists to provide both enrichment and skills, coursework will be balanced between a sequence of required core competency classes, the complete coursework of two different humanities minors, and a broad selection of upper-level electives. The core class sequence will provide instruction in interdisciplinary approaches, advanced writing and presentation skills, critical thinking, and research methods. These four courses, team-taught through multimodal instructional techniques, will emphasize advanced skill application, professionalization, and the continuous construction of an electronic portfolio for each student:

- UNIV 110A/HFA 210 will introduce students to interdisciplinary approaches to learning.
- HFA 350 (Theory and Method in Interdisciplinary Research) will introduce students to the skills necessary to explore a range of topics across disciplines.
- HFA 400 (Writing, Documentation, and Presentation) will allow students to hone the composition and presentation skills necessary to complete a major project in their field.
- HFA 499 (Capstone Experience) will stand as the culmination of the program, wherein the student, with the guidance of an academic mentor, will complete a culminating project, sometimes in the form of a traditional thesis, but sometimes in alternative (but equally significant) configurations based on the student’s plan of study and academic interests.

In addition to exploring interdisciplinary connections, these core courses will give the students the ability to ask and investigate questions; to speak and write clearly about what they know; to network, digitally and personally, with potential employers; and to develop the professional skills sought by employers. With these four courses providing the foundation of the B.A. degree, the remaining hours will be made up of the required courses within two (2) of the 28 humanities or fine arts minors now being offered in the college and selected electives on the 300 and 400 levels. Students will be encouraged to pursue opportunities in service or experiential learning, internships, and study abroad that are applicable to their chosen disciplines. (See appendix for possible sample curricula.)

ARTICULATION AND INTER-INSTITUTIONAL COOPERATION

Transfer students from other universities may use upper-level humanities and fine arts transfer credits toward the B.A. in Integrated Humanities as long as they complete the four interdisciplinary core classes in CCU’s program and comply with the university’s requirement that at least 30 credits are earned in residence at Coastal.

ESTIMATE OF COSTS

Faculty are already accustomed to teaching these courses within existing minors, so there should not be an immediate need for new faculty hires. Library holdings are hard to measure for an interdisciplinary program, but we estimate that Kimbel Library will require \$600 in immediate library collection additions (dedicated to broad-based databases), then \$2,000 annually for collection development. We anticipate using extant administrative support staff for office duties related to the program. Therefore, the costs of this new program will be covered by tuition generated by the program. No additional funds are being requested from the state.

Appendix

(A) Sample Curriculum for Degree in Integrated Humanities (student who wishes to write and illustrate fiction for children or young adults)

Core Curriculum – 34-41 credits

Freshman Graduation Requirement – UNIV 110A – 0-3 credits

Required Core Courses (9-12 credits)

HFA 210 (if UNIV 110 omitted) Interdisciplinary Approaches – 0-3 credits

HFA 350 Theory and Method – 3 credits

HFA 400 Writing, Documentation, and Presentation – 3 credits

HFA 499 Capstone Experience – 3 credits

Graphic Design Minor (21 credits)

ARTH 350 Art and Ideas– 3 credits

ARTS 103 Fundamentals of Art I – 3 credits

ARTS 104 Fundamentals of Art II – 3 credits

ARTS 261 Introduction to Black and White Photography – 3 credits

ARTD 201 Graphic Design I – 3 credits

ARTD 202 Graphic Design II – 3 credits

ARTD 301 Graphic Design III – 3 credits

Creative Writing Minor (18 credits)

ENGL 301 Creative Writing Workshop – 3 credits

ENGL 362 Reading and Writing Fiction – 3 credits

ENGL 365 Reading and Writing Creative Nonfiction – 3 credits

ENGL 368 Reading and Writing Poetry – 3 credits

ENGL 462 Writing Workshop-Fiction – 3 credits

ENGL 465 Creative Nonfiction Workshop – 3 credits

ENGL 468 Writing Workshop- Poetry – 3 credits

300-400 Electives (12-15 credits)

ARTD 303 Illustration – 3 credits

ARTH 337 The Contemporary Graphic Novel – 3 credits

ARTH 360 Gender and Ethnicity in Art – 3 credits

ENGL 484 Children's Literature – 3 credits

ENGL 485 Adolescent Literature – 3 credits

Electives (13-23 credits)

(B) Sample Curriculum for Degree in Integrated Humanities (combining Asian Studies and Religious Study minors to pursue interest in Asian religion and culture)

Core Curriculum – 34-41 credits

Freshman Graduation Requirement – UNIV 110A – 0-3 credits

Required Core Courses (9-12 credits)

HFA 210 (if UNIV 110 omitted) Interdisciplinary Approaches – 0-3 credits

HFA 350 Theory and Method – 3 credits

HFA 400 Writing, Documentation, and Presentation – 3 credits

HFA 499 Capstone Experience – 3 credits

Asian Studies Minor (18 credits)

ENGL 475 Contemporary Asian Fiction – 3 credits

HIST 340 History of East Asia – 3 credits
 POLI 334 East Asian Politics – 3 credits
 RELG 104 Introduction to Asian Religions – 3 credits
 HIST 349 Modern China: Reform and Revolution in the Modern Age – 3 credits
 CBAD 301 Management and Organizations (Study Abroad in China)
 Religious Studies Minor (18 credits)
 RELG 103 World Religions – 3 credits
 RELG 320 Introduction to Buddhism – 3 credits
 RELG 311 Gospel Traditions – 3 credits
 REGL 324 Hinduism – 3 credits
 RELG 326 Buddhism in Literature and Film – 3 credits
 RELG 350 Lives of Hindu and Buddhist Saints – 3 credits
 300-400 Electives (12-15 credits)
 RELG 351 Religion of India – 3 credits
 RELG 352 Zen Buddhism – 3 credits
 RELG 360 Women and World Religions – 3 credits
 ENGL 371 Topics in World Literature – 3 credits
 HIST 353 The History of India – 3 credits
 Electives (13-23 credits)

(C) Sample Curriculum for Degree in Integrated Humanities (History major who switched to Political Science and would like to graduate on time and work for government agency)

Core Curriculum – 34-41 credits
 Freshman Graduation Requirement – UNIV 110A – 0-3 credits
 Required Core Courses (9-12 credits)
 HFA 210 (if UNIV 110 omitted) Interdisciplinary Approaches – 0-3 credits
 HFA 350 Theory and Method – 3 credits
 HFA 400 Writing, Documentation, and Presentation – 3 credits
 HFA 499 Capstone Experience – 3 credits
 History Minor (21 credits)
 HIST 102 Introduction to European Civilization from 1648 to the Present
 HIST 112 World History Since 1500
 HIST 202 History of the United States
 HIST 250 Historical Research and Writing
 HIST 312 Patterns in World History
 HIST 317 Comparative Revolutions
 HIST 356 State and Society in Modern Latin America
 Political Science Minor (18 credits)
 POLI 201 American National Government
 POLI 300 Introduction to Political Theory
 POLI 315 International Relations
 POLI 316 Comparative Politics
 POLI 340 International Negotiations
 POLI 343 Terrorism and Political Violence
 300-400 Electives (12-15 credits)
 POLI 351 Intelligence Communications
 POLI 352 Intelligence and War
 POLI 353 Comparative Security Issues

POLI 354 Introduction to National Security
POLI 355 Foreign Policy Analysis
Electives (13-23 credits)

ⁱ <http://www.usatoday.com/story/money/business/2013/08/27/more-hope-for-liberal-arts-majors/2703707/>