

Park University
Liberal Education Committee

Guidelines for Liberal Education (LE) Courses

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I. Liberal Education Program Goals and Outcomes

The Liberal Education (LE) Program at Park University—*Integrative Literacies for Global Citizenship*—is education that develops an awareness of human potentials. It develops proper attitudes for realizing such potentials through critical and informed judgments that foster concern for individual and social well-being. It develops a love for learning by encouraging activities that promote knowledge of the basic concepts, methodologies, and rewards of learning. It builds skills and competencies that help students acquire the distinctive outcomes defined in the University vision, mission, core values, and literacies. These outcomes include:

1. Analytical and Critical Thinking
2. Community and Civic Responsibility
3. Scientific Inquiry
4. Ethics and Values
5. Literary and Artistic Expression
6. Integrative and Interdisciplinary Thinking

For more information on the Park University Literacies, and the specific sub-competencies of each, visit <http://www.park.edu/facultymanual/lec.html>.

In shifting our terminology from “general” to “liberal” education, Park University also aligns itself with the American Association of Colleges and Universities’ definition of liberal education as:

An approach to college learning that empowers individuals and prepares them to deal with complexity, diversity and change. It emphasizes broad knowledge of the wider world (e.g., science, culture and society) as well as in-depth achievement in a specific field of interest. It helps students develop a sense of social responsibility as well as strong intellectual and practical skills that span all areas of study, such as communication, analytical and problem-solving skills, and includes a demonstrated ability to apply knowledge and skills in real-world settings.”

II. Overview of LE Program Requirements

The following curriculum is required of students in all Bachelors degree programs, at all Campus Centers, and in all modes of instruction who enter the University for the first time under Catalog 2010-11.

Core Courses	Credits
EN 105, First Year Writing Seminar I	3
EN 106, First Year Writing Seminar II	3
MA 120, Basic Concepts of Statistics <i>or</i> MA 131, College Algebra, <i>or</i> higher	3
CA 103, Public Speaking <i>or</i> TH 105, Oral Communication, <i>or</i> CA 105, Introduction to Human Communication	3
CS 140, Introduction to Computers <i>or higher or departmental equivalent</i>	3
Science with a lab	4
Liberal Education Electives	
At least 6 hours LE designated courses in the Social Sciences	6
At least 6 hours of LE designated courses in the Arts & Humanities	6
At least 3 hours of LE designated courses in the Natural and Physical Sciences (except computer science)	3
LS 300, Seminar in Integrative and Interdisciplinary Thinking	3
TOTAL	37 cr.

III. Graduation Requirements

Not included in the Liberal Education Program are the following graduation requirements:

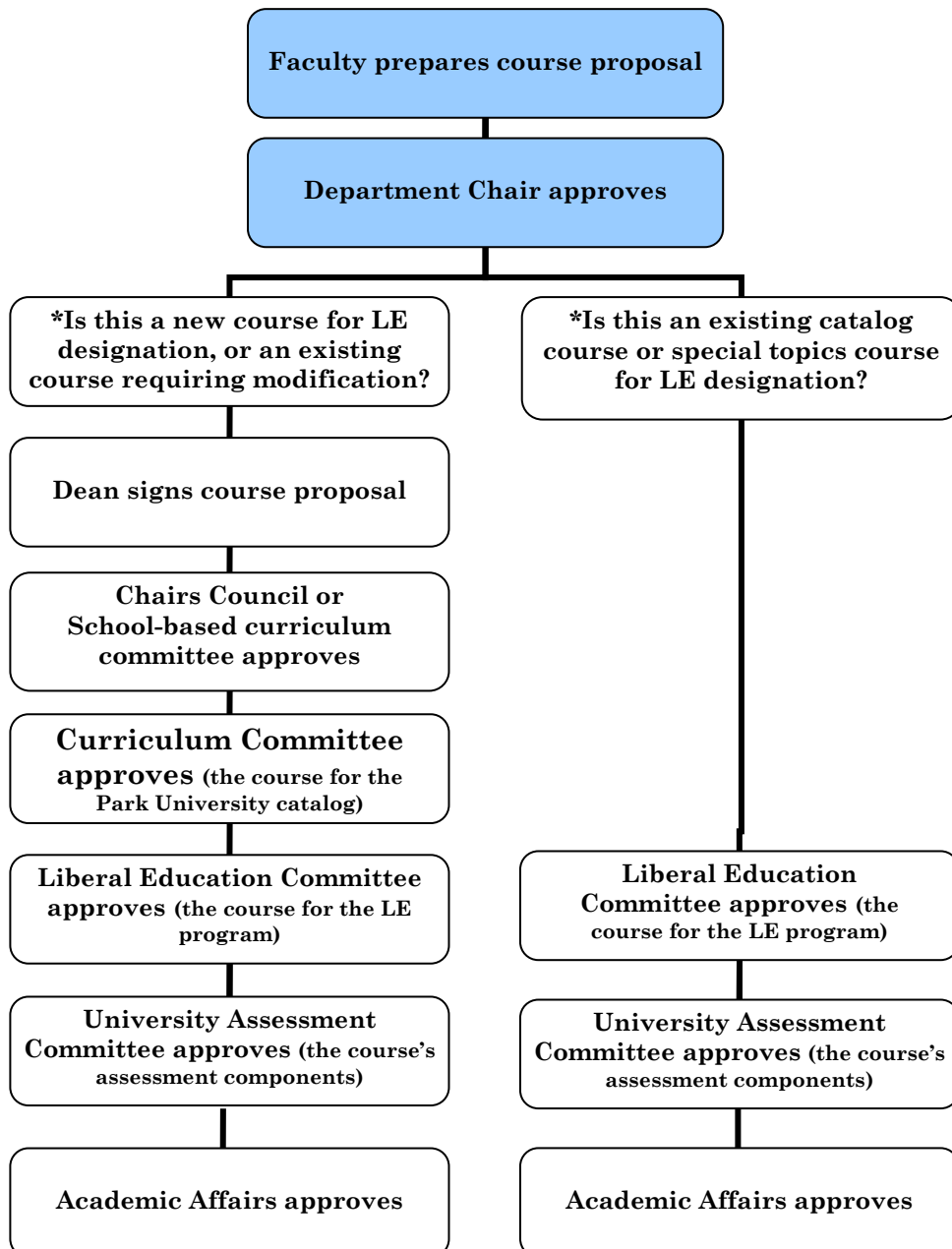
- LS 100, First Year Student Seminar (for first-time freshman)
- EN 306, Professional Writing in the Discipline (or departmental equivalent)
- The Writing Competency Test

