



March 3, 2026

W. Randy Smith, Vice Provost
Council on Academic Affairs
Bricker Hall
CAMPUS

Dear Randy:

I am pleased to endorse the attached proposal to add an additional requirement to the Bachelor of Arts degree awarded by the college. The proposal ensures that our BA degree aligns with the expectations of the Ohio Department of Higher Education, which stipulates that the BA degree has a distinctive requirement.

Importantly, data indicates that virtually all BA degree major plans have room for an additional three credit hour requirement. The one program that has less room (the CIS BA) is currently being revised to reduce total credit hours, so that will not be an issue in the future.

This change was proposed and approved by the ASC Curriculum Committee and endorsed by the ASC Senate. It has the full support of the College of Arts and Sciences, and the anticipated implementation would be for NFYS 26 students.

Sincerely,

Andrew W. Martin
Associated Dean for Undergraduate Education
Professor, Department of Sociology

Proposal to add differentiation to the Bachelor of Arts Degree conferred by the College of Arts and Sciences at The Ohio State University

Recommended to the ASC Senate
by the Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee

Undergraduate students completing a Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science degree with the College of Arts and Sciences (ASC) must complete at least **one course in each of the seven General Education Foundations categories**: Historical and Cultural Studies; Race, Ethnicity and Gender Diversity; Social and Behavioral Sciences; Writing and Information Literacy; Literary, Visual and Performing Arts; Natural Sciences; and Mathematical and Quantitative Reasoning/Data Analysis. The new **Civics requirement** established by the State of Ohio will be placed in a GEN Foundations category, usually either Historical and Cultural Studies; Race, Ethnicity and Gender Diversity; Social and Behavioral Sciences; or Literary, Visual and Performing Arts.

The following proposal is designed to ensure that (1) ASC undergraduate students complete an education that aligns with President Ted Carter's vision for **Education for Citizenship 2035** and (2) **the Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree meets the expectations for BA degrees as established by the Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE)**. The ODHE requires that a Bachelor of Arts degree is structured to include additional arts/humanities/social science training and that the Bachelor of Science (BS) degree requires additional math/science training. Currently our BS degree requires calculus, which is not required for the BA degree, so it satisfies the ODHE requirement. However, we have no additional requirement for the BA degree.

Therefore, ASCC proposes the addition of a 3-credit hour college requirement for completion of a BA degree. This addition will not only satisfy the ODHE mandate but also will ensure that students receive **concrete foundational knowledge** that benefits their workforce development and educational standing.

Per the new proposal, students will take an additional 3-credit hour course in the same GEN Foundation category as the course they took to fulfill their civics literacy requirement. This additional class should not be another course approved for the State of Ohio civics requirement.

For example, if a student takes their civics requirement foundation in Historical and Cultural Studies, they will be required to take another non-civics-approved course in Historical and Cultural Studies so their education in this category is well-rounded.

Benefits of this requirement:

1. As a land grant university with a mission to **create and discover knowledge to improve the well-being of our local, state, regional, national and global communities**, this requirement adds to students' breadth of knowledge so they can serve their workplaces and communities.
2. It ensures that students' understanding of critical matters related to **education for citizenship** is enhanced.
3. It ensures compliance with ODHE degree requirements.

ASC Majors Leading to the Bachelor of Arts

African American and African Studies	Film Studies
Air Transportation	French
Ancient History and Classics Studies	French & Francophone
Anthropology	Geography
Arabic	German
Art	Globalization Studies
Arts Management	Hebrew and Jewish Studies
ASL Access, Equity, and Inclusion	History
Biochemistry	History of Art
Biology	International Studies
Chemistry	Islamic Studies
Chinese	Italian
Classics	Italian Studies
Communication	Japanese
Comparative Studies	Korean
Computer and Information Science	Journalism
Criminology and Criminal Justice Studies	Leadership
Earth Sciences	Linguistics
Economics	Medical Anthropology
English	Modern Greek
Moving Image Production	Romance Studies
Music	Russian
Personalized -- BA	Sociology
Philosophy	Spanish

Philosophy, Politics, and Economics

Political Science

Portuguese

Psychology

Religious Studies

Speech and Hearing Science

Theatre

Women's, Gender and

Sexuality Studies

World Literatures

World Politics

Zoology