

*Sent via email*

TO: Chairs and Directors in the College  
FROM: Bob Hurst, Film and Media Studies  
Chair, CUSA  
DATE: February 14, 2013  
RE: ***KU Core and the CLAS Bachelor of Arts Degree***

I am writing to you in my capacity as chair of the College Committee on Undergraduate Studies and Advising (CUSA). CUSA has been working on two important tasks this year — integrating undergraduate College courses into the new **KU Core**, and considering requirements for the **Bachelor of Arts (BA)** degree alongside the KU Core.

Early in the Fall semester, Dean Anderson charged CUSA with reviewing the BA degree and considering what, if any, changes should be recommended, in addition to the KU Core requirements. CUSA has identified three areas in which it feels students pursuing a BA degree would benefit from studying in addition to the KU Core requirements. The three areas are listed below (*details are provided in the attached documents*):

1. A course in **quantitative reasoning** beyond the learning goal in the KU Core
2. A **laboratory or field experience** course which is not part of the KU Core
3. A **foreign language sequence** beyond the course that may satisfy one of the KU Core learning goals

CUSA has also been addressing the way that students pursuing the BA can satisfy certain components of the KU Core, such as the writing requirement.

These additional recommendations, together with the KU Core, will place the BA degree requirements at 56 required hours, not including placement, testing or other credits. (*Please see the attached “KU Core—CLAS BA Degree” document for details.*) Because many majors also include courses that satisfy the KU Core, there will be a further reduction in the total required hours for most students. CUSA believes that this proposal maintains the integrity of the BA degree for the 21st-century and introduces flexibility that encourages students to explore across disciplines. The specific recommendations and rationales are included as an attachment.

As this time, CUSA has not yet considered recommendations for revising the BGS, BFA or BAE degrees. It is likely that, for 2013-14, these degree requirements will remain unchanged. Requirements for the BS degree are set by departments, so any changes for Fall 2013 would begin with recommendations at the departmental level.

I write with two requests:

1. Please **provide feedback** about the BA proposal that I can share with CUSA. Given the need to finalize this process in a timely manner, please send your feedback to me ([hurstr@ku.edu](mailto:hurstr@ku.edu)) and Larry Fillian ([lfillian@ku.edu](mailto:lfillian@ku.edu)) **by Wednesday, February 20, 2013**.
2. Encourage your colleagues to participate in the **informational sessions** that Dean Anderson will convene to present this proposal in preparation for a CLAS ballot to ratify the new requirements for the BA degree. These meetings are scheduled for:
  - Wednesday, February 27, from 9:30-11:00, Alderson Auditorium
  - Thursday, February 28, from 3:30-5:00, Alderson Auditorium

On behalf of CUSA, I thank you for your input.

cc: CUSA, Danny Anderson, Larry Fillian, Ann Cudd, Bob Goldstein, Marsha Haufler, Liz Kowalchuk, Jim Mielke