



# INDIANA UNIVERSITY

## OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT FOR UNIVERSITY ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

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### Proposal for a Unified Associates in Liberal Studies Degree at Indiana University

August 28, 2019

#### Background

Indiana University, charged with supporting collegiate re-entry and growing a credentialed workforce, has developed the Associate degree in Liberal Studies for students who stop-out or drop-out from their intended baccalaureate degree. Flexibility across all campuses is achieved through minimal stipulations, reflecting only the Statewide Transfer General Education Core (STGEC), and a minimum of 60 credits, of which at least 15 are designated at or above the 200 level.

#### Recruitment Restriction

As a stop-out credential, this degree cannot be advertised or marketed. Proactive advising should be used to inform currently enrolled students who have indicated an intent to leave. Students who leave prior to degree completion may be targeted, recruited, and have their credits assessed for eligibility to receive the Associates in Liberal Studies.

#### Degree Considerations

The Associates in Liberal Studies is based on the following 5 considerations (Learning Outcomes, General Education, Campus Residency, Minimum GPA, and at least 15 credits at or above the 200 level.

1. Learning Outcomes

The learning outcomes are broadly associated with the General Education curriculum. As such, students who earn an Associates in Liberal Studies will be able to demonstrate:

- a. Knowledge in foundational areas of writing and mathematical modeling;
- b. Broad familiarity with the general areas of human knowledge in the Arts and Humanities, Natural and Mathematical Sciences, and Social and Historical Studies;
- c. Knowledge of the variety of international societies; and
- d. Ability to deliver an oral argument to an audience using logical reasoning and summarize an oral message.

2. General Education

The 30-credit Statewide Transfer General Education Core (STGEC) is specifically defined in two parts: core competencies, and general education electives. The Core competencies are built around six defined areas, requiring at least one course in each for a minimum of 18 semester credit hours:

- a. Written Communication
- b. Speaking and Listening
- c. Quantitative Reasoning

- d. Scientific Ways of Knowing
- e. Humanistic and Artistic Ways of Knowing
- f. Social and Behavioral Ways of Knowing

The elective component, defined by each campus, varies by where added experiences are required in the above competencies and whether a lab is required within the Scientific Ways of Knowing. Up to 12 credits are required in the elective area, and are met with courses from across the above general education competencies as defined by each campus.

Indiana state law ([IC 21-42-3-5](#)) stipulates that, “An individual who holds an associate of arts or associate of science degree approved by the commission who is admitted to a four (4) year state educational institution is considered to have met at least thirty (30) semester credit hours of the state educational institution's general education requirement.” In keeping with this requirement, and to best support student re-engagement toward the baccalaureate degree, the completion of the STGEC is a core requirement of the Associate in Liberal Studies.

Note that at Indiana University, all campuses have an established STGEC certification pathway that may be completed in 30 credits.

3. Campus Residency

Accreditation requirements generally state that a minimum of 25% of the student’s academic coursework must be completed at the degree-granting campus. Following this guidance, it would be necessary that if a student transferred to an IU campus prior to consideration for the stop-out Associates in Liberal Studies, they would still need to complete at least 15 credits for degree eligibility.

Other considerations of residency are addressed within the various campus requirements in the certification of the STGEC milestone. As noted below, all IU campuses require that some minimum portion of the STGEC coursework be completed at that campus:

- a. IUB ..... 6 credits
- b. IUPUI ..... 1 course
- c. IUE..... 1 course
- d. IUK ..... 1 course
- e. IUN ..... 1 course
- f. IUSB..... 1 course
- g. IUS ..... 1 credit

4. Minimum Cumulative IU GPA

It is standard across Indiana University that students must obtain a cumulative Grade Point Average of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale for all courses taken at IU. The same would apply for consideration of the Associates in Liberal Studies.

5. 200-Level Course Requirement

While the degree does not require a major or concentration, at least 15 credits must be taken at the 200-499 level.

## Variations and Applicability

### 1. General Education

The STGEC Milestone is to be certified based on the campus standards, and consistent with the catalog requirements in effect at the time of student enrollment. For transferring students, the STGEC Milestone, if completed, will be honored. Otherwise, the degree granting campus requirements apply.

While some campuses have additional “general education” requirements beyond the STGEC, it is not intended that those be incorporated into the Associates in Liberal Studies curriculum. It should be noted, however, that returning students would still be responsible for *all* campus requirements in order to be eligible for a baccalaureate degree. Likewise, students who receive the Associate Degree from one IU campus and subsequently enroll at another would be responsible for the degree requirements of the baccalaureate granting campus.

### 2. Residency

Regarding the residency requirements, if the student transfers to Indiana University with the STGEC milestone before subsequently stopping out, the variations in STGEC residency requirements would not apply. For students completing the STGEC at the Associate degree granting campus, it is expected that the STGEC residency variations noted earlier should not be a barrier to the awarding of the degree.

