

**LEVEL II BOARD OF REGENTS ITEMS**

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**CURRICULUM PROPOSALS**

1. Overview

The University of Montana Western faculty has been working to restructure and change the nomenclature of existing programs within its current B.A. degree to better serve student needs; improve efficiency; improve compliance with Northwest Commission on Colleges and University (NWCCU) guidelines and Board of Regent Policies; and produce a program structure that is more understandable to current and potential students and faculty. Montana Western is requesting that these changes be approved by the Board of Regents.

Currently all programs in the Bachelor of Arts degree are offered under a single "Arts" major with Options in a number of arts and sciences disciplines. Each Option area is associated with a number of Related Areas (Sub-Options) typically containing pre-requisites in the associated Option area. There is no common core of courses in the existing single "Arts" major. This structure is a derivative of the previous Bachelor of Liberal Studies (B.L.S.) degree/major but is not typical of the structure found in most B.S. and B.A. programs. As of Fall 2009 there were a total of 264 students officially enrolled in the single B.A. Arts degree/major with its seven option areas and 43 related areas. This is approximately 25% of total enrollment at Montana Western.

Students typically refer to their programs of study as "majors" consisting of some combination of Option/Related Area. These Montana Western programs have at least as many credits as true majors on most other campuses and graduates are at least as well prepared for the work force or graduate schools as true majors.

The Montana Western Admissions Department reports difficulty in explaining current Montana Western B.A. program offerings to potential students. Admission representatives and academic advisors by necessity need to explain how Montana Western B.A. programs are as good or better than true majors at other institutions. The rapid growth of a number of the programs indicates their substantial success at explaining this but there is still a strong belief that we need to change nomenclature to better fit degree structure.

The English Department proposes to change the nomenclature of its existing B.A. Option in Literature and Writing to a B.A. Major in English. Under the current B.A. structure, there are three Related Areas (Creative Writing; Professional Communications, and Western Culture) under the Literature and Writing Option. Associated with the proposed B.A. Major in English, there would be three Minors in Creative Writing; Professional Communications; and Literature.

**EXISTING PROGRAM:**

- B.A. Option: Literature and Writing**
- Related Areas:**
  - 1. Creative Writing**
  - 2. Professional Communications**
  - 3. Western Culture**

**PROPOSED PROGRAM:**

- B.A. Major: English**
- Minors:**
  - 1. Creative Writing**
  - 2. Professional Communications**
  - 3. Literature**

2. Provide a one paragraph description of the proposed program. Be specific about what degree, major, minor or option is sought.

**New Major proposal for B.A. Major in English (to replace B.A. Option in Literature and Writing). Also creates three minors in the following: Creative Writing; Professional Communications; and Literature. The current Western Culture Related Area under the current Literature and Writing**

**Option would be replaced with a more general Minor in Literature under the proposed Major in English. The other two proposed Minors would replace existing Related Areas with the same titles.**

3. Need

- a. To what specific need is the institution responding in developing the proposed program?  
**Students enrolled in the Department of English and an English Related Area often do so with the intent of preparing for a graduate program. Graduate school application reviewers have been confounded by the nature of the Montana Western transcript which does not list the Related Area as a "major" even though the coursework and credits are similar to single-discipline majors at other institutions.**
- b. How will students and any other affected constituencies be served by the proposed program?  
**The current proposal will make it possible for students to be issued a transcript and a diploma that actually reflects their course of study. Additionally, the proposal provides for three Minors within the English B.A. program so that students can more easily tailor the programs to their interests and career plans. It would also be possible for students to combine the new English Major with minors in a totally unrelated discipline that are currently being developed.**
- c. What is the anticipated demand for the program? How was this determined?  
**As of Fall 2010 there were a total of 34 students officially enrolled in the single B.A. Option in Literature and Writing. An additional 29 students were enrolled in the B.S. Secondary Education Option ("Major"). The students in this teacher preparation program use much of the same coursework used in the proposed English major as well as the existing Literature and Writing Option so there are currently 63 students enrolled in English programs at Montana Western. The demand for these programs has been increasing and is expected to remain strong.**

