

ACADEMIC COUNCIL REPORT

ACTION REQUESTED:

Recommendation
Decision
Discussion/Direction
Information

DATE: 28 February 2023

FROM: Undergraduate Studies Committee

SUBJECT: Major Program Modification – Bachelor of Arts in Legal Studies

COMMITTEE MANDATE:

In accordance with the Undergraduate Studies Committee (USC) Terms of Reference, USC has the responsibility “to examine proposals for new undergraduate degree programs and major changes to existing programs and to recommend their approval, as appropriate, to the Academic Council”.

MOTION FOR CONSIDERATION:

That, pursuant to the recommendation of the Undergraduate Studies Committee, Academic Council hereby approves the Major Program Modifications to the Bachelor of Arts in Legal Studies.

BACKGROUND/CONTEXT & RATIONALE:

The Faculty is proposing the following changes:

1. Revise 1st year required courses (per changes to the degree requirements for the Bachelor of Arts in the Faculty of Social Science and Humanities);
2. Update modes of delivery for all Legal Studies courses to include hybrid and fully online (synchronous and asynchronous) formats; and
3. Create a Double Major with Political Science that can be completed in four years.

RESOURCES REQUIRED:

No additional resources required.

TRANSITION PLAN

Both Political Science and Legal Studies will continue to offer courses to satisfy the degree requirements for their respective majors. Students would only pursue the double major by choice, or continue with their current program maps.

CONSULTATION AND APPROVAL:

- Undergraduate Studies Committee: 17 January 2023
- Faculty Council: 20 December 2022
- Curriculum Committee: 6 December 2022

Political Science was consulted on creating the double major in four years. Focus group and survey data on the student experience included in the cyclical program review completed in 2022 indicated that curriculum constraints surfaced as a common concern.

NEXT STEPS:

- Pending the approval of Academic Council, the changes will be included in the 2023-2024 Academic Calendar.

SUPPORTING REFERENCE MATERIALS:

- [Major Program Modification Proposal](#)
- Double Major in Legal Studies and Political Science calendar copy*
- Course Changes – Course Mode of Delivery Changes: LGLS Mode of Delivery Oct 29* (course changes compiled in yellow columns)

*(files available for download in the proposal link above under 'files').