While there has been some discussion as to whether the 15-credit minimum is sufficient for courses taken at the degree granting campus, it remains the recommendation that the accreditation standard of 25% is the appropriate guideline.

### 3. Campus Baccalaureate Degree Requirements

Any campus requirements (including applicable prerequisite coursework) not satisfied within the completion of the Associates in Liberal Studies must still be completed by any student returning or enrolling for a Baccalaureate Degree.

### 4. Online Students

Students enrolled in online degree programs or courses have the same eligibility to be considered for the Associate Degree in Liberal Studies based on the applicable standards and requirements of their campus of record for degree-seeking purposes.

## Implementation

### 1. Degree Certification Framework

The degree is to be certified based on the completion of the degree requirements as outlined above, including:

- a. Minimum of 60 credits in courses designated between 100 and 499 (remedial courses may not be applied to degree requirements);
- b. STGEC Milestone – as required by the degree granting campus (see Appendix 1), or transferred in;
- c. Residency instruction of at least 15 credits from the degree granting campus;

- d. Cumulative IU GPA of 2.0 or higher for courses taken at the degree granting campus;
- e. At least 15 credits in courses designated between 200 and 499.

2. Degree Eligibility and Identification of Students

There are two basic pathways for students to be assessed for eligibility to be awarded the Associates in Liberal Studies:

- a. A student indicating their intent to stop-out (such as to an advisor, faculty member, Registrar, etc.) is to be referred to the degree-granting unit for the Associates in Liberal Studies on that campus where their transcript will be assessed for eligibility.
- b. Students who depart without notice, may be assessed for eligibility upon being identified as non-returning students in good standing with Indiana University (in similar fashion to the Reverse Transfer Associate Degree).
  - i. Students assessed as having met the criteria would be sent notification of their eligibility to apply for the degree.
  - ii. Students satisfying the 60-credit, residency, and IU GPA minima, would be sent an invitation to discuss their status with an advisor, and, if necessary, whether they are interested in completing any missing requirements.

3. Associate Degree Students Returning for Baccalaureate Completion

Should Associates in Liberal Studies graduates decide to re-enroll or transfer, they will be held to the normal baccalaureate degree requirements in the same manner as any other degree-holding transfer student. Any course articulations and equivalencies, as well as the Statewide Transfer General Education Core milestone, will be processed via standard campus practices for applicability toward the baccalaureate degree requirements.

4. Program Cost

The degree program uses existing courses taught by existing faculty. Since students awarded the Associates in Liberal Studies were originally pursuing some other degree program, the instructional costs are already built into campus/unit budgets. The only costs of implementing the degree will be administrative and minimal. These costs include maintaining the requirements, programming the Academic Advisement Report and Degree Audit, and recording functions to maintain the student record and award the degree. Academic advising will also be a cost, but this can be absorbed by each campus as a whole. Since the degree requirements are straight-forward, any academic advisor should be able to speak to the requirements, making a dedicated academic advisor for the degree program unnecessary.

5. Implementation Schedule

The Associates in Liberal Studies (ALS) degree is expected to be available across all campuses by the end of the Fall semester of 2019.

## APPENDIX 1: Curriculum Detail – Credit Hour Requirements, By Campus

[The following summary information uses the Academic Advisement Reports currently in effect for each campus (Spring 2019) for certification of the STGEC milestone.]

	IUB	IUPUI	IUE	IUK	IUN	IUSB	IUS
<b>STGEC Core:</b>							
Written Communication	3	3	6	6	3	3	6
Speaking and Listening	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Quantitative Reasoning	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Scientific Ways of Knowing	5-6	6	6 (Lab Req'd)	6	3-5 (Lab Req'd)	3	5 (Lab Req'd)
Humanistic and Artistic Ways of Knowing	6	3-6	6	6	6-9	6	3-6
Social and Behavioral Ways of Knowing	6	3-6	6	6	6-9	6	3-6
<b>STGEC Campus-Defined Requirements</b>	6 (World Languages and Cultures)	6 (3 credits in Cultural Understanding; 3 credits in Analytical Reasoning)		3 (Analytical Reasoning)		6 (Additional Foundational Skills)	1 (Additional Foundational Skills)
STGEC Minimum Requirements Sub-Total:	30 min. (32-33 listed above, but it is possible that some courses may fulfill more than one requirement)	30	30	30 min. (33 listed above, but Second-level writing will cease to be required for STGEC beginning Fall 2019)	30	30	30
<b>200-499 level Courses</b>	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
<b>Other/Elective</b>	Major or elective courses to reach 60 total credits	Major or elective courses to reach 60 total credits	Major or elective courses to reach 60 total credits	Major or elective courses to reach 60 total credits	Major or elective courses to reach 60 total credits	Major or elective courses to reach 60 total credits	Major or elective courses to reach 60 total credits
<b>TOTAL CREDITS</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>60</b>