APPROVAL FORM FOR

DEGREE PROGRAMS

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

NOTE: This form is a cover sheet that must accompany the degree program change proposal. The actual proposal should be prepared in accordance with format requirements provided in the *Guide and Format for Curriculum Proposals* published by the UCCC. Both cover sheet and proposal should be submitted to UCCC Mail Stop 9702 (281 Garner Hall), Phone: 325-9410.

College: Arts & Sciences **Department: n/a**

Contact Person: Melanie Loehwing **Mail Stop: 9706**
E-mail: mloehwing@deanas.msstate.edu

Nature of Change: degree modification
Date Initiated: March 16, 2023 **Effective Date: Fall 2023**

Current Degree Program Name: Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts

Major: Liberal Arts **Concentration: n/a**

New Degree Program Name: Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts

Major: Liberal Arts **Concentration: Political Communication**

Summary of Proposed Changes:

-Add a concentration in Political Communication

Department Head	3/20/23
Director of Academic Quality	3/22/23
Chair, College or School Curriculum Committee	4/17/23
Dean of College or School	4/17/23
Chair, University Committee on Courses and Curricula	
Chair, Graduate Council(if applicable)	
Chair, Deans Council	

1. Catalog Description

The existing BLA catalog description will only be edited to add a description of the proposed new concentration. See curriculum outline below.

2. Proposed Curriculum Outline

CURRENT Degree Description	PROPOSED Degree Description
Degree: Bachelor of Arts Major: Liberal Arts	Degree: Bachelor of Arts Major: Liberal Arts **Concentration: Political Communication**
The College of Arts and Sciences recognizes that students' interests may include more than one discipline and that some majors are not formally available at MSU. Students who prefer to specialize in more than one field of study may earn a B.A. degree in Liberal Arts (BLA). Through BLA, students can pursue a major that crosses two or more disciplines offered in the College of Arts and Sciences. The BLA degree requires satisfactory completion of the following: 1. University General Education and College Core curriculum; 2. College of Arts & Sciences B.A. requirements; 3. Satisfactory completion of the BLA major core; 4. A total of 121 semester hours; 5. A 200-word minimum exit essay; The BLA major core consists of IDS 2111, GLA 4001, and a program of study consisting of at least 36 upper-division hours in approved emphasis areas. Each BLA program of study must consist of a broad, but coherent pattern of courses in 2-4 disciplines within the College of Arts and Sciences. These disciplines make up the emphasis areas within a student's program of study. Students may propose an individualized combination of emphasis areas, or they may select a preestablished concentration pathway that specifies the emphasis areas they must complete. Each emphasis area must comprise at least 9 hours of upper-division coursework in that discipline, and a minimum GPA of 2.0 is required in each area of emphasis. Students seeking admission to the BLA major will be required to submit an application to be reviewed by the Liberal Arts committee. BLA applications must contain the following: competed BLA application form (see BLA advisor); student's proposed program of study; a	The College of Arts and Sciences recognizes that students' interests may include more than one discipline and that some majors are not formally available at MSU. Students who prefer to specialize in more than one field of study may earn a B.A. degree in Liberal Arts (BLA). Through BLA, students can pursue a major that crosses two or more disciplines offered in the College of Arts and Sciences. The BLA degree requires satisfactory completion of the following: 1. University General Education and College Core curriculum; 2. College of Arts & Sciences B.A. requirements; 3. Satisfactory completion of the BLA major core; 4. A total of 121 semester hours; 5. A 200-word minimum exit essay; The BLA major core consists of IDS 2111, GLA 4001, and a program of study consisting of at least 36 upper-division hours in approved emphasis areas. Each BLA program of study must consist of a broad, but coherent pattern of courses in 2-4 disciplines within the College of Arts and Sciences. These disciplines make up the emphasis areas within a student's program of study. Students may propose an individualized combination of emphasis areas, or they may select a preestablished concentration pathway that specifies the emphasis areas they must complete. Each emphasis area must comprise at least 9 hours of upper-division coursework in that discipline, and a minimum GPA of 2.0 is required in each area of emphasis. Students seeking admission to the BLA major will be required to submit an application to be reviewed by the Liberal Arts committee. BLA applications must contain the following: competed BLA application form (see BLA advisor); student's proposed program of study; a 100-word minimum entrance essay. To ensure an orderly progression of work toward the degree, interested students should meet with the program's advisor as early as possible.

