

BLS (Bachelor of Liberal Studies) Committee Minutes

September 05, 2025

Committee members present: Robert Wells (chair), Sarah Smith (secretary), Leo Lee, Prashant Chandrasekar, Bridgette Dennett (on zoom)

Ex officio: Ana Chichester, Kristen Fairbanks

Student representative: Daniella Schweyer

Absent members: Evan Fletcher

Meeting was called to order at 1:01 pm

Welcome and Introductions

BLS Office Reports

- Update on applications and enrollments —Kristen
 - Admissions
 - 57 applications, 41 students admitted, 12 cancelled, 7 deferred, 21 deposited and enrolled. 6 readmits enrolled, 1 enrolled student switched to BLS
 - 120 students currently enrolled, 196 active students. Most popular majors are LEAD (59), Educational studies: special education (22), Psychology (13)
- Overview of BLS — Ana
 - Ana provided an overview of the BLS program. Admissions requirements are that a student would need to have been out of high school for 6 years, a Veteran, self-supporting, or have legal dependents that isn't a spouse. The general education requirements are similar to that of the BA/BS with the largest differences being in the Connections courses. BLS students can declare a major in any of the present majors offered in the College of Arts and Sciences. They can also declare a major in three programs now included in the College of Business: mathematics, computer science, and economics. Additionally, BLS students may also create a special major with the approval of the BLS committee.
 - There are two areas in graduation requirements that different from BS/BA. The first was that no more than 6 credits can be in PHYD. The BA/BS lists courses that do not follow this rule. This will be added for BLS. The second policy states "No more than 7 repeated courses (for courses in which the original grade was C-, D+, D, F, or FA). Only 2 repeats per semester". This is discussed under new business.

New Business

- Review repeat policy for BLS students, which differs from the overall policy. Current policy for BLS students reads "No more than 7 repeated courses (for courses in which the original grade was C-, D+, D, F, or FA). Only 2 repeats per semester". For BA/BS the repeat policy reads "No more than 7 repeated courses (repeats are permitted only in courses in which the original grade was C-, D+, D, F, or FA)."

Context:

A current BLS student met with Brian Strecker and was advised to repeat 3 courses this fall. Current BLS policy states a student can only repeat 2 courses per semester. An exception was made for this student. A second scenario is for a student that failed a special topics course that is not offered frequently. What if a student needed to repeat other courses the same semester that the special topic course was offered.

Discussion:

The current policy predates current members of the BLS committee and office. It is assumed the policy was intended to protect students from having a semester of only repeated courses where they wouldn't be making progress in the major. However, it slows down progress of students in academic jeopardy from raising their GPA and keeping the students morale up.

By changing the policy, advising across campus would be easier since now the BLS policy would match the BA/BS policy. It would also allow flexibility for students to repeat special topics courses or courses that are not offered frequently. The students would still be protected by only allowing 7 repeated courses total. With good advising, students could decide if they should repeat more than 2 courses a semester.

The committee voted unanimously to approve the removal of the second sentence so now the policy states:

No more than 7 repeated courses (for courses in which the original grade was C-, D+, D, F, or FA).

The next meeting is October 3rd at 3 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 1:40 pm