

Executive Summary of Program Assessment

The summary, including this page, should be no more than three pages.

Campus: UMKC

College/School: College of Arts and Sciences (if applicable)

Academic Unit: Liberal Arts - BA

Date Submitted: 15/03/19 (dd/mm/yy)

Person Responsible for Success of Program: Jeffery Rydberg-Cox, PhD

Submitted by: Office of the Provost

Degree Programs

Degree (e.g., BS, MA, PhD)	Degree Program	Enrollment		Number of Degrees Awarded	
		Most Recent Fall Semester 2017	5-Year Fall Semester Average	Most Recent Academic Year 2017	5-Year Average
BA	Liberal Arts	601	666	173	203

Changes Since Last Review

The BLA has three major components: 1) It is the home for about half of the six-year medical students, 2) it provides an avenue for degree completion for students who are returning to college, for adult learners, and also for students who are trying to complete their degree after leaving another program at the university, and 3) it is a home for students interested in an interdisciplinary program of study. The overall number of students pursuing the BLA as a Degree Completion program began to decline in 2011 after the introduction of the Foreign Language Requirement for BLA students. We anticipate the number of degree completion students will expand once again with the elimination of the Foreign Language requirement from the catalog for the BLA in AY 2018-2019.

We implemented curriculum changes that allow courses from across the University and not just the College to count for the BLA distribution requirement. This has made the program much more amenable for students coming to the BLA from other programs in the major.

Strategies or Plans for Improving Program

There are several areas where we can continue to maximize the BLA as a high demand/high yield program for transfer students and a high demand/low yield program for FTC students. Degree completion students might find the program more attractive if we were to develop informal, career focused tracks through the degree program with possible tracks focused on pre-health professions, applied science, applied and public humanities, entrepreneurship, and data

science and management. The BLA provides a good foundation for these programs because it already allows for classes to be taken in other units. These focused tracks would help transfer and completion students to see a clear benefit in choosing to come to UMKC to complete their degree and they would provide a clear path through the degree for FTC students that would help move the program from the high demand/low yield category into the high demand/high yield category. As a long-term goal, we would like to integrate internship opportunities into these tracks.

Other Comments

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