100-word minimum entrance essay. To ensure an orderly progression of work toward the degree, interested students should meet with the program's advisor as early as possible. Liberal Arts is not suitable for students who are uncertain about their choice of a major; these students should see the Undeclared listing in the Academic Affairs section.	Liberal Arts is not suitable for students who are uncertain about their choice of a major; these students should see the Undeclared listing in the Academic Affairs section. **Political Communication Concentration** **The Political Communication Concentration combines coursework in Political Science and Communication and Media Studies. It prepares students for careers in campaigning, public address and public affairs, and any public-facing roles related to governmental agencies and policymaking. The Political Communication Concentration is particularly useful for students who want to pursue law school or professional careers in legislation, campaigning, lobbying, and community outreach.**

CURRENT CURRICULUM OUTLINE	Required Hours	PROPOSED CURRICULUM OUTLINE	Required Hours
English Composition: EN 1103 English Composition I or EN 1104 Expanded English Composition I EN 1113 English Composition II or EN 1173 Accelerated Composition II	 3 3	English Composition: EN 1103 English Composition I or EN 1104 Expanded English Composition I EN 1113 English Composition II or EN 1173 Accelerated Composition II	 3 3
Foreign Language: Foreign Language I Foreign Language II Foreign Language III	 3 3 3	Foreign Language: Foreign Language I Foreign Language II Foreign Language III	 3 3 3
Humanities: Literature– A&S core History– A&S core Philosophy– A&S core Humanities Electives [1]	 3 3 3 9	Humanities: Literature– A&S core History– A&S core Philosophy– A&S core Humanities Electives[1]	 3 3 3 9
Mathematics: *Math course above MA 1313 or MA 1213 – A&S core*	 3	Mathematics: **A&S core[2]**	 3
Fine Arts: A&S core	 3	Fine Arts: A&S core	 3
Natural Sciences: Physical Science w/ lab – A&S core Life Science w/ lab – A&S core Natural Science Elective – A&S core	 3-4 3-4 3-4	Natural Sciences: Physical Science w/ lab – A&S core Life Science w/ lab – A&S core Natural Science Elective – A&S core	 3-4 3-4 3-4
Social Sciences: A&S core Social Science Electives [2]	 6 12	Social Sciences: A&S core[2] Social Science Electives[3]	 6 12

Major Core: IDS 2111 Intro to Interdisciplinary Studies GLA 4001 Senior Project Emphasis Area Courses [3]	 1 1 36	Major Core: IDS 2111 Intro to Interdisciplinary Studies GLA 4001 Senior Project Emphasis Area Courses[4]	 1 1 36
Oral Communication: CO 1003 Fundamentals of Public Speaking or CO 1013 Introduction to Communication	3	Oral Communication: CO 1003 Fundamentals of Public Speaking or CO 1013 Introduction to Communication[5]	3
Jr/Sr Writing: Consult advisor	3	Jr/Sr Writing: Consult advisor**; specified in concentrations**	3-4
General Electives: Consult advisor	*8*-11	General Electives: Consult advisor[6]	7-11
Total Hours	121	Total Hours	121
Note: Students must complete 31 upper-division hours in A&S in residence at MSU. [1] Humanities electives must be courses in A&S and must cover two disciplines. [2] Social Science electives must be courses in A&S. The total 18 hours in Social Science must cover four disciplines; maximum of 6 hours per discipline; only one EC and one CO from A&S core list allowed. [3] 2-4 emphasis areas of at least 9 upper division hours each. Emphasis areas must be A&S; consult advisor. A minimum GPA of 2.0 is required in each area of emphasis.		Note: Students must complete 31 upper-division hours in A&S in residence at MSU. [1] Humanities electives must be courses in A&S and must cover two disciplines. **[2] Concentrations may require specific courses; see concentration and consult advisor.** [3] Social Science electives must be courses in A&S. The total 18 hours in Social Science must cover four disciplines; maximum of 6 hours per discipline; only one EC and one CO from A&S core list allowed. **[4] Concentrations require specific courses; see concentration and consult advisor.** A minimum GPA of 2.0 is required in each area of emphasis. **[5]Concentration may require CO 1003; consult advisor.** **[6] Concentrations may require other prerequisite coursework. Students should consult advisor and plan to take additional prerequisite courses as general electives.**	
		Political Communication Concentration **Mathematics:** **MA/ST 2113 Introduction to Statistics** **Social Science:** **PS 1113 American Government** **CO 1223 Introduction to Communication Theory** **Oral Communication:** **CO 1003 Fundamentals of Public Speaking**	

