

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
The Undergraduate Educational Policy and Curriculum Committee

Minutes

240 SH

November 30, 2023

Attending: Cornelia Lang (chair), Jill Beckman, Jean-François Charles, Rodica Curtu, Emilie Maurel-Destruel, Amira Qidwai, Cinda Coggins Mosher, Christine Shea, Amy Strathman

Absent: Asha Bhandary

1. The committee members first reviewed and approved the minutes from the UEPCC meeting on October 26.
2. The committee welcomed Debra Trusty from the Department of Classics. Debra also serves as the faculty coordinator for the Museum Studies certificate. The University of Iowa's Museum Studies program is one of the first in the nation, providing professional training since 1910. It is currently homed in the Department of Anthropology.
 - a. In the Spring of 2023, CLAS convened a review of the Museum Studies certificate. One of the goals of the review was to generate more faculty engagement with the certificate from across campus and to engage with all campus museums (including the newly opened Stanley Museum of Art). The certificate attracts undergraduate students from across the college and university, with just over 100 students currently declaring the certificate. There are also a good number of non-degree-seeking students pursuing the certificate. Classes are taught by faculty and professional staff from across campus. The program is very flexible, offering classes in-person but also online. Students are supported with advising for the certificate by the Museum Studies faculty coordinator and several CLAS advisors representing the areas that students are usually majoring in (i.e., Art History, History, Anthropology, etc.). Recently, in order to market the certificate widely across CLAS and the university, Deb has been hosting information sessions for students on Zoom, has created a new informational pamphlet, and has been working with advisors and the CLAS recruitment team to get the word out about the certificate.
 - b. In addition to the update about the certificate, Deb described one curricular change that will be implemented for Fall 2024 related to the Museum Studies Internship requirement. Part of the change is due to the recent positive collaboration with Pomerantz Career Center. This partnership has allowed for additional support for finding, managing, and supporting student internships (which are required for the certificate). To add flexibility for students and to accommodate the Pomerantz Center's internship hour requirements, students may elect to split the 2 s.h. internship requirement between two separate semesters and locations or take the 2 s.h. all at once. Students also are required to fulfill a third

s.h. in the “internship and professionalism” category by taking 1 s.h. of Topics in Museum Studies or a third internship s.h. The committee discussed the certificate generally and the proposed change in the internship requirement. Members of UEPCC were very supportive of the efforts to recruit students to the certificate, its flexibility (online and in person) and the proposed change.

3. The committee then welcomed Daniel Fine from the Departments of Theatre Arts and Dance, joined by Jean-François Charles from the School of Music. They discussed a proposal for revision of the certificate in Public Digital Arts. The certificate in Public Digital Arts was officially created in January 2018. Currently, 16 students are enrolled in the certificate. The proposal aims to streamline the certificate in Public Digital Arts based on the current composition of the faculty, and in order to offer better opportunities for students to acquire the desired competencies.
 - a. They discussed several changes to the certificate: (1) the biggest change is to change the name from Public Digital Arts to Digital Arts to better reflect faculty creative work; (2) secondly, they propose to remove the tracks through the certificate. When the certificate was created, faculty thought having different pathways/areas of focus for students to specialize would be appealing. In practice, nearly all the students who have completed the certificate have not done so within a specific track. The common reasoning for this among the student population was that by the time they found the certificate, often in the last two years of study, they had taken enough courses to complete the undefined track, because it allowed them to count courses from the various tracks offered; and (3) thirdly, they propose some modifications to the certificate course requirements to better represent what courses are routinely offered and are related to faculty expertise and experience. The committee discussed these changes with the proposers, asking questions and providing a few suggestions about what steps the certificate could take to improve awareness of the offering to students. One such suggestion is to consider a wider set of introductory courses to count toward the certificate; these courses could serve as a “gateway” to the certificate. A discussion was also had about the capstone project-based requirement and how the requirement is managed across the digital arts faculty. UEPCC is very supportive of these proposed changes.

Respectfully submitted,

Emilie Maurel-Destruel
Associate Professor, French & Italian, Linguistics
Secretary, UEPCC