Because other graduation requirements, like the requirement for competency in a Modern Language, may vary according to academic degree (AA/BA/BSW/BS/BPA), consult the most current University Catalog (<http://www.park.edu/catalog>) to confirm graduation requirements.

IV. LE Course Approval Process

Courses for the Liberal Education Program are reviewed by the University Curriculum Committee, the University Assessment Committee, and the Liberal Education Committee of the Faculty Senate, per the following guidelines:

- All courses must first be approved by the appropriate bodies at the department/school level.
- If the course seeking LE designation is a new University course, or an existing course requiring catalog changes (to number, title, or description), the proposal must first pass the Curriculum Committee before going through the Liberal Education and University Assessment Committees.
- If the course seeking LE designation is an existing University catalog course, with no catalog changes required, the proposal may be sent directly to the Liberal Education Committee.
- LS 300 courses go directly to the Liberal Education Committee.



For more information, and to access the Liberal Education Course Approval Form, visit <http://www.park.edu/facultymanual/lec.html>.

V. Guidelines for LE Course Designation

Each *discipline* may propose to the Liberal Education Committee up to two (2) catalog courses for “LE” designation. Although there is no requirement that LE courses must be at the 100-200 level, disciplines are encouraged to consider transfer issues when designating LE courses.

Rather than associate each Liberal Education course with a single Park University literacy, the curriculum of **every** LE course will incorporate the competencies of at least **four (4)** literacies: 1) Analytical and Critical Thinking; 2) Community and Civic Responsibility; 3) Scientific Inquiry; 4) Ethics and Values; 5) Literary and Artistic Expression; and 6) Integrative and Interdisciplinary Thinking.

This approach reflects the emphasis of the proposed program on integrative and interdisciplinary learning. Additionally, as all of the Park literacies incorporate standards for internationalization, the LE-designated courses will address that key Park University value as well.

VI. Guidelines for LS 300 Course Designation

LS 300, Seminar in Integrative and Interdisciplinary Learning, requires students to integrate the Park University Literacies, synthesizing diverse perspectives to achieve interdisciplinary understanding and exploring the relationships among academic knowledge, professional pursuits, and the responsibilities of local and global citizenship. LS 300 courses should not involve pre-requisites.

LS 300 provides an opportunity for faculty to create innovative and dynamic courses for the LE program. Each discipline may propose an unlimited number of LS 300 courses.

LS 300 highlights and provides an assessment of the “Integrative and Interdisciplinary Thinking” literacy. Courses that are cross-disciplinary, interdisciplinary, and multidisciplinary and address the goals of Liberal Education at Park University lend themselves to LS 300 designation. All LS 300 courses must closely reflect the “Integrative and Interdisciplinary Literacy” and LS 300 guidelines.

LS 300 course will take varied modalities and approaches, and will address varied topics, with shared core learning outcomes and core assessment maintaining curricular consistency. LS 300 courses will be offered both online and face-to-face (in 8 and 16-

week formats). For more information, visit <http://www.park.edu/facultymanual/lec.html>.

VII. LE Program Policies and Transfer Credit Evaluation

- Up to **six (6) hours** of LE-designated credit may *concurrently* fulfill the requirements of the LE program *and* a student's major.
- *All* LE-designated courses may be applied to the requirements of a student's *minor*.
- Accommodations may be made to meet individual program accreditation requirements.
- LE Program requirements are waived for students who transfer with AA and AS degrees from accredited colleges/universities.
- Transfer credit will be accepted for LE-designated courses:
 1. If the transferred courses match LE-designated courses in the Park University catalog **or**
 2. If the transferred courses are designated as "general education" courses in the social sciences, humanities, or natural and applied sciences at the accredited institution from which they are being transferred **or**
 3. In cases where neither #1 or #2 apply, the transferred courses are evaluated as equivalent based on **discipline-specific criteria** provided to the Registrar's Office by the academic departments or, when necessary, by Department Chairs themselves.
 4. If a student is transferring **60 or more hours** but does not have an AA or AS degree, the Registrar's Office may accept those courses based on discipline, and only if the courses are at the 100 or 200-level. These 60 or more hours must be from accredited colleges/universities, or credit recommended by the American Council on Education (ACE)

VIII. LE Program Assessment

Assessment at the course and program levels is critical to the quality and productive evolution of the Liberal Education Program. Part of the charge of the LE Committee of the Faculty Senate involves devising ways to assess the LE Committee.

When designating courses as LE, faculty will be asked to detail how the course meets sub-competencies of at least four (4) of the six (6) Park University literacies. Additionally, faculty will be invited to review and re-submit courses for LE designation periodically.

LS 300 provides an opportunity for partial program assessment, as the various disciplinary instantiations of that course will be united by shared core learning outcomes, course assessment, and core assessment rubric.

Larger-scale assessment of the program will likely emerge through standardized measures and/or in conjunction with disciplinary capstones, the tri-modal studies of the UAC, etc.