		Jr/Sr Writing: **PS 4464 Political Analysis** **Emphasis Area – Communication** **Choose 18 hours:** **CO 3803 Principles of Public Relations** **CO 4043 Communication and Leadership** **CO 4203 Nonverbal Communication** **CO 4213 Political Communication** **CO 4253 Elements of Persuasion** **CO 4313 Mass Media Law** **CO 3813 Public Relations Case Problems** **CO 3873 Public Relations Multimedia** **CO 3833 Interviewing** **CO 4273 Intercultural Communication** **Emphasis Area – Political Science** **Choose 18 hours:** **PS 3013 Political Leadership** **PS 3033 Gender and Politics** **PS 3063 Constitutional Powers** **PS 3073 Civil Liberties** **PS 3183 Law and Politics** **PS 4173 Legislative Process** **PS 4213 Campaign Politics** **PS 4283 Public Opinion** **PS 4293 Political Behavior** **PS 4703 Principles of Public Administration**	

3. Justification

Political communication careers are an increasingly important path for students who are interested in getting involved in local, state and national politics. Many students are interested in working for governmental agencies, elected representatives, or pursuing their own path in political representation. However, the existing undergraduate majors in political science and communication do not offer an in-depth curriculum for communication practices and skills in a political context. This concentration will allow students who wish to pursue a career in political communication an opportunity to focus their studies on the two main disciplines in the liberal arts that are needed for work in this area.

4. Effective Date

Fall 2023

5. Four-Letter Abbreviation

PCOM

6. Letter of Support

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

P.O. Box AS
175 Presidents Circle
Mississippi State, MS 39762

P. 662.325.1665
F. 662.325.8740
cas.msstate.edu

February 10, 2023,

Dear Dr. Perkins and members of the UCCC,

I support the proposal to modify the Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts (BLA) curriculum. We are proposing changes to add a concentration in Political Communication. The BLA degree with a concentration in Political Communication will provide a unique degree path for students interested in legislation, campaigning, lobbying, and community outreach.

Sincerely,

Kate Sawaya
Academic Advisor
College of Arts & Sciences

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES
Department of Political Science and
Public Administration

P.O. Box PC
456 Hardy Rd.,
105 Bowen Hall
Mississippi State, MS 39762

P. 662.325.2711
F. 662.325.2716
www.pspa.msstate.edu

March 21, 2023

To whom it may concern,

Please accept this letter of support on behalf of the proposed Bachelor of Liberal Arts in Political Communication. We have reviewed the proposal and believe that it is a worthwhile addition to our degree offerings. Political Communication is an increasingly important area in both the public and private sectors and we believe Mississippi State is uniquely position to offer an intellectually stimulating and competitive degree in this area.

Sincerely,

Brian Shoup

Dr. Brian Shoup
Professor and Department Head

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

College of Arts & Sciences
Department of Communication

P.O. Box PF
216 President's Circle
Mississippi State, MS 39762

P. 662.325.3320
F. 662.325.3210
www.comm.msstate.edu

April 4, 2023

Dear Curriculum Committees:

The curriculum committee of the Department of Communication has met and approved the inclusion of the listed CO courses for the new Political Communication Concentration, which combines coursework in Political Science and Communication and Media Studies. It prepares students for careers in campaigning, public address and public affairs, and any public-facing roles related to governmental agencies and policymaking.

Emphasis Area – Communication (Choose 18 hours):

- CO 3803 Principles of Public Relations
- CO 4043 Communication and Leadership
- CO 4203 Nonverbal Communication
- CO 4213 Political Communication
- CO 4253 Elements of Persuasion
- CO 4313 Mass Media Law
- CO 3813 Public Relations Case Problems
- CO 3873 Public Relations Multimedia
- CO 3833 Interviewing
- CO 4273 Intercultural Communication

Faculty Member	Approve	Faculty Member	Approve
Wendy Roussin, MFA *Associate Professor & Chair*	X	Heesook Choi, PhD *Assistant Professor*	X
Kevin William, PhD *Associate Professor*	X	Matthew Webb, MFA *Assistant Clinical Professor*	X
Melody Fisher, PhD *Associate Professor*	X	Josh Foreman, MFA *Instructor*	X
Holli Seitz, PhD *Associate Professor*	X		