SPECIAL REPORT

OF THE

ACADEMIC MATTERS, ACADEMIC PRIORITIES AND
PROGRAM AND BUDGET COUNCILS

concerning

REVISION OF THE BACHELOR OF ARTS (B.A.) MAJOR REQUIREMENTS
IN THE PROGRAM IN LEGAL STUDIES

Presented at the
768th Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate
April 27, 2017

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As part of the plan to replace the Global Education requirement in the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences (SBS) with program-specific requirements, the Program in Legal Studies is proposing to revise its major. The significant changes from current requirements are:
(1) The number of required credits for the major will increase from 33-35 to 37-47.
(2) At least three courses must come from an approved list of Global Law and Society courses.
Up to six credits of foreign language or study abroad courses may be counted toward meeting the Global Law and Society requirement, but students must then take additional Legal Studies and law-related courses to meet other program requirements.

At its meeting on April 6, 2016, the Academic Matters Council voted unanimously to recommend Faculty Senate approval of the proposed Revision of the B.A. Major Requirements in the Program in Legal Studies. It was submitted as proposal #2753 in the Course and Curriculum Management System.

ACADEMIC PRIORITIES COUNCIL

On April 19, 2017, the Academic Priorities Council endorsed approval of this proposal subject after two requested changes were made. The first is that fulfillment of department level international and intercultural requirements can be fulfilled by departmentally approved study abroad. The second is that “At least one course taken to fulfill the major’s international/intercultural requirement must have an international focus (if a topical course), be a foreign language, or be taken during a departmentally approved study abroad.

PROGRAM AND BUDGET COUNCIL

At its meeting on March 22, 2017, the Program and Budget Council voted 9 Yes, 5 No and 1 Abstention on the proposal #2753, Revision of the Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) Major Requirements in the Program in Legal Studies, as part of a group of related proposals (#s 2748 through 2756 in the Course and Curriculum Management System). It addressed its comments to the framework proposal (#2748).

MOTION: That the Faculty Senate approve the Revision of the Bachelor of Arts (B.A.)
27-17 Major Requirements in the Program in Legal Studies, as presented in Sen. Doc.
No. 17-064.
Please describe your proposal.

The College of Social and Behavioral Sciences seeks to transform the international and intercultural education focus in our curriculum from the college-based Global Education Requirement for B.A. majors to an integrated theme that is incorporated directly into strengthened and updated B.A. major requirements. (See Proposal 2748 in the UMass Course and Curriculum Management System.)

To graduate, students in the Legal Studies major must currently fulfill the Global Education Requirement of 15 credits plus their major requirements of 33-35 credits. After the proposed change, students in the Legal Studies major will fulfill expanded major requirements totaling 37-47 credits that incorporate international and intercultural education directly into the major in a manner tailored to our discipline. The current college level Global Education Requirement will be ended for students in the Legal Studies major.

The new major level international and intercultural related requirements can be fulfilled through a list of courses designated by the department, by foreign language courses, or by a departmentally approved study abroad.

Two other changes will be made to the structure of the major: First, students will be required to take an additional liberal arts law-related course completed outside of the Legal Studies Program (which can be used to complete international and intercultural related requirements). Second, instead of the current requirement that students take 20 credits worth of Legal Studies classes, the new requirement states that students will take 7 Legal Studies courses (several of which can be used to complete international and intercultural related requirements).

Please describe the existing program requirements, listing all required courses and available electives, as well as any additional requirements, and continuation or admissions policies.

1. Legal Studies 250, Introduction to Legal Studies (not open to freshmen; 4 credits)
2. 20 credits worth of Legal Studies classes (200-400 level), including one IE class (minimum 20 credits)
3. Legal Studies 450, Legal Research and Writing (Junior Writing Requirement; 3 credits)
4. TWO liberal arts law-related courses taken outside of the department (6 to 8 credits).

Total Credits: 33-35

Please describe the requirements that you are proposing, listing course requirements, elective options, as well as any additional requirements, and continuation or admissions policies.

1. Legal Studies 250, Introduction to Legal Studies (4 credits)
2. Legal Studies 450, Legal Research and Writing (Junior Writing Requirement; 3 credits)
3. Seven Legal Studies courses (200-400 level), including one integrative experience (IE) course (minimum 21 credits)
4. Three liberal arts law-related courses taken outside of the Legal Studies Program (minimum 9 credits).
5. Three of the courses used to satisfy requirements 3 and 4 must meet the Legal Studies Program approved list of global law and society courses, recognizing the courses as having international focus.
At least two of these courses must be taken in Legal Studies. The other course can be taken outside of Legal Studies as part of the approved list of law-related courses. In addition, students may request that up to two departmentally approved study abroad courses that are part of an IPO approved study abroad program be applied toward the global law and society requirement.

Students may count up to two foreign language courses to satisfy the global law and society requirement in lieu of up to two global law and society courses taken in Legal Studies or taken outside of the department. However, students still need the complete all other requirements of the major, including at least seven Legal Studies courses at the 200-400 level and three liberal arts law-related courses taken outside of the Legal Studies Program.

6. Students are encouraged to seek out secondary majors, minors, and certificates, but this will not be required of the major.

Total Credits: 37-47

Please provide the rationale for these revisions.

The College of Social and Behavioral Sciences has provided a rationale for transforming international and intercultural education in the B.A. majors from the college-level Global Education Requirement to departmental requirements. Please see document Rationale for Transformation of International & Intercultural Education in the College of Social & Behavioral Sciences (attached) for this overall rationale.

Within this framework, the Legal Studies major has revised its requirements in order to transform its approach to international and intercultural education for the purpose of ensuring that Legal Studies graduates have broad exposure to global perspectives on law and society. This is captured by the requirement that Legal Studies students complete a minimum of three courses that meet the Legal Studies Program approved list of global law and society courses. This will foster a global ethic and intercultural competencies, while provided students added flexibility in the Legal Studies major.

Academic Requirements Review

Requirement: V. In addition to the Gen Ed, Diversity, and College requirements, you must complete the following Major requirements. No courses taken on a pass/fail basis may be applied to major requirements. (rg119)

Rule: I. Legal Studies Program Requirements (r197)
Line: **No courses taken on a pass/fail basis may be applied to major requirements**
Recall: CAT
Recall: USE
Line: 1. Take Introduction to Legal Studies (r197,ln10)
Line: 2. Take 20 credits of Legal Studies courses numbered 200 and above. (r197,ln20)
Line: 3. Take one Junior Year Writing course (r197,ln30)
Line: 4. Take one liberal arts law course outside the Legal Studies department numbered 200 or above. (r197,ln40)
Recall: GUS
Recall: CAT
Line: 5. Take one additional liberal arts law course outside the Legal Studies department. (r197,ln50)
Recall: GUS
Recall: CAT
Rule: **Additional Legal Courses (r10290)
Line: Other Courses
Recall: USD
Recall: ITC
If this proposal requires no additional resources, say so and briefly explain why. If this proposal requires additional resources, explain how they will be paid for. For proposals involving instruction, indicate how many new enrollments are expected and whether the courses have room to accommodate them.

This proposal does not require additional resources within SBS or the Legal Studies major, although the college and department continue to point out the unusually high student-to-faculty ratios within SBS and call for faculty hiring to address this imbalance. Under the proposed curriculum changes, we expect some increases in demand for courses within our major, particularly those that are identified as fulfilling international/intercultural requirements within the department. This additional demand has already been considered by us in approving this major change proposal.

(Please refer to Proposal #2753 in the Course and Curriculum Management System for the Track Changes and the Rationale for Transformation of International and Intercultural Education in CSBS.)