4. Institutional and System Fit

- a. What is the connection between the proposed program and existing programs at the institution?  
**These changes, while possibly appearing on paper as an expansion of programs, actually represent a streamlining of the English offerings at Montana Western. Our current program offers a B.A. Option with a Core of English courses (46-52 credits) all program students take, and a list of Related Areas (24-32 credits) in which students choose to focus. There are currently three such Related Areas listed with the Literature and Writing Core in the 2010-11 Montana Western catalog (Note: although students may select any Related Area – not just those listed in connect to a Core, nearly all English students choose from the three listed).**
- b. Will approval of the proposed program require changes to any existing programs at the institution? If so, please describe.  
**No**
- c. Describe what differentiates this program from other, closely related programs at the institution (if appropriate).  
**N/A**
- d. How does the proposed program serve to advance the strategic goals of the institution?  
**These changes will allow the English Department to best promote the goals of Montana Western's Strategic Plan, in particular: Goal #1 Improve undergraduate education, Goal #2 Increase enrollment through enhanced affordability, access, success and retention and increase graduation rates, and Goal #5 Strategically position the university for maximum efficiency and long-range success.**
- e. Describe the relationship between the proposed program and any similar programs within the Montana University System. In cases of substantial duplication, explain the need for the proposed program at an additional institution. Describe any efforts that were made to collaborate with

these similar programs; and if no efforts were made, explain why. If articulation or transfer agreements have been developed for the substantially duplicated programs, please include the agreement(s) as part of the documentation.

**English Department faculty have been full participants in recent FLOC groups, which have identified similar courses on different campuses.**

5. Program Details

- a. Provide a detailed description of the proposed curriculum. Where possible, present the information in the form intended to appear in the catalog or other publications. NOTE: In the case of two-year degree programs and certificates of applied science, the curriculum should include enough detail to determine if the characteristics set out in Regents' Policy 301.12 have been met.

**English.**

**BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE**

**Program Mission Statement**

The primary objective of the B.A.: Literature and Writing program is to offer students opportunities to develop superior knowledge and skills in oral and written communications. Graduates are positioned to enter fields including editing, journalism, public relations, or gain acceptance into graduate school (e.g., MFA). The curriculum in this course of study encourages students to become empowered and astute readers, writers, speakers, listeners, and especially thinkers. Moving beyond traditional approaches, students develop their own voices in writing and speaking. Students respond critically, culturally and creatively to literatures, in seminar formats and small classes. Whether it is an issue of revision or grammar, faculty encourage open inquiry and a critical understanding of the question of interpretation.

**B.A.: English Major**

**CREDIT SUMMARY – General Education & Major**

**GENERAL EDUCATION –General Education Credits 32**

**ENGLISH MAJOR Major+Minor Credits 76**

**ENG 204 Creative Writing 4**

**LIT 300 Literary Criticism 4**

**Select 1 from the following:**

**LIT 210 American Literature I 4**

**LIT 264 American Romance 4**

**LIT 265 Realism, Naturalism, Modernism 4**

**LIT 266 Generations and Conflicts 4**

**Select 1 from the following:**

**LIT 273 The Oral Tradition 4**

**LIT 274 The Manuscript Tradition 4**

**LIT 276 The Print Culture 4**

**LIT 277 The Declining Empire 4**

**Select 3 from the following:**

**LIT 302 Literature in Translation 4**

**LIT 335 Women and Literature 4**

**LIT 339 Literary Regions 4**

**LIT 361 Poetry and Thought 4**

**LIT 385 Mythology 4**

**Select 4 from the following:**

**LIT 413 Hist, Struct, Nature of English 4**

LIT 473 Studies in Shakespeare 4

LIT 494 Seminar: Literary Period 4

LIT 494 Seminar: Genre 4

LIT 494 Seminar: Major Authors 4

LIT 494 Seminar: Literary Theory 4

Select any minor (English or other program). Students may also opt to take no minor and take instead, additional Electives (40 total). At least 8 Elective credits must be taken at the upper level. 28

Creative Writing (28)

Professional Communications (28)

Literature (28)

Select 1 from the following Capstone options: 4

ENG

498 Internship (4)

499 Senior Project/Thesis (4)

ELECTIVE REQUIREMENTS Elective Credits

Select from any catalog courses. 0-12

TOTAL CREDITS REQUIRED 120

CREDIT SUMMARY – Minors

Creative Writing MINOR

ENG 204 Creative Writing 4

ENG 301 Poetry Workshop 4

ENG 302 Fiction Workshop 4

ENG 303 Nonfiction Workshop 4

Select 2 from the following:

ENG 401 Adv. Poetry Workshop 4

ENG 402 Adv. Fiction Workshop 4

ENG 403 Adv. Nonfiction Workshop 4

Select 1 from the following:

WRIT 313 Writing for Publication 4

ENG 314 Editorial Workshop 4

LIT 361 Poetry and Thought 4

LIT 494 Seminar: Genre 4

LIT 494 Seminar: Literary Theory 4

Total Credits 28

Professional Communications MINOR

ENG 303 Nonfiction Workshop 4

WRIT 313 Writing for Publication 4

ENG 314 Editorial Workshop 4

WRIT 321 Advanced Technical Writing 4

ENG 4XX Technological Literacy 4

ENG 400 Internship 4

ENG 403 Adv. Nonfiction Workshop 4

Total Credits 28

Literature MINOR

Select 4 from the following:

LIT 210 American Literature I 4

LIT 264 American Romance 4

LIT 265 Realism, Naturalism, Modernism	4
LIT 266 Generations and Conflicts	4
LIT 273 The Oral Tradition	4
LIT 274 The Manuscript Tradition	4
LIT 276 The Print Culture	4
LIT 277 The Declining Empire	4
Select 2 from the following:	
LIT 300 Literary Criticism	4
LIT 302 Literature in Translation	4
LIT 335 Women and Literature	4
LIT 339 Literary Regions	4
LIT 361 Poetry and Thought	4
LIT 385 Mythology	4
Select 1 from the following:	
LIT 413 Hist, Struct, Nature of English	4
LIT 473 Studies in Shakespeare	4
LIT 494 Seminar: Literary Period	4
LIT 494 Seminar: Genre	4
LIT 494 Seminar: Major Authors	4
LIT 494 Seminar: Literary Theory	4
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>28</b>

- b. Describe the planned implementation of the proposed program, including estimates of numbers of students at each stage.

**All current students would have the option of earning the B.A. Option in Literature and Writing or converting to the B.A. Major in English in the Fall of 2011. After fall of 2011, students would only have the new Major and its Minors for English programs in which they could enroll. Numbers are anticipated to be similar to those described above for the existing Option and its Related Areas.**

6. Resources

- a. Will additional faculty resources be required to implement this program? If yes, please describe the need and indicate the plan for meeting this need.

**1. In developing these revised program proposals careful attention was used to eliminating those programs (option/related area combinations) that have historically contained low enrollment courses and low student interest. The total number of available programs has therefore gone down as a result of this restructuring of the curriculum. The restructuring has not resulted in a net increase in the number of class sections needed or a need for additional faculty or staff.**

- b. Are other, additional resources required to ensure the success of the proposed program? If yes, please describe the need and indicate the plan for meeting this need.

**No**

7. Assessment

How will the success of the program be measured?

**Graduate Outcomes**

**Discipline-specific knowledge, skills, and abilities:**

**An understanding of the primary literary theories that have shaped and continue to shape literature.**

**Acquaintance with a broad spectrum of literatures and contexts including non-Western literatures.**

**Understanding of the experiences of gender, race and ethnicity reflected in literature.**

**Communication skills (especially oral and written)**

**Familiarity with and appropriate applications of current conventions in research and writing.**

**Mastery of oral communication for effective interaction with colleagues and the community.**

**Problem-solving skills**

**Mastery of key concepts of literary analysis and evaluation.**

**Praxis in the process of writing, from drafting through revision.**

**Assessment**

**The graduate outcomes for the English BA degree program are assessed through the graduate/exit survey, alumni survey, feedback from internship supervisors, review of collected student-generated exhibits over time, and program self-study and/or reports from external reviews. The assessment plans for the BA: English degree program is available on the web at <http://www.umwestern.edu/administration/vcaa/accreditation/accliterature/>**

8. **Process Leading to Submission**

Describe the process of developing and approving the proposed program. Indicate, where appropriate, involvement by faculty, students, community members, potential employers, accrediting agencies, etc.

**This proposal was developed with input from University faculty, students (past and current), University Administration, employers of our graduates, and graduate institutions to which our students have applied and/or been accepted. It has passed through Montana Western Curriculum Committee review, was recommended for approval by Faculty Senate as well as the Montana Western administration.**